

# **Beyond certified organic farming**

*- an emerging paradigm for rainfed agriculture*

# Type of farming paradigms

- **Chemical farming**
- **Certified organic farming**
- **Beyond certified organic farming** ★

★ *Refer the following slide for alternative names of this approach*

# **Alternative names of “Beyond organic farming approach”**

- **Natural farming**
- **Ecological farming**
- **Zero budget farming**
- **Uncertified organic farming**
- **Truthfully labeled organic farming**
- **Regenerative agriculture**
- **Sustainable agriculture**

# **Key features of chemical farming**

- **High dependence on external inputs (GM crops / varieties; chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc)**
- **High dependence on external credit**
- **High dependence on external extension**

# Key features of certified organic farming

<b>Sl. no</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Type of farmer	Resource Rich
2.	Type of market	Export
3.	Type of process	Intensive
4.	External support	Price support, Market intelligence, Certification of produce
5.	Scope of coverage	Limited
6.	Social relevance	Limited

# Key features of Beyond certified organic farming

<b>Sl. no</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Type of farmer	Resource Poor and Resource Rich
2.	Type of market	Local market
3.	Type of process	Simple
4.	External support	Exposure visits, Limited handholding
5.	Scope of coverage	High
6.	Social relevance	High (less suicides, less sicknesses)

# **Main objectives of Beyond certified organic farming**

- **Reduction in production cost without reduction in productivity**
- **Significant increase in net income**
- **Enhancement in self reliance**

## **Major focus under Beyond certified organic farming**

- **It focuses on organic processes in areas having intensive use of agro-chemicals (e.g. cotton)**
- **The processes that lead to natural regeneration of predators and parasites in the environment as well as enhanced microbial activities in the soil**
- **The processes that are managed by sustainable CBOs themselves**

# **Major steps in adoption of Beyond certified organic farming**

## **STEP – 1: Building natural predators and parasites**

- **Adoption of non pesticidal methods (NPM)  
with limited farmers during first year**
- **Pesticide free village in about 3-4 years**

# Social relevance of NPM approach

Sl.	Parameters	Pesticide approach period (1990 - 2000)	NPM approach Period (2000 – Contd.)
1.	Suicide	5	0
2.	Severe hospit- alization	About one per family	0

*(Punukola village in Khammam district)*

## **STEP – 2: Selling of pesticide free produce in local market**

- **Same price during first year (besides using it for local consumption / sale)**
- **Some more price during subsequent years (after need-based value addition)**

## **STEP – 3: Establishment of community managed seed bank**

- **With improved varieties (to begin with)**
- **With hybrids evolved under public sector  
(during subsequent years)**

## **STEP – 4: Enhancing microbial activity in soil**

- **Partial replacement of fertilizers with organic manures during initial 1-2 years (even if these are purchased from others / outside)**
- **Complete replacement of fertilizers with organic manures during subsequent years (through increase in biomass and livestock population, as well as *in-situ* preparation of manures, etc)**

# Relevance of microbial approach

- **The above approach is indigenous but gradually disappearing due to constraints in labour availability and lack of respect in our own eyes**
- **It can now be revived through labour incentive under NREG scheme and sharing of successful experiences**

# Requirement of critical support and incentives under the new paradigm

Sl. no	Items	Particulars
1.	Institutional framework	SHGs and their federations
2.	Field staff	Para-workers
3.	Technical support	Experienced NGOs / successful farmers
4.	<u>Financial support for</u> - Field staff - Recurring inputs - Equipments	Full grant till sufficient corpus is built  Revolving fund (to build corpus)  Contributory approach
5.	Motivation	Focused exposure visit to successful experiences

# **Follow up actions / policy considerations**

- **Documentation and analysis of successful experiences irrespective of source of innovation**
- **Formulation of new schemes for organization of CIGs, SHGs, federations, producer company, etc at appropriate levels (through a bottom-up approach)**
- **Provision of labour incentive under NREGA for shifting towards beyond certified organic farming approach**
- **Financial assistance as revolving fund for recurring inputs, contributory fund for equipments and full grant for hiring of para-workers**