ABSTRACT

Over years Agriculture has undergone several changes, thus drifting away from nature. The present research aims to study the Organic Farming in Tamil Nadu with special reference to the Floriculture crops in Kodaikanal block.

For the study, 120 Conventional farmers and 30 organic farmers were selected and the respondents were personally interviewed. Apart from these many experts were also contacted.

A little less than 40 percent of the conventional farmers and a little over 20 percent of the organic farmers had agriculture as their only occupation.

Higher percentage of medium conventional farmers had knowledge and adoption in organic farming practices with reference to land preparation, manure management and plant protection as compared to the small and large conventional farmers. The reason for the better adoption of organic farming practices by the medium conventional farmers could be due to the fact that they are fully devoted to farming in general and Organic Farming in particular. From the correlation studies it could be seen that there existed high correlation between knowledge of Organic Farming practices and their adoption among all categories of farmers.

Pears, lemon, beans and radish grown in the Organic Farm had higher benefit cost ratios than those from Conventional Farms. All the other crops from Conventional Farms had higher benefit cost ratios. Though the Conventional Farming is more economic than the Organic Farming, it will not be environmentally friendly and sustainable as compared to the Organic Farming, in the long run.

It is expected that the Organic Farming will have positive impact on soil, animal stock, farm economy, social justice, it could have negative impact primarily on the chemical and machinery industries.

Unlike the Conventional Farming, personal presence and a thorough knowledge in Organic Farming practices are necessary in Organic Farming. Production of traditional variety seeds generation of Organic manure, bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides and botanical pesticides are some of the major challenges Organic Farming has to face. These problems can be overcome.
with the constant efforts of the farmers and with the help of the Organic Farmers Co-operatives, Government and as well as the Non-Governmental Organisations.

As Kodaikanal is a tourist centre it has great potentials for business. Hence most of the farmers are leaving farming in order to take up business. It is understood that already more than 40 percent of the cultivable land has been converted to houses and summer resorts and the trend may extend further and further. Hence farming, not to speak of Organic Farming, cannot have bright future in Kodaikanal block.

Organic Farming zones can be identified and such zones should be protected from poisonous chemicals. However such zoning is possible only in the case of Co-operative Farming and Corporate Farming.

In order to improve and extend Organic Farming: Farmers should be trained to produce bio-fertiliser, bio-pesticides, botanical pesticides and vermicompost; Steps should be taken to increase the number of farm-animal units in the farms; Agricultural Research and Development should be nature oriented; Holistic planning for agriculture at grass root level should be encouraged.