ORGANIC FARMING: APPROACHES AND APPLICATIONS
(22.01.2014 to 11.02.2014)

Background

Organic farming is a kind of diversified agriculture wherein crops and livestock are managed through use of integrated technologies with preference to depend on resources available either at farm or locally. The adoption of organic farming is gradually increasing and now organic agriculture is practised in approximately 130 countries of the world and the area under organic practices is continually growing.

Crop management practices such as crop rotations, green manuring, crop residue recycling, water management, efficient plant types etc., are adopted through a combination of structural and tactical management options to ensure farm produce of sufficient quantity and quality for livestock and human consumption. Possibly, the greatest impact of organic agriculture is on the mindset of people. It uses traditional and indigenous farming knowledge, while introducing selected modern technologies to manage and enhance diversity, to incorporate biological principles and resources into farming systems, and to ecologically intensify agricultural production.

According to organic monitor estimates consumer demand for organic products is concentrated in North America and Europe; these two regions comprise 97 percent of global revenues. Asia, Latin America and Australasia are important producers and exporters of organic foods.

In India, organic farming has grown many folds and number of initiatives at Government and Non-Government level has given it a firm direction. By 2009 India had brought more than 9.2 million ha of land under certification. Growing awareness, increasing market demand, increasing inclination of farmers to go organic and growing institutional support has resulted into phenomenal growth in total certified area during the last five years. As on March 2009, total area under organic certification process stood at 12.01 lakh ha and the overall market potential is estimated to be around Rs.1452 crore.

As per Food and Agriculture Organization organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved. The overall definition is further specified in four guiding principles, Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care.

Under these circumstances, the topic on organic farming becomes essential for the scientists to nurture the growing science to reach higher levels and to ensure sustainability

Objectives:

- develop skill to undertake research on organic farming systems for sustainable production of crops
- acquaint various technical and management aspects of organic farming to act as an expert for teaching, research and training
- expose the trainees on the latest developments in organic farming

Organic farming system emphasizes long term commitment to soil fertility, reduction of external energy consumption, coupling traditional knowledge with modern methods besides maintaining environmental health.

Course outline

Course contents will broadly cover
- Concepts and Principles
- Soil and soil fertility
- Organic inputs
- Organic crop production
- Organic livestock production
- Organic horticultural crop production
- Organic plant protection
- Certification, quality and marketing
- Environmental aspects
- Organic food
- Economics and policy issues

The training course outline will proceed with theme wise delivery of information with practical exposures wherever required by way of showing all the ongoing field experiments on these topics, field observation at farmer’s holdings and by making visit to research centers and farms also

Eligibility and application

Institutes: SAU’s and ICAR

Educational Qualification: M.Sc. (Ag.), M.Sc. (Horti) and M.V.Sc.

Scientists and Faculties of: Agronomy, Soil Science, Crop Physiology, Environmental Science, Agricultural Microbiology, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry with cadre below the rank of Professor and working not below the rank of Assistant Professor and equivalent in the concerned subject under Agricultural University / ICAR Institutes.

Age Limit: Below 45 years
- Application in the prescribed format (enclosed) should be sent through their employer.
- The duly filled in application form must reach the Course Director on or before 20.12.2013

Duration of Training

The training is organized for 21 days from 22-01-2014 to 11-02-2014 (both days inclusive). The participants are expected to arrive latest by evening of 21-01-14 and can leave after 5.00 pm on 11.02.2014.

Boarding and lodging

The lodging and boarding arrangements for the trainees will be made by the host institute. Accommodation will be provided to participants only and not for accompanying persons.

Support facilities

The trainees will have the access to games and sports utility, medical facility and central Library of TNAU for consultation of technical literature.

About the city and travel

Coimbatore is located near the Western Ghats and the climate during January, February is pleasant and the temperature varies from 20°C and 30°C.

The city is well connected by rail and road. Many city buses ply through TNAU Campus (about 6 km away from city Railway station). The participants are advised to make their return journey reservation in advance. Participants will be paid two-way rail fare of III tier AC travel. However, it is limited to the provisions under TA. Production of original ticket is essential for TA claim. In the absence of tickets, sleeper class train / bus fare will be paid for the shortest route.

Dates to note

| Last date of receipt of application | 20.12.2013 |
| Intimation of selection | 02.01.2014 |
| Training period | 22.01.2014 to 11.02.2014 |
TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ORGANIC FARMING: APPROACHES AND APPLICATIONS (22.01.2014 to 11.02.2014)

APPLICATION FORM

1. Full Name (Block Letters) : 
2. Designation : 
3. Present employer & address : 
4. Address for Correspondence : 
   Telegraphic Address : 
   Telephone : Off : Res : Mobile : 
   FAX : Off : 
   E-Mail I.D. : 
5. Date of Birth, Age & Sex : Male / Female 
6. Date of entry into service and Total Service : 
7. Teaching and Research Experience : 
8. Training (s) undergone during the last 2 years (with titles and duration) : 

8. Academic Qualification

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Date: 

Signature of the applicant

Interested scientists are requested to visit through ICAR CBP vortal through http://iasri.res.in/cbp or http://icar.org.in for filling online application. Filled in application may be approved by the competent authority and again uploaded in the CBP vortal.

Address for Correspondence

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TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ORGANIC FARMING: APPROACHES AND APPLICATIONS (22.01.2014 to 11.02.2014)

Organized By

CENTRE OF ADVANCED FACULTY TRAINING IN AGRONOMY

Dr. N. ASOKA RAJA
Professor and Head cum Director, CAFTA

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