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Organic Farming for Environment Conservation

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India economy is basically an agricultural economy and its problems include degradation of land in terms of soil erosion, lowering water table, multiple cropping pattern. Excessive use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides and fertilizers is a serious issue. To protect the environment from this degradation, sustainable development through organic farming is very important for an agrarian economy like India. Educating farmers about changing practices leading to a better environment through organic farming is essential, not only to promote sustainable agriculture but also to help fight global warming and climate change.

Today, man has conquered the circularity of the earth. He has dived deep into the seas, crossed the oceans, flown into the air and breaking the shackles of gravity, is also all set to venture into space tourism. This march from primitive age to the modern age is described as the process of growth and development. But for this growth and development we have paid a huge cost, which is in the form of environmental degradation and resource depletion.

Since the dawn of civilizations, agriculture is one sector that impacts and in turn is impacted the most by environment. Hence, sustainability of the human race and this world depends a lot on the environmental friendliness of our agriculture. India is facing a food crisis due to the systematic destruction of farmlands and food production systems over the last five decades through uncontrolled use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides, mono-cropping and other intensive agricultural practices. Instead of looking at the real problem, the government is favouring false solutions like genetically engineered (GE) food crops.

India has a long history of agriculture. Over centuries, farmers in this country devised practices to keep our farms sustainable. Practices like mixed cropping, crop rotation, using organic manure and pest management kept our agriculture sustainable. But things changed for the worse with the onslaught of a

chemical intensive model of agriculture, imposed through the so-called Green Revolution in 1965.

Environmental Challenges in Indian Agriculture

The challenge for Indian agriculture, is to increase production, while minimizing environmental impact. This includes conserving and protecting the quality of the resources that determine the performance of agriculture like land, water and air. Reductions in yield, although determined by many factors, may be partially a consequence of land and water exploitation.

Land degradation is one major constraint for Indian agriculture. By the early 1980s, approximately 53 percent (173.6 million hectares) of India's geographical area had been considered degraded according to the Ministry of Agriculture. Water is another major constraint for Indian agriculture. Agriculture, through irrigation, accounted for 83 percent of the total water use in the country during 1990. During the Green Revolution period, water consumption in agriculture rose sharply. The introduction of modern technology-based agricultural systems, in addition to encouraging increased water usage, meant the application of inputs like chemical fertilizers, chemical pesticides and high-yielding varieties (HYVs). Although, the Indian government