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## From Soil to Success: Profits in Organic Farming

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The key to sustainably protecting the earth's resources is organic farming. A sustainable approach is to use the earth's natural resources in a way that prevents harm to the environment and ensures that they are available for our future generations. We must employ the strategies and tactics necessary to preserve the planet Earth in this day and age, and organic farming is the only one that can do it.

### Characteristics of Organic Farming

- Minimum investment required and maximise use of local materials.
- Environmentally friendly farming practices- Protect water, air, and soil from chemical pollution.
- Maintain ecological balance.
- Use natural methods to boost agricultural production.
- Great chance for farmers to achieve self-sufficiency.
- Maintain soil fertility - Positive long-term benefits on land health.

### Success Story -1

Pune Brothers Quit High Paying Jobs For Organic Farming And Earning About Rs 30 Lakhs Per Month. Satyajit and Ajinkya Hange, two brothers from Pune, left their high paying corporate job to pursue organic farming.

#### THE JOURNEY BEGINS:

After completing their MBA from Pune university, the brothers worked with top MNCs for nearly a decade. However they felt unfilled and eventually discovered their true passion lay in their 100 year old ancestral wada in Indapur taluka's Bhodani village. In 2013, they started "Two Brothers Organic Farm" and begin their journey in organic farming.



In the first year of organic farming, the brothers grew: **Vegetables:** Tomato, brinjal, okra, chilli. **Cereals:** Jowar, bajra. **Pulses:** Green gram. Since the land was earlier under chemical farming, the initial yield was low: **Tomato:** about 12-15 tonnes per hectare **Brinjal:** about 18-20 tonnes per hectare **Jowar:** about 8-10 quintals per hectare

**ORGANIC PRACTICES ADOPTED:** To overcome these problems the brothers adopted, Farmyard manure, Vermicompost, Panchagavya, Jeevamrutham, Neem based bio-pesticides. Yield improved after 2-3 years, crop yield and quality is increased, Tomato: 25-30 tonnes per hectare, Brinjal: 30-35 tonnes per hectare and Jowar: 15-18 quintals per hectare. Initially they faced many challenges but today their farm generates a monthly turnover of Rs.30 lakh, with an annual income around Rs. 30-40 crores. He did community level initiative, the brothers have setup a community initiative called "Organicwe" where they've established farmers markets in Mumbai, including one at Dadar.

## Success Story -2

Bhaskar Save, popularly known as the “Gandhi of Natural Farming”, was a pioneering organic farmer from Valsad district, Gujarat, India. His life and work clearly demonstrated that farming in harmony with nature is more productive, economical, and sustainable than chemical-based agriculture. He developed a diversified, multi-layer cropping system, similar to a natural forest. This system ensured continuous income, better nutrient recycling, and protection of soil from erosion.

**Recognition:** In recognition of his outstanding contribution to sustainable and organic farming, Bhaskar Save was awarded the Padma Shri in 2010. His work continues to inspire organic farming movements across the country.



## Steps to a Successful Organic Transition

Transition from conventional to organic farming requires numerous changes. One of the biggest changes is in the mindset of the farmer.

1. Understand The Basics Of Organic Agriculture
2. Identify Resources That Will Help You
3. Internet is a valuable source of information, especially to new organic farmers. A broad range of reading materials are available from many organic organizations such as Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC), the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Services, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE).
4. Understand Your Soils And Way To Improve Them
5. Identify Pest Challenges And Methods Of Control

## Government Schemes for Organic Farming (India)

The **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** encourages Indian farmers to adopt organic farming by providing financial assistance for organic inputs and certification.

The **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** supports innovative agricultural projects, including organic farming initiatives in different states.

The **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** provides standards and certification for organic products in India, helping farmers access domestic and international markets.

## Conclusion

Organic farming is a sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practice that improves soil health, conserves the environment, and ensures safe and nutritious food. It reduces the use of harmful chemicals, lowers production costs, and provides better income through premium markets. Thus, organic farming supports sustainable agriculture, farmer welfare, and environmental protection, making it an important approach for the future of agriculture.

## Reference

IndiaFarm. (2024). Organic farming: Benefits, techniques, certification, and role in sustainable agriculture. Retrieved from <https://www.indiafarm.org/farming-systems-practices/organic-farming/organic-farming/>