

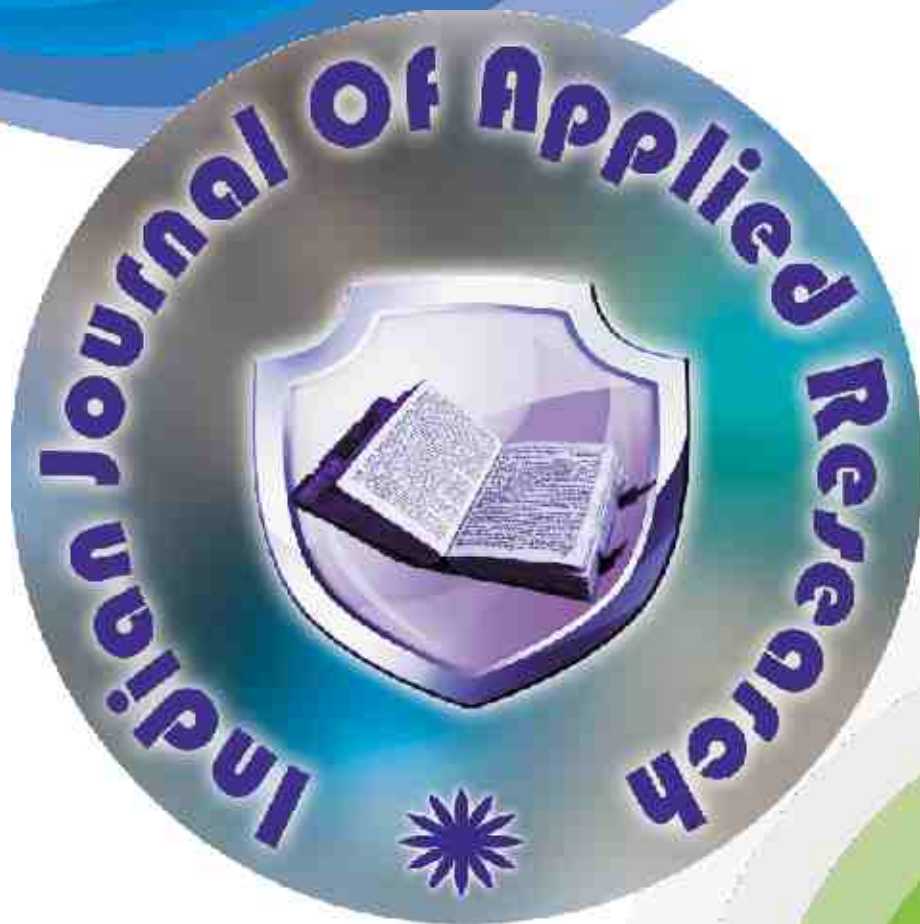
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Impact Of Organic Farming On Yield Of Some Common Crops- A Case Study.

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ABSTRACT

Organic farming is one of the fastest growing sectors of agricultural production. The main reasons farmers grow organically are concerns about the effect of chemicals on health and the effects of conventional farming on soil quality and conservation. Organic farming can be achieved by using some of the techniques and practices like composting, crop rotation, green manuring, vermin-composting etc. The present paper deal with the yield assessment of some common crops grown using organic farming and its comparison with the conventional farming.

Keywords : Organic farming, green manuring, vermin-composting, conventional farming.

Introduction:

Organic farming is a method of crop and livestock production that involves much more than choosing not to use certain pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, and growth hormones that are not permitted by organic standards.

Organic farming is not about only farming without chemicals. It is also about the environment, agricultural traditions, traditional seeds, animal welfare, farming communities, sensible energy use, soil and water conservation. It is also about you and your family, your health and your welfare.

Most of the peoples and farmers are found to be unconcerned about the quality of the food they consume and produce respectively. Despite numerous and regular reports in the media about the presence of pesticides and other chemical contaminants in food and water, they have not been goaded into searching for and demanding food grown in a non-toxic way (Stanhill, 1990; Lamkin and Padel, 1994 and Pretty et al., 2003).

The present study is focused on assessment of yield of some common crops like banana, papaya, cotton and sweet potato produced using organic farming and its comparison with the productivity of same crops under conventional farming.

Material and methods:

The present study was conducted during 2007-2008 in the organic farms situated at Bhokar taluka, District Nanded (MS) India. The study is survey based. The crops chosen for the study includes, Banana, Papaya, Cotton and Sweet Potato. Different organic farms in Bhokar taluka was visited time to time during the study period and analyzed the yield of different crops. These results then compared with the production of same crops using conventional methods which generally involved the chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc.

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Results and Discussion:

It has been observed that the yield of crops produced under organic farming is significant but slight lesser than the conventional farming. The comparative data of the yields of selected crops is presented in the table-1.

Table 1 The comparative data of the yields of selected crops.

Sr. No.	Crops	Average Yield in Kg/ hectore using organic farming	Average Yield in Kg/ hectore using conventional farming
1	Banana (<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>)	4100	4500
2	Papaya (<i>Carica papaya</i>)	4250	4650
3	Cotton (<i>Gossypium herbaceum</i>)	20 quintals	20-25 quintals
4	Sweet Potato (<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>)	12025	14400

Organic farming is now gaining the momentum since last two decades due to increased awareness among the peoples. The method of organic farming is eco-friendly and it restores fertility of soil and has positive impact on biodiversity (Clay, 2004 and Halberg et al., 2005) and human health. Its true that, the yield of organically produced crop was observed to be slight less than conventional methods (Rosset, 1999 and Pimentel et al., 2005) but, having positive impact on environment, biodiversity and human health, it should be preferred and propagated. The present results also indicate that crop yield in organic farming is less than the conventional method, but as it increase the soil fertility and give the chemical free products, it must be encouraged. The previous reports including that of Hanson et al., (1997); Vesterby and Kripa (1997), Brumfield et al. (2000) and McDonald et al., (2005) indicates the same and highlighted the positive impact of organic farming.



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