

# Organic Farming

Theory & Practice

SP. Palaniappan

K. Annadurai





# **ORGANIC FARMING :** **Theory and Practice**

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# **ORGANIC FARMING :**

## **Theory and Practice**

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## **PREFACE**

Concern about environmental safety and sustainability of land productivity is increasing among scientists, administrators and environmentalists. With the increasing population, it is also becoming clear that food security to the teeming millions will not be possible unless the available resources are efficiently utilized for increasing the productivity. The strategy adopted during the green revolution era can not be valid anymore under the prevailing conditions. A new strategy of living with the nature and nurturing it for sustainable high productivity should be evolved. Though use of chemical inputs can not be altogether avoided, their use in agriculture has to be rationalized. Organic agriculture shows us the way to effectively use the available natural resources for the benefit of the mankind. But, unfortunately there are a lot of misconceptions about organic agriculture. Though a large amount of information has been generated on various aspects of organic agriculture, they are scattered in literature. A compilation of the available information has been a felt need of students, teachers, research workers and administrators in agriculture. This book makes an attempt to present the available information on organic agriculture in a cogent and easily understandable manner. Though it is not exhaustive, which it is not meant to be, it is felt that book will give an overview on the subject to the interested reader. A viewpoint on organic agriculture has been presented in the book, based on the experience of the authors. The book contains chapters on organic manures (including green manures), recycling of organic wastes, vermiculture, biofertilizers, organic methods of pest and weed management, integrated nutrient management, farming systems and case studies of organic farming. Selected literature is presented for further reading. It is hoped that the book will serve as a good reference source for those interested in organic agriculture. The authors welcome suggestions from readers for the improvement of the book in future editions. The first author wishes to thank Nagarjuna Agricultural Research and Development Institute and the Nagarjuna Group for the opportunity given to him. The second author thanks his colleagues in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for their unstinting co-operation. The authors also thank their family members, without whose whole-hearted co-operation, this exercise could not have been completed.

May 29, 1999

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