

CM Naveen Patnaik says Odisha in an advantageous position to resort to Organic Farming Practices

Tuesday, November 06, 2012

Report by OD bureau, Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Odisha in an advantageous position to resort to Organic Farming Practices. CM Patnaik said this while addressing Biennial Convention of Organic Farmers organized by the Organic Farming Association of India in Bhubaneswar.

Patnaik said that the consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are significantly low in Odisha compared to the national average. The farmers in Odisha have traditionally been the custodian of rice genetic diversity. Traditional farming is still in practice in the inland non-irrigated pockets of the state. This has placed Odisha in an advantageous position to resort to Organic Farming Practices as the lands are virgin and less-contaminated. The state too has a large area under forests from where the wild harvests can be collected as organic products. A range of organic products like cotton, turmeric, ginger, pulses, niger and scented varieties of rice are being regularly exported. The Kandhamal Turmeric is already a brand name all over the world. A recent study by ASSOCHAM suggests that Odisha has an export potential of Rs.600 crore from organic farming produce in next five years. The study reports further reveals that organic farming can create 80 lakh additional jobs both in-farm and non-farm sectors.

CM further added that the state has formulated a progressive agriculture policy in 2008 under which special focus have been given to organic farming. The policy supports sustainable incentives for farmers harvesting organic certified crops. Organic seed banks will be opened. Organic Farming Association will be promoted. A separate agency will be set up for certification of organic products. The Odisha State Seeds and Organic Product Certification Agency has recently been accredited as the Certifying Body for the organic product and it is one of the state owned agencies to have such an accreditation. Our policy also has a resolution to include organic farming in the syllabus at school level. It will also be introduced as a compulsory subject at both degree and post-graduate level in the state Agriculture University.

(Source: <http://orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=37587>)

Speech of CM at OUAT Swaminathan Hall on 06.11.2012

I am delighted to be here today to attend the Biennial Convention of Organic Farmers organized by the Organic Farming Association of India. I welcome all the organic farmers from different states to Odisha.

Organic farming denotes a holistic system of farming which optimizes productivity. The present farming techniques, with priority on application of fertilizers and pesticides for food production, have led to a significant loss of biodiversity, environmental pollution and also other associated problems. Synthetic fertilizers and pesticides have a very negative impact on food quality and safety because of their residue in food stuff. Therefore to regain the lost glory of traditional agriculture, the Government at both the national and regional levels has taken initiatives to encourage organic agriculture movement.

There is a growing demand for organic foods because of the quality and safety of these foods. In developed countries, consumers are willing to pay more for organic foods. A spectacular growth in the demand for organic products has opened up export possibilities for India. India has tremendous potential for practicing organic agriculture due to unique diverse agro climatic regions across the country. Organic farming can be a preferable model for the development of Indian agriculture as it offers multiple benefits like economy, natural resource conservation and other social benefits.

The consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are significantly low in Odisha compared to the national average. The farmers in Odisha have traditionally been the custodian of rice genetic diversity. Traditional farming is still in practice in the inland non-irrigated pockets of the state. This has placed Odisha in an advantageous position to resort to Organic Farming Practices as the lands are virgin and less-contaminated. The state too has a large area under forests from where the wild harvests can be collected as organic products. A range of organic products like cotton, turmeric, ginger, pulses, niger and scented varieties of rice are being regularly exported. The Kandhamal Turmeric is already a brand name all over the world. A recent study by ASSOCHAM suggests that Odisha has an export potential of Rs.600 crore from organic farming produce in next five years. The study reports further reveals that organic farming can create 80 lakh additional jobs both in-farm and non-farm sectors.

The state has formulated a progressive agriculture policy in 2008 under which special focus have been given to organic farming. The policy supports sustainable incentives for farmers harvesting organic certified crops. Organic seed banks will be opened. Organic Farming Association will be promoted. A separate agency will be set up for certification of organic products. The Odisha State Seeds and Organic Product Certification Agency has recently been accredited as the Certifying Body for the organic product and it is one of the state owned agencies to have such an accreditation. Our policy also has a resolution to include organic farming in the syllabus at school level. It will also be introduced as a compulsory subject at both degree and post-graduate level in the state Agriculture University.

In conformation with our policy the State Government has taken some initiatives like Farmers Training Camp, establishment of Vermi Hatcheries, provision of green manure seeds and many other steps. Similarly farmers are being encouraged to use more bio-fertilizers. Subsidy to the tune of 50 to 75 percent is being provided for use of bio-fertilizers. The concerted efforts of the state Government and keenness by organic farmer will certainly lead to a very healthy growth of organic farming in our state.

I wish the Convention all success.

The Chief Minister felicitated successful Organic Farmers at the Convention. President of the Association Shri Sarvadaman Patel delivered the welcome address and Dr. Claude Alvares made a presentation of slide show on organic farming in India.

Odisha to set up agency for certification of organic products

Press Trust of India / Bhubaneswar November 06, 2012, 17:35

With organic farming having great potential in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today said the state government is planning to set up a separate agency for certification of organic products.

The state has formulated a progressive agriculture policy in 2008 under which special focus has been given to organic farming, Patnaik said, while addressing the biennial Convention of Organic Farmers organised by the Organic Farming Association of India.

"The policy supports sustainable incentives for farmers harvesting organic certified crops. Organic seed banks will be opened. Organic Farming Association will be promoted," he said. Stating that Odisha was in an advantageous position with virgin lands and less contamination because of organic farming practices, he said a range of organic products like cotton, turmeric, ginger, pulses, niger and scented varieties of rice were being regularly exported.

The Kandhamal Turmeric was already a brand name all over the world, he said. Quoting a recent study by ASSOCHAM, Patnaik said Odisha has an export potential of Rs 600 crore from organic farming produce in the next five years.

The study reveals that organic farming could create 80 lakh additional jobs both in-farm and non-farm sectors, he said.

Stating that organic farming will also be introduced as a compulsory subject at both degree and post-graduate level in the state Agriculture University, Patnaik said consumption of chemical fertilisers and pesticides were significantly low in Odisha compared to the national average.

"Our agriculture policy also has a resolution to include organic farming in the syllabus at school level," he said. (Source: <http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/odisha-to-setagency-for-certificationorganic-products/76715/>)

Convention wants comprehensive organic farming policy in state

Wednesday, 07 November 2012 23:49

The Organic Farming Association of India's (OFAI) fourth biennial convention 2012 concluded here, on Wednesday. It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, on Tuesday who had stated that Odisha is in an advantageous position to resort to organic farming practices.

OFAI secretary Dr Claude Alvares while addressing a Press conference at the OUAT said that the convention recommended scaling up from the current 80,000 hectares of land to at least 5 lakh hectares for organic farming in the coming two years. The convention also recommended that Odisha come out with a comprehensive organic farming policy that would help the State maintain its all-India lead in organic production. This should be done in three months. Odisha should move urgently from "default" organic to "conscious" organic within three years, which is possible, said another recommendation.

Others including OFAI president Saradman Patel and Living Farms member Devi Sarangi were present at the news conference. The convention was attended by members of the OFAI, Living Farms and organic farmers from several States. The OFAI is the only organisation of practising organic farmers in the country. More than 600 organic farmers attended the convention, which is used as an occasion to spread consciousness and awareness of organic farming. Chief Minister Patnaik used the occasion to refer to a slew of measures proposed to encourage organic farming in the State. He announced setting up of organic seed banks and a separate certification agency for organic produce, besides support for farmers harvesting certified organic produce.

This has been a longstanding demand of the organic farming community. Patnaik said organic farming is being included in the syllabus at the school level and would also be made a compulsory subject at both the degree and postgraduate degree levels in the State agricultural university.

This has also been an association demand. In addition, Patnaik referred to the setting up of vermi-hatcheries, provision of green manure seeds and bio-fertilisers. The Chief Minister felicitated four persons and organisations for their pioneering works for conservation of traditional seeds. They were George Antony of Kerala, Prakash Raghuvansi of UP, Debal Deb of West Bengal and SusamaSahu on behalf of SVA, Odisha. He also released a new information-packed book on GMOs and why they need to be kept out of India. Well-known scientist Debal Deb, who has protected and propagated more than 800 traditional varieties of rice, made a special presentation at the convention on his work with rice varieties.

He has his two acres of farm of rice conservation in Bissamcuttack block of Rayagada district. Regional Manager Oxfam India Shaik Anwar said, "Similar organic small-holder networks need to meet more often to discuss various issues related to scaling up of organic farming in Odisha. He also recommended Odisha Agriculture Department to allocate at least Rs 200 crore towards input subsidy, marketing of organic products, aggregating small holders into their cooperatives including capacity building – Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), a Central assistance special budget for agriculture. The convention encouraged demonstrations of effective organic farming techniques on both days. All organic farming NGOs in Odisha supported this convention. The NGOs sent several Adivasi organic farmers belonging to their organisations to participate in it. The convention is expected to provide a fillip to the organic movement in the State, especially as a tool for better incomes for small and marginal farmers.

The convention recommended scaling up from the current 80,000 hectares to at least 5 lakh hectares for organic farming in the coming two years. It also recommended that Odisha come out with a comprehensive organic farming policy that would help the State maintain its all-India lead in organic production. This should be done in three months. Odisha should

move urgently from "default" organic to "conscious" organic within three years, which is possible. The State should provide as much or equivalent support for organic farmers as it is presently giving to chemical farmers, said another. (Source: <http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhubaneswar/107438-convention-wants-comprehensive-organic-farming-policy-in-state-.html>)

Government support sought for organic farmers

By Express News Service - BHUBANESWAR
08th November 2012 12:18 PM

For years, he kept incurring losses as the yield did not match his expenditure on the crop. Being a traditional farmer growing indigenous varieties of rice, he never used any chemical for his crops. But, Loknath Nauri of Bissamcuttack in Rayagada district, jumped to inorganic farming when told that this would assure higher returns.

"The hybrid paddy seeds that the local shopkeeper peddled grew well, but I had to buy seeds every year. Besides, I was tired of spraying pesticides in my field," he recalls. Harassed, he went back to his traditional farming system a few years back. Instead of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, he uses vermicompost and cow dung manure in his field and to battle pests, he uses powder of dried neem leaves.

"Though the yield in organic farming is less than that of inorganic, the input costs are very less. If I spent ` 5,000 on fertilisers and pesticides for growing paddy, I spend as little as ` 800 now. And the paddy I grow is safe," he says.

Parvati Pushika's story is similar. Also belonging to Rayagada, Parvati today grows as many as 42 varieties of crops, including grains, pulses, legumes and oilseeds using the organic method. Having re-adopted conventional varieties, farmers like Nauri and Parvati are convinced that organic farming is a sustainable way of life.

The two were here to participate at a convention organised by the Organic Farming Association of India on Thursday. Urging the State Government to promote organic farming, speakers at the convention said farmers like Parvati and Nauri and many more in pockets like Rayagada, Kalahandi and Kandhamal have been doing organic farming for ages, but the Green Revolution is threatening their crop diversity. "Green Revolution is unnecessary as farmers need no external inputs for farming, including chemicals and pesticides," said one of India's leading ecologists, Debal Deb.

On the occasion, president of the Organic Farming Association, S Patel, said Odisha being one of the largest organic farming States in the country, the State Government should come out with a comprehensive policy in this regard within three months.

The Association also sought subsidy for organic farmers as is being provided to the inorganic farmers and allocation of 50 per cent budget by OUAT for research in organic farming.

(Source: <http://newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/article1332431.ece>)

State has huge potential in organic farming: Naveen

Bhubaneswar: 06/11/2012

Stating that Odisha has huge potential in organic farming, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today said that the State Government is planning to set up a separate agency for certification of organic products.

The State has formulated a progressive agriculture policy in 2008 under which special focus has been given to organic farming, Patnaik said, while addressing the biennial Convention of Organic Farmers organised by the Organic Farming Association of India at OUAT Swaminathan Hall here.

"The policy supports sustainable incentives for farmers harvesting organic certified crops. Organic seed banks will be opened. Organic Farming Association will be promoted," he said.

This apart, the State Government has decided to set up a separate agency for certification of organic products. The Odisha State Seeds and Organic Product Certification Agency has recently been accredited as the Certifying Body for the organic product and it is one of the state owned agencies to have such an accreditation, the Chief Minister informed.

Stating that Odisha was in an advantageous position with virgin lands and less contamination because of organic farming practices, he said a range of organic products like cotton, turmeric, ginger, pulses, niger and scented varieties of rice were being regularly exported. The Kandhamal Turmeric was already a brand name all over the world, he said.

Quoting a recent study by ASSOCHAM, Patnaik said Odisha has an export potential of `600 crore from organic farming produce in the next five years. The study also reveals that organic farming could create 80 lakh additional jobs both in-farm and non-farm sectors, he said.

In conformation with its policy, the State Government has taken some initiatives like farmers' training camp, establishment of vermi hatcheries, and provision of green manure seeds. Similarly, farmers are being encouraged to use more bio-fertilizers. Subsidy to the tune of 50 to 75 percent is being provided for use of bio-fertilizers.

"The concerted efforts of the State Government and the organic farmers will certainly pave way for a healthy growth of organic farming in our State", Patnaik said.

Stating that organic farming will also be introduced as a compulsory subject at both degree and post-graduate level in the state Agriculture University, he said that consumption of chemical fertilisers and pesticides were significantly low in Odisha compared to the national average.

"Our agriculture policy also has a resolution to include organic farming in the syllabus at school level," he said. On the occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated successful organic farmers.

While president of the Association Sarvadaman Patel delivered the welcome address, renowned environmentalist Dr Claude Alvares made a presentation on organic farming in India.

(Source: http://www.odishanow.in/story.aspx?s_id=6458)

State laying emphasis on organic farming: Naveen

Staff Reporter, Bhuvaneshwar
7th Nov 2012

Separate agency to be set up for certification of organic farming

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here on Tuesday said organic seed banks would be opened across the State as part of laying emphasis on promoting organic farming.

Addressing the biennial convention of organic farmers, Mr. Patnaik said organic farming associations would be promoted while a separate agency would be set up for certification of organic products.

"The consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are significantly low in Odisha compared to the national average. The farmers in Odisha have traditionally been the custodian of rice genetic diversity.

Traditional farming is still in practice in the inland non-irrigated pockets of the State. This has placed Odisha in an advantageous position to resort to Organic Farming Practices as the lands are virgin and less-contaminated," he said.

Chief Minister said the State too has a large area under forests from where the wild harvests could be collected as organic products.

"A range of organic products like cotton, turmeric, ginger, pulses, niger and scented varieties of rice are being regularly exported. The Kandhamal Turmeric is already a brand name all over the world," Mr. Patnaik observed.

Referring to a recent study conducted by industry-body Assocham, Chief Minister said the State has an export potential of Rs.600 crore from organic farming produce in next five years. The study reports further reveals that organic farming can create 80 lakh additional jobs both in-farm and non-farm sectors.

The State has formulated a progressive agriculture policy in 2008 under which special focus have been given to organic farming.

"The Odisha State Seeds and Organic Product Certification Agency has recently been accredited as the Certifying Body for the organic product and it is one of the State owned agencies to have such an accreditation. Our policy also has a resolution to include organic farming in the syllabus at school-level. It will also be introduced as a compulsory subject at both degree and post-graduate level in the State agriculture university," Chief Minister pointed out. "Farmers are being encouraged to use more bio-fertilizers. Subsidy to the tune of 50 to 75 per cent is being provided for use of bio-fertilizers.

The concerted efforts of the State government and keenness by organic farmer would certainly lead to a very healthy growth of organic farming in our State," Mr. Patnaik hoped.

Government – NGO Partnerships stressed to safeguard interest of organic farmers

Statesman News Service

Bhubaneshwar 7th Nov: The Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI) has stressed the importance of NGO-government partnerships to safeguard the interest of the small farmers.

"We want the government to lay emphasis on NGO-government partnerships, which is being evolved as a new form public-private partnership (PPP). It is urgently needed for working intensively with technological needs of small organic farmers, particularly the tribals" said a senior member of OFAI.

The association, whose fourth biennial convention concluded here today, also suggested scaling up the area under organic farming to about five lakh hectares in the next two years. Presently, organic farming is being practiced on nearly 80,000 hectares of land.

Another recommendation of the association was that the state government should come out with a comprehensive organic farming policy that will help Odisha maintain its all India lead in organic production.

"Odisha should move urgently from "default" organic to conscious organic within three years. Moreover, the state should provide as much or equivalent support for organic farmers as it is presently giving to chemical farmers," the OFAI functionary said.

It was also proposed that the agriculture universities should allocate 50 percent of their budget and research funds for promoting organic farming, while setting aside 50 percent of extension for the same.

More than 600 organic farmers from different parts of the country had taken part in the two-day event. The convention organised a special "grand panel": of seasoned organic farmers who answered questions about problems associated with organic farming asked by the participants attending the convention.

There were also several technical and interactive sessions in the two-day event.
