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AN EVALUATIVE STUDY ON ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICED BY MEMBERS OF SELF HELP GROUPS IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

Interview Schedule

Name of SHG : 

Name of Panchayat: 

Name of Block : 

I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT

1. Name
2. Address
3. Sex : Male / Female
4. Age
   (a) Below 30   (b) 30-40   (c) 41-50   (d) 51-60   (e) Above 60
5. Level of education
   (a) Illiterate   (b) Primary&Middle (up to 8th) (c) High school (9th -10th)
   (d) Hr.Sec.Schooling   (e) Diploma/ Degree
6. Religion
   (a) Hindu   (b) Christian   (c) Muslim
7. Community
   (a) OC   (b) BC   (c) MBC   (d) SC/ST
8. Marital status
   (a) Married   b) Unmarried   (c) Widow/widower d) Divorced/Separated
9. Type of the family
   (a) Joint   (b) Nuclear
10. Number of children
    a) 0-2   b) 3-4   c) 5-6   d) Above 6
11. Educational status of the children
    a) Primary   b) High school   c) Higher Secondary   d) Degree   e) Diploma/ ITI
12. Family size
   a) Less than 4  b) 4-5  c) 6-7  d) 8-9  e) Above 9

13. Ownership of house
   a) Owned  b) Rented  c) Leased

14. Nature of house
   a) Thatched  b) Tiled  c) Terraced

15. Availability of drinking water  a) Yes  b) No

16. Usage of electricity
   a) Up to one year  b) 2 – 5 years  c) 6 – 10 years  d) Above 10 years

17. Availability of toilet facility in the house  a) Yes  b) No

18. Availability of durable households in the house
   a) Mixie  b) Grinder  c) Refrigerator  d) Television  e) Gas stove  f) Motor Bike
   g) Telephone  h) Mobile Phone  i) Iron Box  j) Washing Machine

19. Source of medical treatment
   a) Primary health centre  b) Government hospital  c) Private hospital  d) Indian medicine
   e) Self medication

20. Distance of the hospital from the house
   a) Below 1 km  b) 1 to 5 km  c) 5 to 10 km  d) 10 to 15 km  e) Above 15 km

21. Duration of membership in the SHG
   a) Less than 3  b) 3-5  c) 6-8  d) 9-11  e) 12 and above

22. Period of membership in SHG
   a) Less than 3  b) 3-5  c) 6-8  d) 9-11  e) 12 and above
23. Nature of membership
   a) Ordinary Member   b) Office Bearer in SHG
24. Regularity of participation in the activities of the SHG
   a) Very regular   b) Regular   c) Not so regular
25. Initiatives taken by the SHGs to promote organic farming
   a) Organising Awareness meeting among the farmers   b) Conducting organic farming training
   c) Organising field visit to organic farms   d) Promoting traditional seed bank
   e) Promotion of organic fertilizers and pesticides
26. Land used for the cultivation
   a) Below ½ acre   b) ½ - 1   c) 1.1 – 1.5   d) 1.6 – 2   e) Above 2
27. Duration of usage of land for the cultivation
   a) 1 - 5   b) 6 – 10   c) 11 – 15   d) 16 and above
28. State the land used for organic farming
   a) Below ½ acre   b) ½ - 1   c) 1.1 – 1.5   d) 1.6 – 2   e) Above 2
29. State the duration of practicing organic farming
   a) 1 - 3   b) 4 – 6   c) 7 – 9   d) 10 and above
30. State the crops raised before practicing organic farming
   a) Vegetables   b) Fruits   c) Food Crops   d) others
31. State the crops raised after introducing organic farming
   a) Vegetables   b) Fruits   c) Food Crops   d) others
32. State the sources for irrigation
   a) Bore well   b) Well   c) Tank and ponds   d) River
33. Do you own cattle?    a) Yes   b) No
34. Specify the sources of motivation to practice organic farming
   a) NGOs Awareness programme  b) SHGs Awareness programme  c) Self Interest
   d) Government Support  e) Media programmes  f) Success stories of organic farmers
   e) Farmers Association

35. State the agricultural implements you own
   a) plough bulls  b) bullock cart  c) Tractor  d) power tiller  e) Sprayer  f) Others

36. State the annual family income
   a) Below Rs.5000  b) Rs.5000- 10000  c) Rs.10001- 15000  d) Rs.15001- 20000
   e) Above Rs.20000

37. Mention your monthly family expenses
   a) Below Rs.3000  b) Rs.3000- 5000  c) Rs.5001- 7000  d) Rs.7001- 9000
   e) Above Rs.9000

38. State the monthly family savings
   a) Below Rs.1000  b) Rs.1000- 2000  c) Rs.2001- 3000  d) Rs.3001- 4000
   e) Above Rs.4000

39. Specify the mode of savings
   a) Post office  b) Bank  c) LIC  d) Cit fund  e) Sangam

40. If you save through bank, specify the name of the bank
   a) Nationalized bank  b) Co operative bank  c) Private bank  d) Foreign bank

41. How long you are holding your bank account?
   a) Less than 3 years  b) 3 – 5 years  c) 6 – 8 years  d) Above 8 years
42. State the amount of loan taken
   a) Below Rs.20000   b) Rs.20000- 40000   c) Rs.40001- 60000   d) Rs.60001- 80000
   e) Rs.80001- 100000   f) Above Rs.100000

43. Mention the purpose for which the loan
   a) Children Education   b) Family Functions   c) Repayment of Loan   d) Purchase of agricultural inputs
   e) Purchase of Tractors   f) Purchase of cattle

II. Respondents’ Perception about Organic Farming

44. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the importance of using organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Perception about Organic Farming</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Organic farming avoids soil erosion</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Free from soil contamination</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Improves soil fertility</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Requires minimum tillage</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Saves underground water</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Increases conventional crops</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Encourages multiple cropping</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Avoids genetic erosion</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Motivates intensive cropping</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Integration of crops and livestock</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Uses locally available manure</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Low incidence of pests and disease attack on crops</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Increases productivity</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Ensures self sufficiency in food crops</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Increases bio diversity</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Provides natural food</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Ensures food safety</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Ensures tasty food</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Ready market is available</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Demand is good</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Supplies largely to domestic market</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Fetch premium price</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Giving priority to organic produces at Uzhavar Santhai benefits farmers economically</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Awareness creation among general public to buy organic produces</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Awareness and training to farmers about organic farming</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Technical advice to farmers about organic farming</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Loan and subsidy</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Marketing facility and support to organic farmers</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree
III. Problems faced while practicing Organic Farming

Problems relating to Lack of Awareness on Organic Farming

45. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems of Organic Farming</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Farmers have only vague ideas about organic farming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lack of awareness about bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No willingness on the part of the farming community.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Knowledge about the availability and usefulness of supplementary nutrients to enrich the soil</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Lack of knowledge of compost making using the modern techniques and also its application</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lack of training to the farmers to make vermi compost on the modern lines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>No awareness among general public to buy organic produce</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree

Problems relating to availability and preparation of Bio-mass

46. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems relating to Shortage of Bio-mass</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The small and marginal cultivators have difficulties in getting the organic manures</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Facilities not available for the preparation of</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
bio-mass

3 organic inputs not available in required quantities

4 Non availability of bio-mass in all the places throughout the year

5 Technical advice to farmers about organic inputs and no proper training is available in all the places

6 All the nutrients with the required quantities are not available in the organic materials.

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree

Problems relating to High Input Cost

47. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems relating to High Input Costs</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>High price due to low production of organic input</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Large scale production of organic input is not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Production of panchakavya is costly</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Organic inputs are not supplied at controlled price</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Organic manures produced by the farmers are for own use and they are not ready to sell.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree
Problems relating to Low Yield in Organic Farming

48. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems relating to Low Yields</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Low output while conversion of their farming method from conventional to organic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Small and marginal farmers cannot take the risk of low yields for the initial 2-3 years on the conversion to organic farming</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>There are no schemes to compensate them during the gestation period.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Restoration of full biological activity in terms of growth of beneficial insect populations and fertility problems will take some time and the reduction in the yield rates is the result.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Low yield discourages the farmers and reduces the profit</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>No premium price for the organic produce to match the reduction in the yield</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree

Problems Relating to Lack of Quality Standards for Bio-manures

49. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems relating to Lack of Quality Standards for Bio-manures</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No standards and quality parameters for bio-fertilizers and bio-manures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lack of awareness of the pitfalls of using the commercially available bio-manure products.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many of the branded products available in the market may not be really organic.

Elements of chemicals in the manures through faulty production methods could make the product not certifiable as organic.

Even though the farmers are using manure produced by different methods, proper parameters for bio-manure are yet to be finalized.

Problems Relating to Inadequate Supporting infrastructure for Organic Farming

50. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems relating to Inadequate Supporting infrastructure</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No supporting agency to regulate the supply of organic inputs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Traditional seeds are not supplied by the authorized agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No proper guidance given to the farmers about organic farming</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Inadequate training regarding the production of organic inputs and pest control measures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Inadequate support for marketing of organic produce from the govt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>No seed bank for collecting the traditional seeds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Organic farmers lack of knowledge about the supporting agencies</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problems Relating to Marketing of organic produce

51. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems relating to Marketing of organic produce</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No certification for the organic produce to distinguish from conventional produce</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No price difference in organic and conventional products</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No proper storage places for storing the organic produce to avoid the loss of perishable products</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Buyers are not prepared to pay higher prices for the organic variety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lack of marketing and distribution network</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Retailers are not interested to deal in organic products, as the price is high</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Non availability of specialized markets for organic products</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>No special support price for organic product by the govt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Weakness in establishing and strengthening the market intelligence and price forecasting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Concentrating on specific commodities although promises high economic returns, is vulnerable to market risks.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree
# Problems Relating to Finance and Inadequate financial Support for Organic Farming

52. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems relating to Financial problems and Inadequate financial Support</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Even the financial assistance extended to the conventional farming methods are absent for the promotion of organic farming.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>As the organic produce are not fetching premium price farmers are not able to repay their loan which push them in to debt trap</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The yield is not expected during the initial period farmers are not able earn to repay the loan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lack of financial support for the land preparation cost for practicing organic farming,</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No unique financial support by way of subsidy is provided by the Govt. to the organic farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>No encouragement by way of incentives to promote organic farming</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>No liberal finance is available to the organic farmers</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree

# Political and Social Issues relating to Organic Forming

53. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the intensity of the problems relating to organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Problems relating to Political and Social Issues</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Subsidies and other supports from govt. for supply of inputs like power and water either free of cost or at a subsidized rate, etc. are the tools often used to achieve political objectives.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Opposition from the sections who benefit from such policies in the conventional farming system for the promotion of organic farming.

The political system in a democracy is likely to evade the formulation of policies, which affect the interests of the voting blocs.

Opposition from the public sector fertilizer, pesticide and seed industries to promote organic farming on a large scale.

Sustainable agriculture involves full participation of vibrant rural communities to ensure safe and sustained food supply for everyone.

Politics over the govt. support/floor prices

Enable rural poor to get benefit from agricultural development.

Sustainable agriculture ensures that the loads and benefits to be shared more equitably between men and women.

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree

IV. Measures to Increase the Prospects of Organic Farming from the respondents’ view Point

54. State whether you agree for the following statements according to the Prospects organic farming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Prospects of Organic Farming</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>SDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Imparting skills to the farmers on the techniques of post-harvest management, processing, value addition, grading, etc., through capacity building programmes.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Development of infrastructure facilities for marketing, post harvest management and processing of agricultural produce</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Formation of Commodity groups / Clusterisation of growers of lead commodities and creation of market linkages in order to empower farmers in efficient trading</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) for improved access to investments, technology, inputs and markets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rendering services to farmers to realize remunerative price for their produce through various marketing outlets which include regulated markets, farmers markets and specialized market complexes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Curtailing the post-harvest losses of farm produce and facilitating the farmers to handle their marketable surplus through storage godowns, cold storages, ripening chambers and drying yards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Promoting the role of private players in infrastructure creation especially for value addition and processing of farm produce under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Disseminating the dynamic and forecasted market price information to the registered farmers through mobile and web portals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Increasing the level of food processing and value addition in the State through National Mission on Food Processing and also through Incubation cum Training centers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sensitizing the farmers to adopt market-led agriculture by providing crop advisory, market information and extension services through Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Center.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NI- No idea, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly disagree