

# Land Fertility, Earnings Opportunity and Cultivation Practices of Farmers in Organic Farming

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## ABSTRACT

*The study intended to measure the land fertility, earnings opportunity and cultivation practices in organic farming. Particularly, the study measured the factors involved in the viability of organic farming. The study had considered four antecedents of cultivation practices such as quality of input, market availability, equipment and external support and viability of organic farming is its outcome. Organic farming is getting popularity among the farmers in different part of regions. Therefore, the study paid an effort to measure the different aspects of organic farming in Erode district. In this way, the study had been commenced with 100 farmers involved in cultivation of horticulture crops such as banana, sapota, papaya, and pomegranate. The main objectives of the study were to measure demographic profile, land fertility, earnings opportunity and cultivation practices in organic farming. The study has used simple percentage analysis, KS test, factor analysis, and regression coefficient for analysis. It was concluded that there is a positive and significant relationship exist cultivation practices such as quality of input, market availability, equipment, and external support and viability of organic farming.*

**Key words used:** Organic Farming, Land Fertility, Earnings Opportunity, Cultivation Practices, Quality of Input, Market Availability.

## 1. Introduction

India is the largest producer of fruits in the world. Fruit cultivation plays an important role in providing livelihood to millions of small and marginal farmers. Organic farming is a method of crop cultivation that prohibits the use of synthetic compounds such as fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators, and feed additives. It can protect soil, ecosystems, and people's health by combining tradition, modernization, and science, as it integrates crop management and animal husbandry into agro-ecological methods that are socio-acceptable and environmentally sustainable. Therefore, this system reduces the use of external inputs and knowledge and aspires to develop the yield of crops by updating and strengthening ecological processes and the functions of agricultural ecosystems. Key domains included in organic agriculture: advanced set of procedures, market network, organic standards, and certification / regulatory guidelines.

Organic farming is a unique production management system that promotes and enhances the health of the agro-ecosystem, including biodiversity, biological cycles and the biological function of the soil, and all of this is achieved through the use of agricultural, biological and mechanical methods on the farm. India has great potential to produce all kinds of organic products due to suitable agricultural factors in different parts of the country; the legacy tradition of organic farming is an added bonus. There is a unique movement in Tamil Nadu among farmers, agronomists and scientists in support of organic farming. Voluntary charities, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, State Department of Agriculture and other government and private organizations have started promoting organic farming in major horticulture crops.