CONCLUSION

Organic farming is the process of producing food naturally. This method avoids the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers and genetically modified organisms to influence the growth of crops. The main idea behind organic farming is zero impact on the environment. The aim of the organic farmer is to protect the earth's resources (land, water and plants) and produce safe, healthy food.

Organic farming uses the earth's natural resources for sustainability. It emphasizes appropriate land management and aims to ecologically achieve the balance between animal life, the natural environment and food crops. Organic farmers do not use pesticides, herbicides, genetically modified foods, growth promoters or hormones. Organic meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products come from animals that are given no antibiotics or growth hormones. The produce that is produced through organic farming is thus at its most natural form.

Organic farming has re-emerged and is a re-implementation of the primitive process followed by our ancestors before they discovered chemicals that could save time and improve crop quality, but had the side effect of ruining our air, water, and soil.

In organic farming, farmers and gardeners grow their crops without the aid of synthetic fertilizers and harmful chemical pesticides. The basic rules of organic farming and organic food production are: “Organics is not just chemical free by testing. It is about the way the food is grown and handled”. The whole system is linked as:
Like any other farming system, organic farming is complex and not easily defined. Most farmers implement some practices that would be considered organic, such as crop rotations. According to our study the key characteristics of organic farming are:

1. Long-term soil fertility through the management of organic matter.
2. Slow-release nutrient sources such as composts and crop residues.
3. Biological nutrient sources such as nitrogen fixing crops.
4. Cultural practices such as natural predators, crop rotations, and manual weed control.
5. Avoiding highly intensive livestock production by ensuring animals have sufficient space to meet their needs.
6. Being mindful of off-farm impacts such as biodiversity and sedimentation.
7. No use of chemical fertilizers or synthetic drugs.
8. No use of genetically modified organisms.
10. Promotion of biodiversity - support a range of crops, not a single species.

Employing organic farming methods lead to higher profits for farmers not only because of price premiums, but also because of lower production costs with on farm inputs management. Organic farming can decrease the
costs of production as chemical inputs are substituted by locally available and cheaper organic inputs and more intensive labor which the poor often have in abundance. Adoption of Organic farming system also lowers the need for credit, which is often expensive and difficult to obtain for small farmers.

Indian economy is based on agriculture and in tradition the entire agriculture was practiced using organic techniques. It was practiced in since thousands of years. It was the backbone of the Indian economy. Organic farming is not of recent origin in India. In ancient literature such as Righ Veda, the use of animal dung as manure was emphasized. Atharvaveda indicated the importance of green manures, which was practiced before 1000 BC. Kautilya's Arthashastra recorded manures like oil cakes, excreta of animals etc. Ayurvedic medicinal plants should be cultivated in organic manner. The great Indian civilization thrived on organic farming and India was one of the most prosperous countries in the world, till the British ruled it.

In India, during 1950S and 1960S, with the population explosion followed by several natural calamities, the country faced severe food scarcity and Government of India was forced to import food grains from foreign countries. India aimed to drastically increase food production. Under the leadership of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan the Green Revolution programme was launched by the government in the 1960S and several hectares of land was brought under cultivation. Hybrid seeds were introduced. Natural and organic fertilizers were replaced by chemical fertilizers and locally made pesticides were replaced by chemical pesticides. This how, Indian farmer shifted from organic to chemical farming.
The Green Revolution, showed its impact within a few years. The country, which greatly relied on imports for its food supply, reduced its imports every passing year. In 1990S, India had surplus food grains and once again became an exporter of food grains.

The farmers are extensive dependent on chemical farming and now facing its darker side because of the following facts:

1. The land has lost its fertility and is demanding larger quantities of fertilizers for crops.
2. Pests have become immune and require strong and costly pesticides.
3. Increased cost of farming.
4. Farmers are falling into the trap of money lenders, who are exploiting them no end, and forcing many to commit suicide.

Both consumers and farmers are now gradually shifting back to organic farming in India. Organic farming is more appropriate as it considered the important aspects like sustainable. Agriculture is the most important sector for ensuring food security, alleviating poverty and conserving the vital natural resources that the world’s present and future generation will be entirely dependent upon for their survival and well being, in the name of development, the environmental resources have been beyond comprehension.

Organic farming is a system of ecological management of agricultural production, which supports and improves the biological diversity, biological cycles, and biological activity of soils. It is based on the minimal usage of artificial raw materials and agro technical methods, which regenerate, support, and improve ecological harmony.
Examining the indicators of sustainable development, the study shows that the multiplicity of sustainability indicators can be grouped into two types, which may be environmental and non-environmental. The environmental indicators are those that provide an overall assessment of the environment and they may also point to the environmental stresses caused by anthropogenic and other factors. The non-environmental indicators comprise of the social and economic indicators. The social indicators reflect various human development aspects and they provide the yardstick for progress of human life. In the emerging paradigm of development these are all indispensable without which attainment of sustainability is impossible. Organic farming has several advantages over the conventional one apart from the protection of both the environment and human health. Improved soil fertility, better water quality, prevention of soil erosion, generation of rural employment, etc. are some of them.

The organic farmers in the case study perceived that the conversion from conventional to organic agriculture had improved their livelihoods in a range of ways. They pointed out that over the long term the conversion had improved their net-farm incomes, reduced the risk of pesticide poisonings, lead to more self-sufficiency, improved food safety and reduced vulnerability, and improved the access to networks supporting knowledge exchange and political participation. However, risk and uncertainty related to the conversion period, such as temporarily declining yields and the lack of experiences and information, were mentioned as major constraints preventing in particular asset-poor households from adopting organic farming. To date, lack of institutional extension and educational material on organic agriculture require farmers to rely on their own knowledge and farmers’ networks. This was highlighted as self-sufficiency in knowledge and expertise by knowledgeable farmers, but might be a major source of risk and uncertainty for others.
Organic agriculture unites all agricultural systems that maintain ecologically, socially and economically advisable agricultural production. These systems make use of the natural potential of plants, animals, and landscapes and are aimed at the agricultural practice’s harmonization with the environment. Organic farming significantly reduces the input of external production factors (resources) by putting a limit to usage of the chemically-obtained fertilizers, pesticides, and pharmaceutical preparations. Instead, in order to increase the yield and protect crops, organic farming employs other agro technical methods and various natural factors. Organic agriculture adheres to the principles that have been formulated by the specific local social, economic, climatic, historical, and cultural features. The National Agri-Environmental Protection Program was launched to help organic production and environmental protection: to protect natural sources, product quality and to support food safety. Organic farming can be connected to any function of the rural area: Its economic role is represented by widening the range of employment, creating new workplaces, improving the population keeping ability of the area.

(1) Its ecological function is well connectable to environment- and landscape conservation and hence in an indirect way to maintaining biodiversity.

(2) Social and cultural functions mean in this context the revitalizing and developing of traditional farming methods.

Organic farming delivers an ever growing market background for producers in rural areas. It is important; however that organic farming has to be concerned as a complex and integrated system. It means on one hand that the shift to organic farming include not only the production of
organic raw materials but also the processing, packaging and marketing of them. On the other hand it is important to establish the organizational and interest forms and systems which cover the production itself, the equipment and genetic base supply, small and medium size processing facilities, packaging, advisory and marketing management. Regarding growing domestic and foreign consumption trends, good price positions, lack of export restrictions organic farming can turn itself into a new alternative employment segment in many areas of the country, which in turn will lead to the sustainable rural development as envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi.