



**Conference on Organic
Agriculture for
Biodiversity and
Sustainable Development**

**National Productivity Secretariat,
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The Indian Agriculture System

The agricultural practices of India, one of the oldest occupations in India is agriculture, which provides the majority of the farming community's income. Agricultural practices have changed significantly as a result of farming technology advancements over the time. Additionally, the development of these techniques has been impacted by climatic and sociocultural factors. As a result, modern farming methods have replaced traditional farming methods, and both are now in use.

Traditional Agriculture is a labour-intensive system that uses natural resources, tools, and techniques and is based on long-standing customs, beliefs, and traditional knowledge. Clearing forests to make way for agriculture is a common step in this process.

Primitive Agriculture is the earliest type of cultivation, and it usually was practised with traditional cultivation tools. This method is used by farmers to produce agricultural products for their own use.

Maintaining or Subsistence Agriculture is the practice of growing both dry and wet crops on a larger land area while heavily utilizing chemical fertilizers. As is customary in India, wet crops are such as paddy (Kharif crops) and dry crops are such as wheat, pulses, etc. (Rabi crops).

Commercial Agriculture is the modern form of farming where farmers use the newest equipment and methods to increase their profits. Crops are grown on larger land areas using fertilizers, pesticides, and weed killers. Commercial farming methods are used in the Indian states of Punjab and Haryana.

Modern Agriculture refers to agricultural production methods that use a lot of money, labour, and the newest machinery, such as tractors, combine harvesters, thrashers, mulchers, seeders, and various types of cultivators, along with a lot of fertilizer, pesticides, and selective breeding techniques.

Although they are still in their infancy, other agricultural techniques like **hydroponics**, **aquaponics**, and **aeroponics** are used in India.

Organic Agriculture

A production method that employs ecological practices to preserve ecosystems, biodiversity, and soil health is called organic agriculture. It blends tradition, innovation, and science to improve everyone's quality of life.

Organic Farming

Growing crops or raising livestock using natural principles like composting and biodiversity is known as organic farming, and it results in the production of nutritious food. In addition to focusing on food security and soil health, organic farming seeks to maximize ecosystem productivity and health. Crop rotation, mulching, composting, and green manuring are examples of organic farming practices.

Organic farming can be thought of as a comprehensive strategy designed to maximize the health and productivity of various ecosystem communities, such as soil fauna, plant life, and human populations.

Conventional Farming

Using chemical products such as synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to combat weeds and pesticides to boost yields is known as conventional farming.

Queries often raised, are Organic Farming and Organic Agriculture the Same? Organic farming, also referred to as Ecological Farming, Biological Farming, or Organic Agriculture, is a type of agriculture that emphasizes crop rotation and companion planting while using organic fertilizers like compost and green manures.

Distinction between Organic and Conventional Farming

The primary distinction between conventional and organic farming is that the former allows no chemical intervention while the latter uses chemical products to combat pests or weeds. Crop rotation, mulching, composting, green manuring, and other farming practices are all used in organic farming to produce food without the use of chemicals. Organic Farming types Natural resources are the only source used in pure organic farming. The goals of integrated organic farming are primarily to meet economic demands and nutritional standards.

Fundamentals of Organic Agriculture

The four guiding fundamentals of organic farming are: care, justice, ecology, and health; human and soil health and preservation of the environment as well. Organic farming is a responsible as well as practice, with the greatest care to support the natural cycles.

A. HOW HIGH IS INDIA'S ORGANIC ADOPTION LEVEL? IS IT GROWING?

India's agricultural sector has made enormous contributions. Following independence in 1947, the Indian economy was heavily reliant on agriculture, with approximately 72% of the workforce working in this sector and contributing 50% of the country's total income.

There are **four stages** in the development of Indian agriculture.

- Following independence, the government implemented the necessary land reforms to support agriculture in the first phase.
- The second phase began following a severe drought in the mid-1960s, and India adopted the new **Green Revolution** strategy in the late 1960s, which helped India achieve food grain self-sufficiency.
- The next phase was agricultural diversification with an emphasis on milk production, fisheries, poultry, vegetables, and fruits.

- No immediate agricultural reforms were implemented during the fourth phase, which started with the 1991 Indian Economic Reforms. However, this sector was indirectly impacted by the removal of industry protection, which aided in the expansion of industry and global trade.

India's **Organic Agriculture Situation** is seeing a sharp rise in organic farming. India ranked first in terms of the number of producers and eighth in terms of organic agriculture in 2020. Though it still only accounts for 1.5% of all agricultural land, the growth of organic agriculture in India is encouraging.

The state of Sikkim, also known as the Organic State of India, has transformed all of its arable land into organic farming.

Of all the other Indian states, Madhya Pradesh tops in organic farming, followed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh. 3.4 million metric tons of certified organic products were produced in India in 2020–21. All food items such as oilseeds, sugarcane, cereals, millet, tea, coffee, and fruits are produced in this category.

The adoption of organic agriculture is currently highest in the western and central states of India, followed by the southern states. The northern states, which include Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, have the lowest adoption rates. The food bowl zone of India, which favours high yield cultivation per hectare and heavy reliance on chemical fertilizers in agricultural production, is the reason.

New regions are continuously being added under organic agriculture since the National Programme for Organic Production was adopted in 2001. The information is accessible from 2012–2013. Organic farming covered 7.23 lac hectares in 2012–13, 57.10 lac hectares in 2015–16, and 91.20 lac hectares in 2021–2022. In a similar vein, India is seeing an exponential rise in the number of organic producers. India's enormous population is the cause of the organic producers' exponential growth. The fact that 85% of farmers in India own less than 2.5 hectares of land is another important factor contributing to the growth of organic producers in the country.

Due to its higher profitability and lower costs, organic farming is also very popular among small and marginal farmers. Farmers are adopting organic agriculture more quickly as a result of these factors.

APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority), a body created by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act by Parliament in December 1985, is responsible for conducting the organic certification in India, where it is designated as **India Organic**. Through the National Programme for Organic Production, the Government of India sets national organic standards, and APEDA makes sure the product satisfies all of them.

In addition, the Food Safety and Standards of India (**FSSAI**) unveiled the **Jaivik Bharat** logo in 2017 to aid consumers in recognizing genuine organic food.

Many environmental and health-related issues are brought up by conventional farming, and as a result of some of its drawbacks, organic farming has grown in popularity.

In summary, India leads the world in the number of organic producers (1.59 million organic farmers), produces 34 lac metric tons of certified organic products, exports over 125 organic products, and accounts for 60 percent of its total organic production. This represents a growth rate of more than 8 percent, indicating that India is increasingly adopting organic agriculture.

B. INDIAN ORGANIC FARMING POLICIES AND ITS IMPACT ON SUSTAINABILITY

To encourage organic farming in the country and to provide farmers with the requisite information and abilities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare took action. To encourage organic farming in India, a number of policies and initiatives were introduced. It is essential to talk about the adoption of organic farming policies, their development, and the mistakes made by some other nations, in order to create an action plan for promoting organic farming in India.

Policies Enacted in India to Encourage Organic Farming

1. PKVY or Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

In 2015, the organic farming policy was introduced, and organic villages were embraced. As part of the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), the PKVY program focuses on Soil Health Management (SHM). The goal of PKVY is to encourage and support organic farming, which will enhance the health of the soil.

In order to encourage organic and domestic farming, the program supports the Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India), a free domestic certification system run by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers Welfare. PGS-India is a type of organic certification that is based on mutual trust, is pertinent to the local area, and requires producers and consumers to be involved in the certification process. The central government and state governments provide 60:40 funding for the program. Central assistance is given to the North Eastern and Himalayan States in a 90:10 (Centre: State) ratio, and to Union Territories in a 100 ratio.

Launched in 2015, the PKVY aims to bring two lac hectares of agricultural land under organic farming by 2017–18 and create 10,000 clusters of at least 20 hectares each. The program's goal was to use low-cost, environmentally friendly technologies to produce agricultural products free of chemical and pesticide residue. According to PGS-India's recommended 36-month conversion period from conventional to organic farming, PKVY was implemented in three years. In order to obtain PGS Certification, PKVY uses a cluster approach to promote organic farming.

The Characteristics of the PKVY Scheme

- A cluster may receive up to Rs.10 lacs in total funding, with an additional Rs.4.95 lac for farmer mobilization and PGS certification, with a subsidy cap of one hectare per farmer.
- At least 65 percent of the farmers in a cluster should fall into the small and marginally affected category.

- Women farmers must receive at least 30% of the budgetary allotment. The PKVY Model's Objectives By raising awareness of the newest technologies in organic farming, the model seeks to promote organic farming among farmers, consumers, traders, and young people living in rural areas.

Regional Councils (RCs) registered with the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), Zonal Councils of the National Center for Organic Farming (NCOF), and other Public Sector Organizations of the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW) are the main implementing agencies (IAs). Experts and scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), National Seed Corporation (NDC), Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), and Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) are in charge of overseeing the demonstrations.

2. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is the program that promotes the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) is another name for natural farming. This organic farming policy incorporates state-promoted techniques. Districts Develop Agricultural Plans to give organic farmers the highest possible return on investment. The goal of the policy is to improve people's health, particularly that of the underprivileged.

A chemical-free farming method with roots in Indian tradition, natural farming (Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati, or NF BPKP) relies on livestock and locally accessible resources. It is based on biomass mulching, year-round green cover, green manuring, using cow dung-urine formulations (Bijamrit, Jivamrit, to quote) for managing soil fertility, using diversity, multi-cropping systems, and using on-farm botanical extracts for plant protection. Its goal is to promote traditional indigenous practices that allow farmers to be free from externally purchased inputs.

The goal of natural farming is to lower cultivation costs by releasing farmers from the need to buy external inputs, whether organic or not. The government is encouraging both the natural and organic farming systems because they are both chemical free agriculture systems.

The Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) both support organic and natural farming. Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP), a sub-scheme of Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), was the first government initiative to promote natural farming. However, in light of the Hon. Indian Prime Minister's goal of making natural farming a mass movement, the BPKP is being scaled up as the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) for nationwide implementation.

The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) seeks to establish institutional capabilities for recording and sharing best practices, involve active farmers as collaborators in the promotion plan, guarantee capacity building and ongoing support, and ultimately draw farmers to natural farming voluntarily based on the system's merits.

Objectives of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

- Supporting alternative farming systems to reduce costs and eliminate the need for externally purchased inputs, thereby boosting farmers' incomes.
- Supporting local resource-based integrated agriculture and animal husbandry models.
- In order to promote more research, Natural Farming practices are being gathered, verified, and documented across the nation.
- To raise awareness and establish Natural Farming as a brand.
- To establish certification guidelines and standards for natural farming products for both national and international markets.

3. The North East Region's Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCDNER)

This program falls under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and is a Central Sector initiative. During the 12th plan period, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched it for implementation in all North Eastern States. The scheme's goal was to connect growers and consumers by developing certified organic production in a value chain model. From inputs and seeds to product certification and the establishment of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing, and brand-building activities, the program promotes the growth of the whole value chain.

4. The National Organic Production Program (NPOP)

Since 2001, the Ministry of Industries & Commerce has been carrying out this program, which aims to enable the evaluation of organic agriculture certification programs and products, accredit certification bodies' certification programs, facilitate the certification of organic products that meet both the importing countries' organic standards and the prescribed standards, and promote the growth of organic farming and organic processing.

5. NMOOP, the National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm

The goal of this organic farming policy is to expand oil palm plantations and encourage the production of edible oils.

6. The Soil Health Management Scheme's Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CISS)

The goal of this organic farming policy is to increase agricultural output by improving soil health and lowering the need for chemical synthesizers while maintaining environmental safety.

7. The NHM, or National Horticulture Mission

The government focuses on educating farmers about organic farming methods under this program. As part of economic organic farming, organic farmers are also given land to cultivate.

8. One District – One Product (ODOP)

In the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, organic farmers are encouraged to implement the One District – One Product (ODOP) policy, which aims to improve the economics of organic planning and enable a rise in the sales of domestic goods.

9. The Agri-Export Policy

This policy was introduced in 2018 and is in charge of encouraging organic farming and influencing the market. This deals with the economic planning of the Organic Farming.

10. The National Organic Farming Project (NPOF)

In order to lessen reliance on chemical fertilizers, this project aims to improve organic production units, biopesticides, and biofertilizers. The program also promotes organic farming and offers certification programs. The European Union and Switzerland have recognized this plan.

The aforementioned discussion makes it abundantly evident that the government is putting organic farming front by enacting a number of organic farming policies.

C. CONTRIBUTIONS OF ORGANIC FARMING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Numerous research studies have shown wide ranging benefits and contributions of organic farming in the Indian context.

Improves Soil Health and Fertility

By avoiding chemical inputs and adopting practices like inter-cropping pattern, crop rotations, green manuring, and organic manuring, all improves the physical, chemical and biological stuff of soil. Organic fields have shown developed soil organic matter, microbial activity, macro and micronutrients compared to conventional farms, thus enhances soil fertility and crop productivity over the long term.

Lowers Air and Water Pollution Levels

Reducing the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers lowers greenhouse gas emissions and water contamination from their production, distribution, and use. The quality of surface and ground water is enhanced by organic farming. Reducing the effects of climate change can be achieved by avoiding the burning of straw and incorporating crop residues into the soil.

Keeping Biodiversity Safe

Compared to chemical monocultures, organic polyculture—the practice of growing multiple crop species simultaneously in the same area—supports a higher level of species diversity. Pollinations and beneficial insect populations are preserved through the use of natural pest control techniques.

Makes Nutritious and Safe Food

Organic produce has the lowest nitrate content and is free of pesticide residues. Numerous studies have shown that crops grown organically have higher levels of antioxidant activity, vitamin C, proteins, and sugar.

Increases Farm Revenues with Price Premiums

In India, organic produce can fetch up to 200% higher market prices despite initially having lower yields. This directly benefits farmers by raising their net incomes. Value addition and export opportunities further improve profitability of organic farming.

Encourages the Conservation of Resources

Circular economies are promoted by using local resources and recycling biomass on farms. As soil health improves, efficient water management techniques lessen the need for irrigation.

Encourages the Development of Communities

Organic production is dominated by small holding farmers, which opens up job and entrepreneurial opportunities in rural areas. This promotes community development.

Increases Resilience to Climate Change

High levels of organic matter in healthy soils improve water retention and increase crop resistance to drought and erratic rainfall. Crop losses and pest infestations are lower on diverse farms. Such actions strengthen resilience to the effects of climate change.

Corresponds with the Sustainable Development Goals

Supporting organic farming helps achieve a number of SDGs, including life on mother land, healthy eating, clean water, decent work culture, responsible consumption, and climate action. It offers an agro-ecological means of accomplishing social, economic, and environmental goals.

D. INDIA'S ORGANIC AGRICULTURE STATUS AT THE MOMENT

In India, organic farming has historically avoided the use of chemicals. Following the Green Revolution, pesticides and agricultural chemicals became widely used. Overuse of chemicals in crop production over the past few decades has negatively impacted both soil and human health. As a result, environmentalists and the public in general began promoting a slow transition to chemical-free farming in order to achieve sustainable production. The Indian government has created a number of policies to encourage organic farming, with the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) emerging as a successful initiative. Sikkim, one of India's north eastern states, achieved 100% organic farming, thanks to group efforts and a variety of policies.

Programs like MOVCDNER and PKVY offer farmers comprehensive assistance in setting up, certifying, and promoting organic farming methods. Even though organic farming in India has steadily increased over time, it still falls well short of its full potential. Over time,

the organic production has fluctuated. The subsidies given for the production of chemical fertilizers far outweigh the money spent on programs and schemes to support organic farming. India's production of organic fertilizers has rapidly decreased from 34 million tons in 2017–18 to just 3879 tons in 2020–21. This decline may be the result of low and erratic demand for organic fertilizers, which discourages both production and further investment.

The production of organic fertilizers is further hampered by duplicity in obtaining licenses, official permissions, and approvals required for production, sale, and quality testing. Finally, this problem is exacerbated by research institutions receiving very little funding for research and development.

The market for organic food is however small, but expanding quickly. Cotton, tea, spices, and basmati rice are important organic exports. In terms of total organic agricultural land, India came in ninth place worldwide, but it is still far below the average. This indicates a great deal of room for growth. To enable broader adoption throughout India, concerted efforts are desperately needed through suitable policies, in-depth research, and a dedicated vision.

E. MAIN PROBLEMS IN ENGAGING INDIA'S ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Although some states have made impressive strides in the field, organic farming has not taken off to the expected level despite the Government of India implementing a number of policies at the national and regional levels.

Lack of Knowledge and Understanding

The idea, tenets, and methods of organic farming are not widely known or understood by farmers, producers, consumers, and, surprisingly, by policymakers respectively. The regulators themselves seem to have lacked a clear vision for organic farming, which has led to a haphazard implementation of policies. Many of them are only dimly aware of the benefits of organic farming over conventional farming practices. Merely creating regulations won't accomplish anything unless there is a clear and explicit direction available in terms of both financial and technical supports from the Central Government as well as other implementing bodies to the ground levels.

Yield Loss Risk

When switching to organic farming from conventional farming, the farmers are constantly mindful of the possibility of yield loss. In the case of organic farming, third-party certifications and laboratory testing are extremely expensive. Additionally, organic farmers are unable to locate customers who are prepared to pay higher prices. They are compelled to sell as farmers who use chemicals. There isn't any motivation to switch to organic farming.

Inadequate Farm Labour

Organic farming requires more labour than conventional farming because it adopts organic principles and practices, which makes it labour-intensive. Farm labour shortage is a significant problem.

Lack of High-Quality Organic Materials

The risk of a lower yield is increased by the severe lack of high-quality organic inputs. The amount of organic fertilizer available is far less than what is needed. The market also has a number of phony competitors. There is also a scarcity of high-quality organic seeds. There is lack of marketing and distribution network for them.

Dominance of Dealers in Chemical Pesticides and Fertilizers

Chemical fertilizer and pesticide market participants run aggressive advertising campaigns to sway general farm producers. Because of the large profit margins, they wind up influencing people's opinions in order to sell these goods.

Absence of Thorough Research on Organic Agriculture

A comprehensive policy on input standardization, crop-specific research and development, and region-specific organic farming are all necessary.

Challenge in Large-Scale Organic Agriculture

Similar to conventional crops, many organic crops are grown in monocultures, but they are treated with fertilizers and pesticides that have been approved for organic use. To keep up with insect and disease pressures, organic growers often use pesticides even more frequently than conventional growers. Small-scale organic methods are far more effective than large-scale ones.

Organic Accreditation

A lot of small farmers are unable to defend the cost of organic certification. Some do not qualify for the organic label even though their production and environmental practices are highly appropriate. In India, the three-year conversion period and the high certification costs frequently prevent farmers, particularly small farmers, from embracing organic farming.

Inadequate Supply Chain

The supply chain is small and undeveloped. Accessing the market is extremely challenging for farmers in isolated locations, such as tribal belts and hilly regions. Lack of cold storage, both for organic products and refrigerated vehicles, causes products to spoil, particularly those with short shelf lives.

Not Enough Institutional Assistance

Last but not the least, despite efforts by the government to promote organic products, synergistic development is hampered by inadequate coordination among implementing agencies. Another significant obstacle to the growth of organic farming to the intended level is a lack of dedication of the administration at the helms of the affairs, a phenomenon that is rarely acknowledged in our society.

F. APPRAISAL OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

We will briefly examine the methods used in organic agriculture as well as the historical experiences of our neighbouring nations.

The Case of Sri Lanka

In 2021, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapakse, the president of Sri Lanka, made the decision to ban the importation of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. As a result, organic farming gained popularity among Sri Lankan farmers, and its disastrous consequences ensued. This experiment went horribly wrong. According to the available literature, the president of Sri Lanka intended to save \$400 million annually on chemical pesticides and fertilizers because he thought that the use of chemicals in agriculture had an impact on both human and environmental health. As a result, the state, which was previously self-sufficient in its rice production, spent \$450 million on imports. Within six months, the ban cut production by 20%. The total amount of crops decreased by 18%. There was a significant decline in productivity.

The Case of China

According to available data, China ranks fourth globally in terms of sales and third globally in terms of certified organic products. Sustainable agricultural practices and organic production are growing in China. The total area under certified organic cultivation increased more than fivefold between 2005 and 2018, according to a government study. With the help of government officials, farmers are giving up the use of chemicals in their farming. The middle and upper classes in China are rapidly increasing their demand for organic and green foods, primarily due to health concerns.

The Case of Sikkim

India's north eastern state of Sikkim is hilly and shaped like a thumb. When the state's then chief minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling, took the bold decision to declare the state "totally organic, Sikkim passed a resolution in 2003 for transition to organic farming with the goal of eliminating the use of chemicals and pesticides in farming. In his statement to the legislative assembly, the former chief minister stated that "since our farmers have historically engaged in organic farming, it is not difficult to return to this ancient practice."

Mr. Chamling was inspired to take this progressive step for a number of reasons, including preserving their pristine environment, enhancing soil fertility, promoting healthy lifestyles, and reducing health risks associated with chemical-based farming practices. But the shift wasn't quick or easy. With its dedication and commitment, Sikkim was able to cultivate all 75,000 hectares of its arable land in an entirely organic manner.

Consequences of the Cases

It is clear that chemical pesticides and fertilizers have a negative impact on both human and environmental health. It is the main justification for both its prohibition and the encouragement of organic farming. However, it's also critical to acknowledge that these chemicals enabled farmers to cultivate more crops on the available land.

The high produce yields produced by farmers in developing countries like China, India, and Sri Lanka were made possible by these chemicals. According to available data, 83% of Sri Lankans were regarded as nourished in 2000, but that number only remained at 7% in 2019.

Consider China's development of organic culture. Numerous studies have been conducted, and organizations have provided training and support to grow the organic sector, which has increased crop yields, particularly in rice, wheat, and maize, while significantly lowering the use of nitrogen fertilizer. The Chinese experience was so inventive that it created a local Green Food standard and disseminated, tested, and improved it out of the public eye. Additionally, the certification was divided into two grades: A and AA. This enabled China for quick adoption of organic foods.

In Sikkim's case, 9.9 kg of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK) fertilizers were used per hectare of cropped area at the time of a 2003 resolution to switch to organic farming. In comparison to Punjab State in India, which used 772 kg of this fertilizer per hectare, and Haryana State, which used 150.40 kg per hectare in 2002–03, this is the lowest in the nation, after Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

The agricultural produce in Sikkim was nearly organic with such a low use of fertilizers when it started migration towards achieving 100% organic farming. The economy of Sri Lanka collapsed due to the abrupt change and absence of a tangible supply chain system, while Chinese farmers gradually adopted Organic Farming through flexible and profitable policies.

According to the World Book of Records London, Sikkim is the "World's First Organic State." This acknowledgement suggests that the state is now the first in the world to adopt a policy that is entirely organic. Sikkim won the Oscar for best policies to achieve 100% organic farming from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

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A delegate from India attending the Conference on Organic Agriculture for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development on December 9–10, 2024 at National Productivity Secretariat, Sri Lanka, Colombo.

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