



## Discuss the Status of Organic Farming in India. (250 words / 15 M) (GS-3 Agriculture)

### Approach:

1. define organic farming.
2. Mention with facts its status in India.
3. Mention how policy initiatives are not bringing greater coverage.
4. Mention coverage under various govt. schemes.
5. Conclusion.

**Organic farming** is an agricultural process that uses *pest control derived from organic manure and animal or plant waste*. This farming started in response to the environmental suffering caused by chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. It is a new system of agriculture that **repairs, maintains, and improves the ecological balance**.

**Status in India:** organic farming is in a **nascent stage** – **2.78 Mha** of farmland was under this cultivation as of March 2020. This equals to **just 2% of the 140.1 Mha net sown area** in the country. Only a few states have taken the lead in improving organic farming coverage – **Madhya Pradesh tops with 0.76 Mha** under cultivation, which is **over 27% of India's total organic cultivation area**. The **top 3 states – Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra** account for **about half the area** under organic cultivation. The **top 10 states** account for **nearly 80% of the total area** under organic cultivation.

**Sikkim is the only state to become fully organic**. Even the top 3 states – MP, Rajasthan, Maharashtra – have **only 4.9%, 2.0% and 1.6% of the net sown area** under organic farming respectively. Few states like **Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Goa & Sikkim have 10% or more of their net sown area** under organic cultivation. UTs like **Delhi, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh have also 10% of their net sown area** under this cultivation. **All other states have less than 10% of their net sown area** under organic farming.

**Policy initiatives not translating into greater coverage:** Low organic farming coverage exists despite at least **20 states having a policy / scheme** w.r.t. organic farming. Many states like **Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland**, etc. have expressed to become **fully natural-farming states**. Some states like **Karnataka & Kerala had organic policy since 2004 & 2010 respectively**, but **only 1.1% and 2.7% of their net sown area** are organically cultivated. However, **Rajasthan**, which recently formulated a policy, has covered a **significant area** within a short time.

Currently, **only 12 states** have their **own state organic certification agency accredited by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**. Some states have either developed or are still developing organic brands such as **MP Organic, Bastar Naturals, Jaivik Jharkhand**, etc.

**Organic coverage under Govt. Schemes:** India introduced **Organic Farming Policy in 2005**.



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Of the **2.78 Mha** covered organically, **1.94 Mha is under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**; **0.59 Mha under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana**; **0.07 Mha under Mission Organic Value Chain development for NE Regions** and **0.17 Mha under state schemes**. This shows **NPOP scheme covers 70% of the organic area**, of which **30% is under conversion**. During **2015 – 2019**, **96% of the total certified organic food** production was under **NPOP certification** and remaining **4% under Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS)**. **MP has about 90% of its organic area under NPOP**; while **MP, Rajasthan & Maharashtra collectively have over 80% of their organic area under NPOP**. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, and Uttarakhand have covered more by PKVY than NPOP.

Even though India has **very small organic area under cultivation**, but **in terms of organic farmers it stands first**, with **over 1.9 million farmers** which is **1.3% of 146 million agricultural landholders**. To boost organic production, **organic products consumption** should be promoted, a **definite action plan** to encourage growth of organic production with the **support of R&D**, can pave the way for a more sustainable organic cultivation in India.

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