

Food Security and Organic Farming



From the Chairman's Desk

Organic farmers had used 'social networking' much before this trendy two words came into being. One of my village friends Bharat Mane tells me exactly the same.

He says that practicing organic farming, one gets unique opportunity to be in regular and frequent touch with other organic farmers for sharing the problems and solutions. Thus social network expands fast. Bharat is passionate about organic farming and strongly believes that yield of the crops grown organically is much more than yield of non-organic crops.

When I visited Australia, I saw the Australian farmers using mobile telephones to send photos of the insects in their organic apple garden to other farmers and getting a quick

response back on methods of preparing and using natural pesticide to solve the problem. One farmer even told me that we need not use pesticides at all. We just have to divert the insects somewhere else by providing them alternate food that humans do not consume. The reason? We never know the same insect may help us in pollination to enhance the productivity!

Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO) stated that food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life. It is therefore obvious that ensuring the availability of the food grains at affordable prices is only the first step to achieve the full food security. Ensuring adequate calories, nutrients, and safety are the necessary steps for the real 'food security'.

Excessive use of industrial fertilizers and pesticides has already degraded our land, water and air. Nitrogen cycle of the nature is grossly distorted. Present agricultural practices are contributing to global warming. But the most shocking consequences of use of chemicals in farming are the slow entry into our body of those chemical molecules, which hitherto are unknown to our blood, muscles and genes. **continued on page 2**

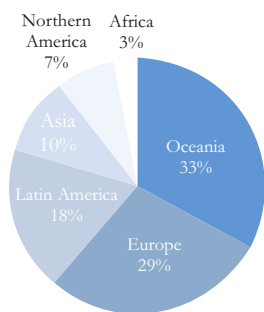
Statistics

- ◆ In 2011, the global market for certified organic food and drink was estimated to be 63 billion US Dollars according to Organic Monitor.
- ◆ The turnover with organic products has more than fourfold since 1999, when it was estimated to be 15 billion US Dollars. With the economic crisis the growth slowed down in 2009 in many countries. However, in 2011, the organic market grew at higher rates again.
- ◆ More than ninety percent of the organic product revenues is made in the Northern hemisphere.
- ◆ In 2011, the by far largest market was the United States with 21 billion euros of organic food sales, followed by Germany with 6.6 billion euros and France with 3.8 billion euros.
- ◆ The highest annual per capita consumption was in Switzerland (177 euros) and in Denmark (162 euros).
- ◆ Denmark, Switzerland and Austria have the highest share of organic food sales. In 2011 total food market value was not available for most of the countries, and the organic share was not possible to calculate for most of them.

Food Security and Organic...

Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2011

Source : FiBL-IFOAM Survey 2013



From page no. 1... That would result into unknown diseases. The research shows that it is already happening. Organic farming is growing strongest in North America and Europe.

In Germany, the demand for organic farming is so high that it has to import the organic vegetables and grains from other countries like Austria and Poland. Though the greatest dedicated area for organic farming is in Australia the largest

number of producers are in India. Bharat Mane is one of them. Last time he even gifted me a small block of organic jaggery (gud) that he had made in his farm. Both sugar and jaggery are used as sweeteners and give energy to our human body.

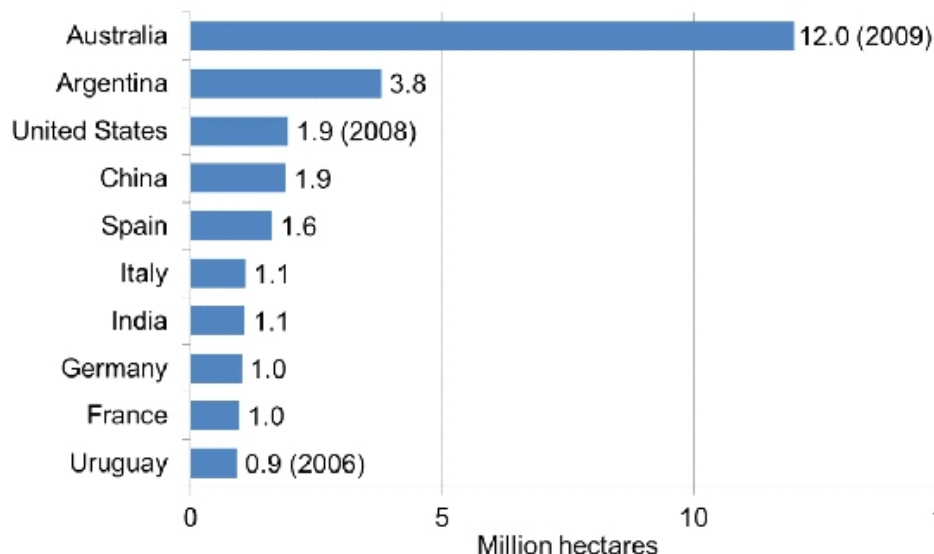
But jaggery gets converted to energy much slower than that produced by sugar. 'Our body needs heat which should be produced slowly. Because it does not have 'fire-fighting' security alarm,' said Bharat. He had given different meaning to 'Food Security'.



Rajendra Shende
Chairman, TERRE

The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural land 2011

Source: FiBL-IFOAM survey 2013



Numbers

1.8 million is the number of producers of organic food globally. Global market for Organic Food and drink is about **USD 65 Billion** (2010-2011) market but the share of world's organic agricultural of all agricultural land is only **0.9 percent**.

Quick Question

Total organic matter present in an ecosystem is called

- ☐ Biomass
- ☐ Biome
- ☐ Biotic community
- ☐ Litter



Last Issue's Answer



One millimeter of water per square millimeter

Quick Answer

Mr. H. V. Paranjape

If you know the answer, send in your entry to us at :

terrepolicycentre@gmail.com

Indian Farmers Harvest Benefits from Organic Investment

About seven years ago several farmers in India took the step of going organic. Back in 2006-7 about 4.32 lakh ha reported organic produce, a figure that according to the IFOAM and FIBL Publication "The World of Organic Agriculture, 2013, is now about 11 lakh ha. In fact "the growth rate has reached around 20% per year, much higher than early expectations," says Krishan Chandra, Director of the National Organic Farming Centre. What's

more India now outnumbers every other country in terms of organic producers with an estimated figure of 5,47,591. There is also good news from the domestic market where more and more local consumers are expressing a preference for organic produce.

See: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/A-burgeoning-organic-market-beckons-to-India-s-rural-farmers/Article1-1051468.aspx>

Do you know ?

- ◆ India is in the second place in the world in terms of increase in Organic Agriculture Land in 2010-2011. China is in First place.
- ◆ India has largest number of organic producers in the world.



Reaction

Thanks to TERRE team for sending quite informative and helpful news letter. Its interesting to read it.

Mr. S. V. Joshi
Hyderabad



TERRE PRACTICES.. WHAT IT PREACHES

If you ask what is paradise, the answer is ; its nothing but a garden full of vegetables and herbs

Those are grown without the chemicals

Those have a natural smell of fresh air

Those have full of taste & the product is nature's best!



TERRE Policy Centre grows organic foods see photo's of TERRE's vegetables and flowers.

<https://plus.google.com/118202142132789775509/photos/photo/5844158129412884674?gl=US&hl=en>

Sources of Practical information on organic farming

- ◆ How to grow organic:
<http://www.organicguide.com/>
- ◆ How to grow organic Kitchen garden :
<http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/kitchen-garden-zm0z11zalt.aspx#axzz2dbxIxESz>
- ◆ Growing Organic Terrace Garden :
<http://organickitchengardening.wordpress.com/>

TERRE Policy Centre

7, Hemdatta Apartments, 38 Mrutyunjay Colony Kothrud, Pune - 411029
Pandit Ajgaokar Scheme, Khandobacha Mal, Bhugaon, Pune - 411042

For feedback, suggestions and contributions contact us at
Terrepolicycentre@gmail.com
[Www.terrepolicycentre.org](http://www.terrepolicycentre.org)

Editor **NewsleTERRE:**
Vinitaa Apte
(President, TERRE)