SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ORGANIC FARMING:
AN ULTIMATE CHOICE

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Abstract: Most of the countries have accepted the globalization which has made countries to produce more and show the strength. The responsibility of all the countries is to preserve resources and develop their countries. Developing the country by preserving natural resources is great challenge. Sustainable development is to be achieved in all the fields like, agriculture, industry, service, culture, environment, etc. India is not exception to all these. Because of urbanization, industrialization, SEZs, EPZs, expansion of infrastructure the area under cultivation is decreasing. Objectives of the paper are to highlight the importance of sustainable development, to highlight the importance of organic farming and to find and suggest solutions. The paper contains sub titles like introduction, sustainable development and agriculture. The impact of modernization on the agriculture and need for sustainable development, conclusion and solutions have been reflected. Secondary information and data is used for the preparation of the paper.

Keywords: Sustainable development, globalization, urbanization, industrialization.

“Sustainable development describes the process in which natural resources base is not allowed to deteriorate. It emphasizes the hitherto unappreciated role of environmental quality and environmental inputs in the process of raising real income and quality of life”

- D.W. Pearce and E. Barbier

INTRODUCTION

Most of the countries have accepted the globalization which has made countries to produce more and show the strength. The responsibility of all the countries is to preserve resources and develop their countries. Developing the country by preserving natural resources is great challenge. Sustainable development is to be achieved in all the fields like, agriculture, industry, service, culture, environment, etc. India is not exception to all these. Because of urbanization, industrialization, SEZs, EPZs, expansion of infrastructure the area under cultivation is decreasing. Because of growing demand for industrialization, urbanization, development, etc, the environmental problems like air pollution, water pollution, sound
pollution, deforestation, soil erosion, acid rains, ozone depletion etc. have become common problems in the world. The idea of sustainable development tries to find suitable solution for all these problems.

The idea of sustainable development is recent one. International Union for the Conservation of Natural Resources presented the Conservation Strategy in 1980 in this the term “Sustainable Development” firstly used. The United Nations set up the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1983 and called the Bruntland Commission to examine the problems connected with this area. The Commission submitted its report entitle “Our Common Future” in 1987 and used and defined the sustainable development concept. Bruntland Report has given the meaning of sustainable development as, “meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising with the needs of future generations”. The World Bank Report, 2000, has given importance to the creation of sustainable improvement in the quality of life for all people as the main aim of development policy.

The idea of sustainable development assigns equal importance on the development, environmental protection and preservation. It emphasizes the creation of sustainable improvement in the quality of life of people through increase in real income per capita, improvements in education, health and general quality of life and improvements in quality of natural environmental resources.

Agriculture sector provides employment to 58 percent of the employment in the country and stands important sector in the country’s economy. The National Agricultural Policy of India has stressed the significance of management and protection of resources by stating that, ‘the policy will seek to promote technically sound, economically viable, environmentally non-degrading and socially acceptable use of country’s natural resources—land, water and genetic endowment to promote sustainable development of agriculture’.

Due to increase in the demand for agrarian commodities, demand for increasing agricultural production mounted, in turn application of modern technology in agriculture was inevitable. This led for many side effects and deterioration of original quality of agriculture. Now it is the time for thinking and implementing suitable method of farming such as ‘Organic Farming’.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER**

1. To highlight the importance of sustainable development,
2. To highlight the importance of organic farming and
3. To find and suggest solutions.

METHODOLOGY
The paper contains sub titles like introduction, sustainable development and agriculture. The impact of modernization on the agriculture and need for sustainable development, conclusion and solutions have been reflected. Secondary information and data is used for the preparation of the paper.

OBJECTIVES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
The main aim of sustainable development is to create sustainable improvement in the quality of life for all people. Following are the main objectives of the idea of sustainable development;

- Faster economic growth,
- Meeting basic requirements,
- Raising standard of living,
- Ensuring clean and hygienic environment free from all types of pollution,
- Optimizing the net effects of economic development,
- Conservation and enrichment of environmental, human and physical capital,
- Maintaining equality between present and future generation and
- Controlling the gross exploitation of the natural resources of every country.

FEATURES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Sustainable development has special and distinct features, they are as follows;

- It aims at increasing production with productivity,
- It consequences in increase in real goods and services,
- It aims to make the country self sufficient and self dependent,
- It tries to create strong and healthy infrastructure,
- It generates employment opportunities,
- It tries to improve the quality of life of people,
- It guarantees the increased stock of natural resources, etc.

SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE
Agriculture is the important sector of all the nations. The people of all the countries have to depend on agriculture for food for survival. Though the science and technology have developed, no such an industry or technology is found to produce food and stand as
substitute to agriculture. Thus preserving and developing agriculture is must for all the nations. On one hand, because of globalization, industrialization, urbanization, establishment of SEZs, EPZs, development of infrastructure, etc. the agricultural land is being converted into non agricultural land this is leading for decrease in the agricultural land and on another hand, because of growing population of the world that too of developing countries, the demand for food is increasing. Increasing demand for food on one side and decreasing area under cultivation will create gap between demand and supply of agro products. To meet the growing demand for food the pressure for increasing food production on agriculture is increasing. For increasing production, application of science and technology, more use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, high yielding variety seeds, etc, are practiced and pressure is being imposed on agriculture to produce more.

Now the question is whether the present generation is last generation? If the answer is no then the sustainable development must be supported. Agriculture and agricultural land should be preserved for our own future generation. Therefore, (i) the reduction in area under cultivation in the name of industrialization, urbanization, expansion of infrastructure, etc, should be stopped by finding new ways, (ii) for increasing agricultural production more use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, high yielding variety seeds, etc, are to be stopped and alternative method of agriculture should be adopted such as organic farming.

**ORGANIC FARMING**

Organic farming is not a new method of agriculture. This is a traditional one which was practiced earlier. “Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony” – (Definition of the USDA National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)). The methods of crop rotation, use of natural and green manure, compost, biological pest control, etc were practiced. In the name of green revolution for more production, agricultural land was forced to produce more by giving artificial external tonic and medicine like chemical fertilizers, pesticides, plant growth regulators such as hormones, antibiotic use in livestock, genetically modified organisms etc. This treatment killed micro organisms and deteriorated original production capacity and characteristic of the soil to grow crops. Now most of the countries including India have got confirmed about the wrong
method adopted and learnt the lesson. Hence not only for future, for present also the organic farming is the only solution for retaining originality of agriculture.

The agriculture by organic methods is internationally regulated and legally enforced by many countries based on standards set by International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), an international umbrella organization for organic farming organizations established in 1972. The USDA National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Since 1990 the demand for food produced through organic method is increasing. In 2012 the market for organic food and other products has grown speedily and reached $63 billion, worldwide. As on 2011 around 37,000,000 hectares of land worldwide has been organically farmed (0.9 percent of total world farm land).

CONCLUSION

Now a days countries worldwide have got confirmed about the environmental degradation and started thinking about protecting and preserving the nature and found new idea of development popularly known as “Sustainable Development”. This development is welcome development because it has good consequences. The future generation has also right on today’s environment they also need. Therefore preserving the environment for future generation is must. Hence the government should take positive steps and prepare conducive policies and achieve the sustainable development because sustainable development is the only solution. Organic farming can sustain agriculture for future.

SUGGESTIONS

Population growth, poverty, industrialization, development of agricultural, development of transport, urbanization, market failure, etc. are factors responsible for the environmental problems like air pollution, water pollution, soil degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, etc. Such environmental degradation creates problems to the human health, reduces economic productivity and leads to the loss of amenities. Therefore, by judicious choice of economic and environmental policies and environmental investments, the harmful effects of environmental degradation can be reduced.

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