

## **Towards Pilot Organic Project**

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**Abstract :** Organic farming has boosted in recent years due to cultural and life style awareness among the city dwellers. A pilot study has been arranged in a remote village in Sylhet to observe the greater outcome and possible organic commercialization of local staple. The research is still on-going and so far the organic production has been in process for two seasons of paddy cultivation. The paper highlights the true mindset of a farmer in organic production and the core methodologies involved in converting from chemical farming. The paper would help in building a firm model on methods to convert hazardous farming towards organic farming  
**Keywords:** Awareness, Customer Oriented, Farm Management, Organic.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

After a decade of twenty-first century, Bangladesh still struggles though the density of unskilled and semi-skilled people. Population boost has caused the country to centralized commercialization and over burden on capital city. Millennium development, digital Bangladesh, Climate change campaign is seeing their light through the cries and hauls of poor farmers who are trampled under middle-men and uneven pricing policy for agriculture produce. Growing demand of food has triggered the use of unconventional humane method and through the use of chemicals and hormones increased crop production has lessen the quality, price and as a result, demand of such produce.

The Ministry of Agriculture is concerned of the overuse of chemical in crop production and over the time the impact it will have on the generation. (2013). It is beyond any debate now that the intervention of organic farming is the best solution in keeping the sustainability of land usage and the crop cultivation system to be kept at its best. Some renowned private firms have come forward foreseeing the gold mine hidden in organic produce and also the premium pricing that gets attached with the process.

### **II. Background**

Mr. Mustafizur Rahman owns 60 Bighas of land through his father. 80% of his land is productive in cultivation of rice (Aman, IRRI, Binni, Chinigura). He has agreed to infuse bio friendly methods and organic fertilizers in his 1bigha of rice cultivation for research purpose and experiment with the local farmers' association. He also produces seasonal vegetables for personal consumption.

#### **Pilot Project**

One bigha of Aman rice was cultivated using only bio-friendly non-chemical methods. The farmers used irrigation from local pond and organically grown saplings were sown. The farmer only measures his yield from the rented cultivators to who he lets 50% of his land for cultivation. He let the pilot one bigha to his personal cultivator who agreed to start farming on the land just like he would farm any other plot. Only difference being, he won't be using any pesticides and chemical materials in his cultivation.

The following process was followed:

- Seed treatment was done by local experienced farmer
- Seed-bed was prepared for sowing 1 kg of sprouts in ratio of 2:3 paddy fields distributed on one acre of land.
- Sowing of seed was done after ensuring that the granular is well decomposed in cow dung manure with half inch layer and covered with straw and plastic thin cover.
- Weeding was done twice daily till seedlings were 15inch tall.
- Irrigation channel were ensured to keep the water requirement by 40%
- No growth regulator was used. However, diluted Zinc was added in times of sowing
- 20 mon grains of rice was cultivated from 1 bigha land. Almost same as other land owners who are cultivating using chemical fertilizer. The pilot project yielded same output with minimum cost.

### **III. Methodology**

The research is purely based on observation and qualitative judgment. A total of 50 farmers of Teliah Upozilla under Jaintapur Thana in Sylhet, Bangladesh; were asked the same set of likert scale questions and the

data collector put the tick marks as he seemed appropriate. Further face to face interview session helped the researcher to develop an observational framework of the project.

**Questionnaire**

Questions	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Somewhat Disagree</u>	<u>Neither Agree or Disagree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
1. My village people are very favorable towards organic farming.					
2. I have experiences with organic farming.					
3. I currently cultivate some or most of my crops in organic ways.					
4. I seek out help and advises for better organic cultivation					
5. I consider myself a good reference to organic farming for other normal/ chemical farmers					
6. I educate myself about organic production [T, Mobile call, Government Leaflets and trainings]					
7. I am content with the output of crops yielded organically.					
8. I am not upset of the damages of crop that caused by not using chemical pesticides.					
9. I will increase organic cultivation among my land area over time.					
10. I would teach my children to practice organic farming too.					

The above questionnaire were completed and analyzed through MS Excel into tabulation and were used in further studies.

**Findings**

- Organic products are far more hygienic then usual products.
- Vegetables and Fruits are healthy and safe.
- Now in Bangladesh people are getting health conscious.
- Organic products are demandable in Bangladesh.
- As an Agricultural base country this organic business will be easier.
- Machines are available.
- Government is very helpful in this sector.
- But, some people still are not health conscious and they don't know about the usefulness of organic products.
- Some people are not showing interest in buying organic products with added price.

**Recommendation**

- It has been observed that though the farmers are using organic matter in their cultivation, by wind and water flow the chemical compounds used in other fields or farmers generally gets mixed in turn. Hence, promoting of organic cultivation in community and in group would prove to be more sustainable.
- The Government should be more vigilant in promoting the organic cultivation by subsidized fertilizers and free training on irrigation system.
- Organic cultivation does not result in the same output as the chemically cultivated cop. Hence, promotion activities, campaigning etc should be practiced and preached to restructure the price of the organic produce.
- Like China, India; Bangladesh should also form Organic Agriculture forum- not just a few commercial product lines.
- Organically produced crops should be directly put to export and marketing.
- Government funded research body should be formed to find better and alternate organic method of fertilization.

**Suggestion**

- Conduct a national survey to obtain a complete listing of the kinds and amounts of organic wastes available now and in the future.
- Assess the effects of various processing methods on the value of wastes for soil improvement.
- Conduct research to determine how organic wastes differ in their ability to improve soil filth and fertility.

- Determine the effect on soil erosion and productivity of a major diversion of crop residues to energy recovery systems.
- Conduct a thorough study of the economic, social, and environmental results of organic farming systems vs. conventional agriculture.
- Collect more information on the extent to which the utilization of organic wastes could be improved through relaxation of regulatory restraints or establishment of incentives.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Theoretically, conversion to organic farming sounds alluring, environment friendly and justified. However, in practice, it is of mammoth task to convert the age old practice of chemical use and dependence of fertilizers and hormones. Also climatic condition has seen more extreme conditions. Excessive, rainfall, lack of irrigation, draught, cold wave are to name a few. Political turmoil and bureaucracy has found its way in agricultural forums and associations. People's perspective on pure organic is still superficial. The cost behind pure production is yet too huge for commercial cultivation unless Government delegates proper pricing for such genre of product. Proper education and training is needed at root level for ensuring awareness among the young farmers. Organic farming is an informative process and constitutes a many process. Television demonstration, village and zilla wise campaigning can be of great help to spread the practice of organic farming.

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