



Nitish Kumar
Chief Minister, Bihar

International Conference on Organic Agriculture

22nd to 24th June, 2011



Organised by
Government of Bihar in collaboration with ICAR



Bihar State (India)

Invites

You

!

**An International Conference on
Organic Bihar 2011 in Patna, Bihar, India
For Road Map of Organic Farming in Bihar**

**Venue: Maurya Hotel (Ashoka Hall), Near Gandhi Maidan,
Fraser Road, Patna-800 001 (Bihar)**

Date: 22nd to 24th June, 2011

This prestigious event invites Farmers, Scientists, State Govt. Functionaries, Organic Farming & Management Professionals at premier tourist destination city - Patna, Bihar.

The theme Promoting Organic Agriculture: Launching of Bihar Brand of Organic Produce "JAI B" lends itself to fulfilling a global need and sets the scene for a varied, stimulating, multi-session scientific and professional programme.

Excessive use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides and ground water exploitation has serious repercussions on soil, water, environment and human health. Organic Agriculture has great promise for safer and sustainable development of agriculture and it has getting increased attention in recent years throughout the world.

Organic Farming

Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved. Unlike chemical farming, organic farming aims at "feeding the soil" rather than "feeding the plant". Since organic farming aims at maintaining soil health, the highest yields can be obtained in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner in the long run.

Department of Agriculture - Bihar, various State Governments, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, International Organisations and many NGO's has been involved in promoting organic agriculture.

Current Production Trends

Consumer demand for organic products is increasing across the globe. Global sales of organic food and drinks have increased from US \$ 23 billion in 2002 to US \$ 54.9 billion in 2009. The Indian government is committed towards encouraging organic food production. APEDA coordinates the export of organic food in India. The NPOP standards for production and accreditation system have been recognized by European Commission and Switzerland as equivalent to country standards. Similarly, USDA has recognized conformity assessment procedures of accreditation. With these recognitions, Indian organic products duly certified by the accredited certification bodies of India are accepted by the importing countries like US, European markets, etc.

India produced around 58,597 MT of certified organic products which includes all varieties of food products, viz. cereals, pulses, honey, tea, spices, coffee, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables and their value added products during the year 2006-07. In non-edible sector, India



produces organic cotton fiber, garments, cosmetics, functional food products, body care products, etc. and exported a total volume of 19,456 MT during the year 2008. As many as 98 agencies are involved in the export of organic products which are mainly exported to European Union, United States of America, Australia, Japan, Switzerland, and Middle East.

Efforts are being made at National level for second green revolution at eastern India. Bihar has to play a major role in this endeavour.



Status and Scope of Organic Farming in Bihar

Bound in the north by Nepal, the home of the Himalayas, Bihar emerges from a backdrop of an imposing panorama of eternal snow, covering some of the most fertile land in the country. The state is situated in between the 21°58'10" to 27°31'15" north latitude and 83°19'15" to 88°17'40" east longitude. The average elevation from mean sea level is 53 meters.

It is endowed with fertile soil and ideal subtropical conditions for cultivation of a number of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, tubers, medicinal and aromatic plants. The state with a geographical area of 9.36 Million Ha, is divided by the river Ganges into two parts. About 60 per cent of the total geographical area (5.72 Million Ha.) is under cultivation. The state has diversified production base for farmers are skilled in the production of cereals (mostly Rice, Wheat and Maize), pulses (mostly Lentil, Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea), oilseeds (mostly Rapeseed, Mustard) and range of fruits and vegetables.

Special physiographic conditions of Tal and Diara land span more than 1.14 M Ha. These areas remain inundated for 3 to 6 months and cropping is restricted to one season i.e winter. Tal is considered Pulse Bowl of the state and Diara area is famous for organic vegetable production. These areas are very fertile and farmers grow crop without using any chemical fertilizer.

There is an opportunity to tap the potential of high yield in food grains and vegetables. At the same time potential market for organic farming can be captured by Bihar products like fruits and traditional area of food grains (rice) under organic farming. Bihar is surplus in fruit crops viz mango, litchi, banana and guava have major share in cultivated area. These crops are largely grown with least fertilizer use. Such areas can be converted into organic production. Photo sensitive quality rice cultivars like Katarni in Bhagalpur, Basmati in Champaran and Sonachur in Rohtas are grown mostly without fertilizer. These products have potential to convert as organic produce.

Status and Scope of Organic Farming in Bihar

Fertilizer consumption is low in Bihar compared to states like Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, UP and Maharashtra. The increasing consciousness among the people toward hazards of synthetic chemicals has given rise to the scope of organic farm produces. However, ensuring availability of raw materials for organic pesticides and manures in the state coupled with large scale investment in organic farming can make it a highly remunerative venture.

The State is endowed with fertile soil and ideal subtropical conditions for cultivation of a number of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, tubers, medicinal and aromatic plants. A total of 2.86 mha in Bihar is under fruit orchards, of which mango and litchi occupy 1.42 and 0.29 m ha, respectively. Potato is a major vegetable crop of the state occupying 2.65 m ha. Bihar is known for the production of high quality mango and litchi besides a number of vegetable crops,



fulfilling the domestic and export need year 2002-03, state has exported 7,500 MT litchis in the domestic market whereas the foreign export was to the tune of 54 MT mainly to the European and Gulf Countries. Bihar also has monopolistic production of Makhana (Gorgon nut) in the world. Now it is high time to expand area under different fruits and vegetable crops to reap the benefits of organic farming in the state.

state of the country. During the

Giving boost to organic farming in Bihar, Sohdi village in Nalanda district found a place on the global map through the global positioning system (GPS) for sowing potato over an area of 160 acres by using organic fertilizers only. The state government has decided to promote organic farming in at least one village of the 38 districts, as it felt that there is adequate farmyard manure, vermicompost, and crop residue for use under organic farming.

Certification of organic crops produced in Nalanda has started through 'Ecocert'. Similarly, in Muzaffarpur, the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) is doing certification for "litchi". Selection of suitable agencies for the certification of organic crops in remaining districts is under process. Farmers are producing only organic vegetables and fruits including potato, cauliflower, tomato, cabbage, peas, ladyfinger, carrot, litchi, guava, mango, etc. For the first time in India, Bihar farmers would be receiving 50% subsidy for production of vermicompost, a bio-fertilizer so as to popularize organic farming in the state.

ATMA as well as NGOs too have been roped in for creating awareness among farmers about organic farming. They are involved in forming groups and clusters of farmers engaged in organic farming and marketing of their produce through an effective marketing agency. It is expected that some unique organically produced commodities like jute, litchi, cosmetic raw materials viz. herbal and aromatic plants and makhana from Bihar will soon be ready for export to different world markets. The scope for other promising crops from Bihar include, Zardalu, a improved Mango variety from Bhagalpur and Shahi/China litchi varieties from Muzaffarpur which can safely be chosen for organic farming. Similarly, Nalanda district has been considered for organic potato production.

To give a boost to the efforts of state government for organic farming and to bring all stakeholder, including exporters, certification agencies, experts from international and national organizations on one platform, an International Conference is being organised in the month of June 2011 at Patna. This would be jointly organized by Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar in association with ICAR-RCER, Patna and Institute of Horticulture Technology, New Delhi.

Vision of the State

There is large untapped potential for development of Agriculture. There is large yield gap across the crop and sector. An agriculture road map is implemented since 2008. Food and nutritional security alongwith the increase in farmers income is the corner stone of agriculture road map. Organic farming is one of the major intervention proposed in road map. Bihar is considered destination for second green revolution in the country. Plan Expenditure on agriculture has increased 40 times in last five years. State government has constituted a cabinet committee on agriculture. It is now on the fore front of the development agenda. With the natural resources of fertile soil, plenty of water and hard working farmers the state is poised for leap frog development of agriculture in the state.

Markets of agricultural commodities are gradually specializing towards organically grown specific crops. This specialization is being contributed by a wide range of factors like resource endowment of the region (natural as well as acquired), quality of labour force and preservation of cultural and biological diversity. Bihar is strong in high quality production of certain crops, vegetables, fruits and spices which are suitable for designing organic production system.

The state government has launched organic Bihar project. State government has allocated a sum of Rs. 2550 million for next five years. It tends to promote Vermi-Compost on a large scale. It has been made demand based and farmers are promoted to set up units for Vermi-Compost production. Commercial production of Vermi-compost is also encouraged. Bio gas with or without human excreta is promoted. Bio fertilizers are promoted. Green manuring particularly with sesbania has been taken up on a large scale. Dhaincha (*Sesbania sesban*) could yield 25-30 t/ha green biomass within 55 days and able to supply 90-120 kg of nitrogen, 12-15 kg of phosphorus and 8-10 kg of potash to the succeeding crop of rice during July. This attempt would help in maintaining the soil health besides

increasing the productivity of rice. The practices of integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management is promoted with additional support to farmers for bio and organic inputs. Organic certification has been taken up with help of certifying agencies. It is also planned to have a local certifying agency so that the benefits of certification could reach out to the small and marginal farmers.

One village in every district has been identified as organic village. It has yielded laudable success. The success can be replicated on a large scale. As stated earlier, Sohdi village in Nalanda district found a place on the global map for organic potato production Certification of organic crops produced in Nalanda has started through 'Ecocert'. Similarly, in Muzaffarpur, the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) is doing certification for "litchi". Selection of suitable agencies for the certification of organic crops in remaining districts is under process. Farmers are producing only organic vegetables and fruits including potato, cauliflower, tomato, cabbage, peas, ladyfinger, carrot, litchi, guava, mango, etc.

Now it is high time to expand area under different fruits and vegetable crops as well as traditional cereal crops to reap the benefits of organic farming in the state. It is expected that some unique organically produced commodities like jute, litchi, cosmetic raw materials viz. herbal and aromatic plants and makhana from Bihar will soon be ready for export to different world markets. The scope for other promising crops from Bihar include, Zardalu, an improved Mango variety and Katarni rice from Bhagalpur and Shahi/China litchi varieties from Muzaffarpur, which can be promoted for organic farming.

It is in this connection that the **International conference on Organic Agriculture, 2011** is proposed to be held at Patna (Bihar) from 22nd June to 24th June, 2011. Various experts from national and international organisations are expected to attend the conference besides progressive farmers and State Government Officials. An exhibition is also proposed for showcasing of technologies related to organic farming, organic produce, supply of inputs and certification processes etc.

It is hoped that the Conference would benefit the farmers, policy makers, scientists and extension workers for development of a road-map for organic farming in Bihar.

Overview of the Conference

22nd June, 2011

- Inauguration

Technical Session

- Food Security & Organic Farming
- Pest Management in organic farming
- Organic Horticulture
- Productivity, cost, return on organic farming

23rd June, 2011

Technical Session

Name of the commodities

Topics

Vegetables

- Organic production process
- Certification process
- Marketing
- Buyer-seller Meet

Fruits

(Mango, Litchi, Banana & Guava)

- Organic production process
- Certification process
- Marketing
- Buyer-seller Meet

Cereals

(Traditional cultivar of Paddy)

- Organic production process
- Certification process
- Marketing
- Buyer-seller Meet

24th June, 2011

- Field Visit (Nalanda)
- Valedictory



Sri Narendra Singh

Minister Agriculture, Government of Bihar

Patron

Chairman **Sri AK Sinha IAS**
Organising Committee *Agriculture Production Commissioner*
Government of Bihar, Patna

Vice-Chairman **Sri CK Anil IAS Secretary**
Organizing Committee *Agriculture Government of*
Bihar, Patna

Secretary **Dr BP Bhatt**
Organising Committee *Director ICAR-RCER*

Co-Secretary **Dr RK Sohane**
Organising Committee *Director BAMETI*

Organizing Committee

Sri Pankaj Kumar *Special Secretary Agriculture*

Sri Arvinder Singh *Director Agriculture*

Dr KM Singh *Head ICAR-RCER* Dr

DK Kaushal, *Head ICAR-RCER* Dr

SS Singh, *Head ICAR-RCER*

Academic Committee

Dr ML Choudhary *Vice-Chancellor Bihar Agricultural University*

Sri Anil Kumar Jha *Agriculture Specialist Department of Agriculture, Bihar*

Dr R Elalchezian *Senior Scientist ICAR-RCER, Patna*

Dr Bikas Das *Senior Scientist ICAR-RCER - Ranchi centre*

Dr Rajesh Kumar *Assistant Director BAMETI, Patna*

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