



International Research Network for Food Quality and Health

Seminar October 7th, from 9-10 am CET at ZOOM

Organic farming - the only option for Sustainable Production in India

The workshop is free of charge, but you have to sign up at shb@nexs.ku.dk, just write FQH as subject and you will receive a zoom link for the meeting

Program:

9.00-9.05 welcome by FQH president Carola Strassner

9.05 – 9.35 Organic farming - the only option for Sustainable Production in India by Dr. P V S M Gouri

Dr. P V S M Gouri is a professional with over 22 years of experience spanning Corporate, Academic and Regulatory sectors. She is a PhD in Life Sciences & Post Doctorate in Tissue culture. As an expert in Organic Farming and former advisor to the National Accreditation Body, APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, made several contributions towards the overall development of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) implemented by Agricultural & Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India for development of exports.

Represented APEDA as an Expert in several National Committees of Ministry of Agriculture, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Environment and Forests (2009-10), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India (2009-10) and Planning Commission.

Presently she is a Partner Member of the Organic Food System Programme (OFSP) - an international initiative in 2015 for research and knowledge transfer on organic food issues. OFSP is closely linked to IFOAM Organic International and the UN Programme on Sustainable Food Systems.

9.35-9.55 Discussions in plenum or break-out rooms dependent on number of attendants

9.55-10.00 Wrap-up, presentation of next workshop and goodbye

Abstract

Organic farming - the only option for Sustainable Production in India

Abstract: Whether high-tech or low-tech, larger- or smaller-scale farmers regardless of how the organic practices are followed with the underlying philosophies, organic farmers rely on methods that go beyond industrial agriculture, to grow food in ways that are both more just, and more tenable over the long term for a More Sustainable Future.

This concept starts with the questions: What is organic food? How is it produced? And is it really more sustainable than conventional agriculture?

Growers apply methods that make sense to them and that reflect their values. Organic food is grown without synthetic inputs such as chemical pesticides or synthetic fertilizers. Organic farmers follow traditional methods of farming conducive to their climatic zones and cropping patterns such as crop rotation and manure, to control pests, diseases and weeds for optimal productions and this process minimizes the exposure of farm workers, consumers, and the environment more broadly to harmful chemicals. Therefore organic farming it is generally considered a type of sustainable farming and doesn't necessarily equate to being local, and oftentimes the latter choice is more sustainable

There are live examples of some of grower groups projects in India have shown that organic farming is not only environmentally sustainable, but also financially competitive when compared to conventional farming

In India farmers having small land holdings of less than a acre sometimes and hence groups of farmers are encouraged to join together under a single group and tend to plant more diverse crops to attain critical mass to enter the supply chains for making it more sustainable Additionally, locally sourced food creates less carbon emissions due to reduced transportation distances.