

NATURAL ORGANIC PROGRAM : INDIA

A PRESENTATION

BY

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STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

- ⇒ THE INDIAN ORGANIC STORY SO FAR
- ⇒ GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPONSES
- ⇒ DEVELOPMENTAL & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
- ⇒ CONSTRAINTS
- ⇒ WHAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CAN DO

THE INDIAN ORGANIC STORY SO FAR

- HISTORICALLY AND TRADITIONALLY ORGANIC
- FROM 50 MILLION TONNES IN 1950-51 TO OVER 200 MILLION TONNES TODAY IS A STORY OF EMBRACING MODERN AGRICULTURAL PRACTISES AND A RESPONSE TO NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS
- PRODUCTIVITY PLATEAUS AND DIMINISHING RETURNS TO MODERN AGRICULTURE INCREASING AWARENESS AND FOCUSING ATTENTION ON BOTH SUSTAINABILITY AND NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES
- ORGANIC MODE RECEIVING POLICY AND MARKET ATTENTION

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- CURRENTLY, THREE TYPES OF ORGANIC FARMERS VIZ...
 - TRADITIONAL FARMERS QUITE UNAWARE OF THEIR ORGANIC PRACTICES - 70% OF FARMING
 - TRADITIONAL FARMERS ORGANIC BY CHOICE OUT OF CONCERNS FOR ENVIRONMENT, LIFE STYLE, PHILOSOPHY
 - ORGANIC FARMING AIMED AT EXPORTS
- ORGANIC MOVEMENT LED BY MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF IFOAM COMPRISING NGOs, FARMERS ORGANISATION, CORPORATE AND SUPPORTED BY MULTI-LATERALS.

GOVERNMENTS RESPONSE

- ⇒ RECOGNITION OF THE ORGANIC WAY
- ⇒ ENCOURAGING INVOLVEMENT OF UNIVERSITIES AND THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
- ⇒ ESTABLISHING A POLICY FRAMEWORK
- ⇒ ESTABLISHING REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

POLICY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- ⇒ NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION (CONTAINING STANDARDS FOR THE ORGANIC PRODUCTS)
- ⇒ REGULATORY MECHANISM A THREE TIERED STRUCTURE UNDER THE NPOP
- ⇒ THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE
 ACCREDITATION AGENCIES
 INSPECTION & CERTIFICATION AGENCIES

CONSTRAINTS

- ⇒ HIGH COSTS
- ⇒ UNCERTAIN AND OFTEN INADEQUATE MARKET PREMIUMS
- ⇒ DIFFICULT MARKET ACCESS

HIGH COSTS

COST OF CONVERSION:-

- ⇒ WAITING PERIOD OF THREE YEARS
- ⇒ FOR TRADITIONAL ORGANIC, COSTS OF ORGANISATION AND RECOGNITION

COSTS OF CERTIFICATION, HANDLING & MARKETING :-

- ⇒ HIGH COSTS OF INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION BY FOREIGN BASED AGENCIES

MARKET PREMIUMS

- ⇒ ORGANIC PEPPER DID NOT OBTAIN MUCH PRICE PREMIUM
- ⇒ ONLY AROUND 25% OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC PEPPER COULD BE SOLD IN ORGANIC MARKETS
- ⇒ DARJEELING TEA ENJOYED HEFTY PRICE PREMIUMS (OVER 80%) IN EARLY 1990s. HOWEVER, ONLY 10 OUT OF 20 GARDENS THAT OPTED FOR ORGANIC MADE PROFITS
- ⇒ ORGANIC COFFEE PRODUCTION NOT A HAPPY EXPERIENCE SO FAR WITH PRODUCERS REPORTING BOTH PRODUCTIVITY LOSSES AND UNCERTAIN MARKETS

MARKET ACCESS

- ⇒ UNCERTAIN MARKET DEMAND SITUATION
- ⇒ NON-UNIFORM STANDARDS
- ⇒ NON-UNIFORM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
- ⇒ SUBSIDIES

WHAT CAN BE DONE

- ⇒ POSITIVE INTERVENTIONIST STANCE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE ORGANIC FARMING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
- ⇒ ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING
- ⇒ MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATES - EQUIVALENCY AGREEMENT
- ⇒ MARKETING ASSISTANCE FOR GREATER MARKET ACCESS

THANK YOU ALL

