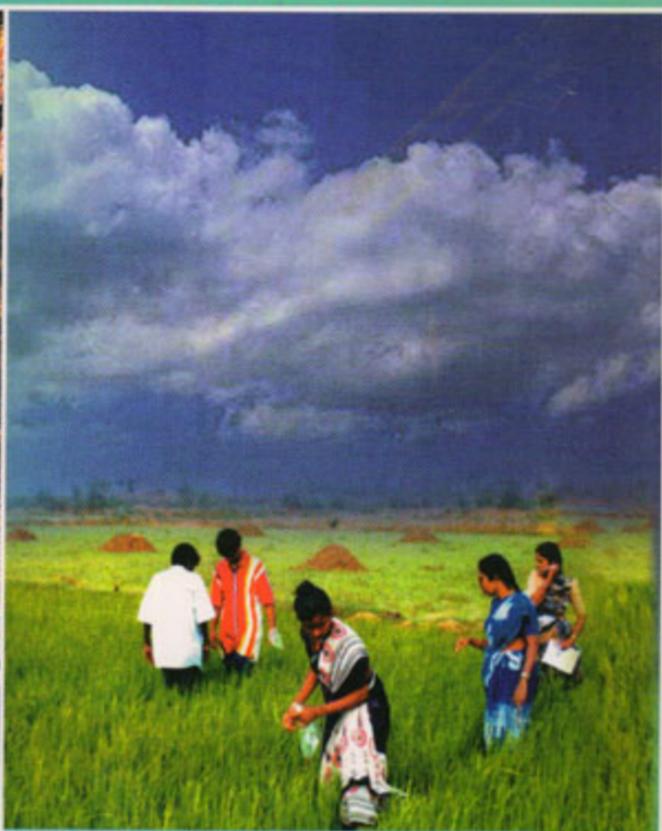




Extension Strategies for Promotion of **ORGANIC FARMING**



Editors

**L. V. HIREVENKANAGODAR, L. MANJUNATH,
J. G. ANGADI, D. M. CHANDARGI, K. A. JAHAGIRDAR**

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**AGROTECH PUBLISHING ACADEMY
Udaipur - 313002**

Distributed by :

Prof. L. L. Somani

Vinayak Book House

11 A Vinayak Complex -B, Durga Nursery Road

UDAIPUR (Raj.) - 313 001

Phone : 0294-2465635

Mobile : 9414169635

Published by :

Geeta Somani

Agrotech Publishing Academy

11 A Vinayak Complex -B, Durga Nursery Road

UDAIPUR (Raj.) - 313 001

Phone : 0294-2465635

Mobile : 9414169635

First Published : 2007

© Authors

ISBN : 81-8321-061-9

Typeset by :

Siddharth Graphics

16, Toran Bawari, Jagat Chambers,

1st Floor, Udaipur,

Ph. 0294-2414977, 9414396605

Printed by :

SSS Printers

New Delhi

PREFACE

The 21st century poses a global challenge of ensuring sustainable development and a clean environment. The developed countries are struggling to sustain their economic prosperity gained through technological revolution, while the developing countries like India with predominantly agriculture-based economies present a sharp contrast population explosion followed by over exploitation of natural resources. This has led to poverty, environmental pollution and unsustainable growth. So, to achieve sustainable development in agriculture, the need of the hour is promotion of organic farming. With the introduction of green revolution technologies the modern agriculture is getting more and more dependent upon steady supply of inputs. Excessive dependence of modern agriculture and supply of synthetic inputs and the adverse effects being noticed due to their excessive and imbalanced use has compelled the scientific fraternity to look for alternatives like organic farming, LEISA, natural farming, ecological farming etc. Among several alternatives organic farming is an important one.

In this context, it is imperative for agricultural extension to play vital role by designing effective strategies for promotion of organic farming. It is the need of the hour for providing proper understanding of concepts in organic farming and to evolve participatory methodology for documenting the various practices followed by farmers and to find scientific rationality where the onus lies on scientists.

This book is the outcome of the winter school sponsored by ICAR, New-Delhi, which was planned and conducted with the objective of providing conceptual understanding on organic farming, possible extension strategies for production and marketing activities and to provide a platform for interaction with farmers.

Date: 11.12.2005.

Place: Dharwad

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Agriculture is a vital and most productive sector of Indian economy contributing 25 per cent of GDP and employing 65 per cent of country's work force. In the recent past, Indian agriculture has been poised for transformation in the context of globalization, liberalization and privatization. At the same time, the awareness of the consumer is increasing, who is focal point in the present competitive world. The quality of food is a matter of concern as the modern technology in crop production with the use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers in agriculture has resulted in residues. The standard analytical techniques are being developed rapidly so that more and more residues are detected. Thus, the modern agriculture is posing a global challenge for achieving sustainable development and clean environment.

The farming community and scientific fraternity are looking for the alternatives like organic farming and other holistic approaches with environmentally beneficial practices including the elimination of synthetic chemicals which is receiving considerable attention. In fact, consumers are increasingly demanding environment friendly and healthy foods. India is developing organic farming as an approach for sustainable agriculture, taking into consideration both environmental concerns and the growing global organic produce market. However, there are obstacles to adopt these holistic approaches in farming. The basic constraints are related to potential yield reduction, cost of conversion and institutional support. The conversion to organic farming can have serious repercussions on food security and livelihoods of marginal and small farmers and farm laborers. Meeting the challenges posed in adopting organic farming involves change in the pattern of public investment and institutional arrangement.

The sustainable agriculture including organic farming is yet to take center stage in agriculture production in India despite agricultural policies waxing eloquent on promoting sustainable farming practices. In the absence of adequate policy support for sustainable and organic farming small farmers are likely to suffer because of high cost of shifting

from present farming practices to sustainable one. The result is that much of the small farming system remains much below expectation as low use of chemical inputs is by default rather than part of a systematic choice. Consequently, there is sustained low productivity with continued land degradation due to unscientific farming practices that adhere neither to the recommended practices for chemical use nor for organic and sustainable farming practices. Thus, it is high time for agricultural extension to play its significant role in; creating awareness on various alternatives in farming for sustainable development, also in building motivated human resource to promote organic farming and to have strong institutional arrangements.

This book covers important topics on various alternatives in farming for sustainable development with special emphasis on organic farming. It also covers extension strategies in promoting organic farming, entrepreneurial competencies, HRD techniques and policy recommendations evolved through interaction among practicing organic farmers, scientists and NGO personnel.

We are sure the book will be of immense use to planners, administrators, extension workers and all those striving for sustainable development through various alternatives in farming with due concern to environment.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Dr. L.V. HIREVENKANAGODAR, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka has wide range of contacts and exposures due to his visits to several foreign countries viz., USA, Mexico, France, South Africa and United Kingdom. He has participated in several national and international seminars, workshops and conferences. He has guided 15 M. Sc. and 10 Ph.D. students.

He has successfully organized a national seminar on Contemporary Challenges for Indian Agriculture and Rural Development and two winter schools viz., Extension Strategies For Human Resource Development In the context of Globalization of Agriculture and Appropriate Extension Strategies For Promotion of Organic Farming.

He is recipient of **Best Extension Worker** Award of UAS, Dharwad and **Indira Priyadarshini** Award. He is on the Research Board of Advisors 2000 for The American Biographical Institute, U.S.A. He has published over 125 research papers and 250 popular articles and eight books which includes "Extension Teaching Methods and Communication Technology", "Extension Approaches for Agriculture and Rural Development" and "Extension Strategies For Human Resource Development". He is life member of several scientific and statutory bodies and closely associated with many voluntary organizations for the cause of agriculture and rural development. He is specialized in Human Resource Development, Administration, Management and Livelihood strategies.

Dr. L. MANJUNATH, Associate Professor of Agril. Extension, UAS, Dharwad has vast teaching experience, guided 17 M.Sc. students and published over 100 research papers, 120 popular articles, seven books and eight poems. He has received **FUWA** award from the United Writers Association, Chennai. He has participated in many national level training programmes and seminars. He is life member of many scientific journals and several organizations engaged in cultural and

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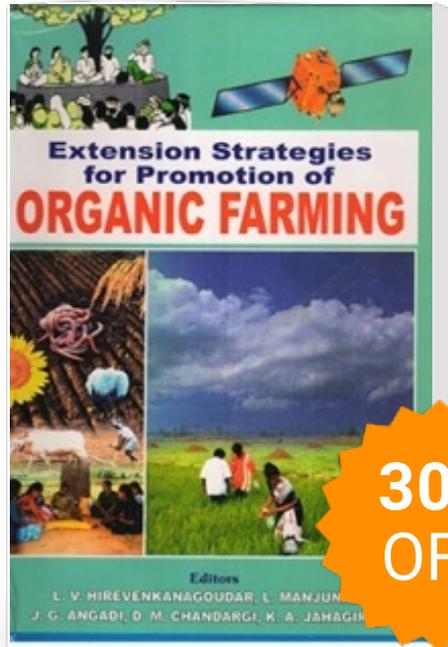
Shri. K.A. JAHAGIRDAR, Assistant Professor of Agril. Extension, UAS, Dharwad has vast teaching experience, guided many M.Sc. students, published several research papers, popular articles and edited one book. He is recipient of **India Millennium 2000 Award**. He did his post graduation in International Institute of Management, Flenceberg University, Germany. He has participated in many national and international seminars, conferences and summer schools. He is the life member of several scientific journals and societies. He has wide exposure to various national and international organizations and has visited Germany, France, Switzerland and Bangkok. He is specialized in information Communication Technologies (ICT) and transfer of technology.

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Publisher : Agrotech
Publications

ISBN : 9788183210614

Author :
Hirevenkanagoudar LV

Type the URL : <http://www.kopykitab.com/product/7231>



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