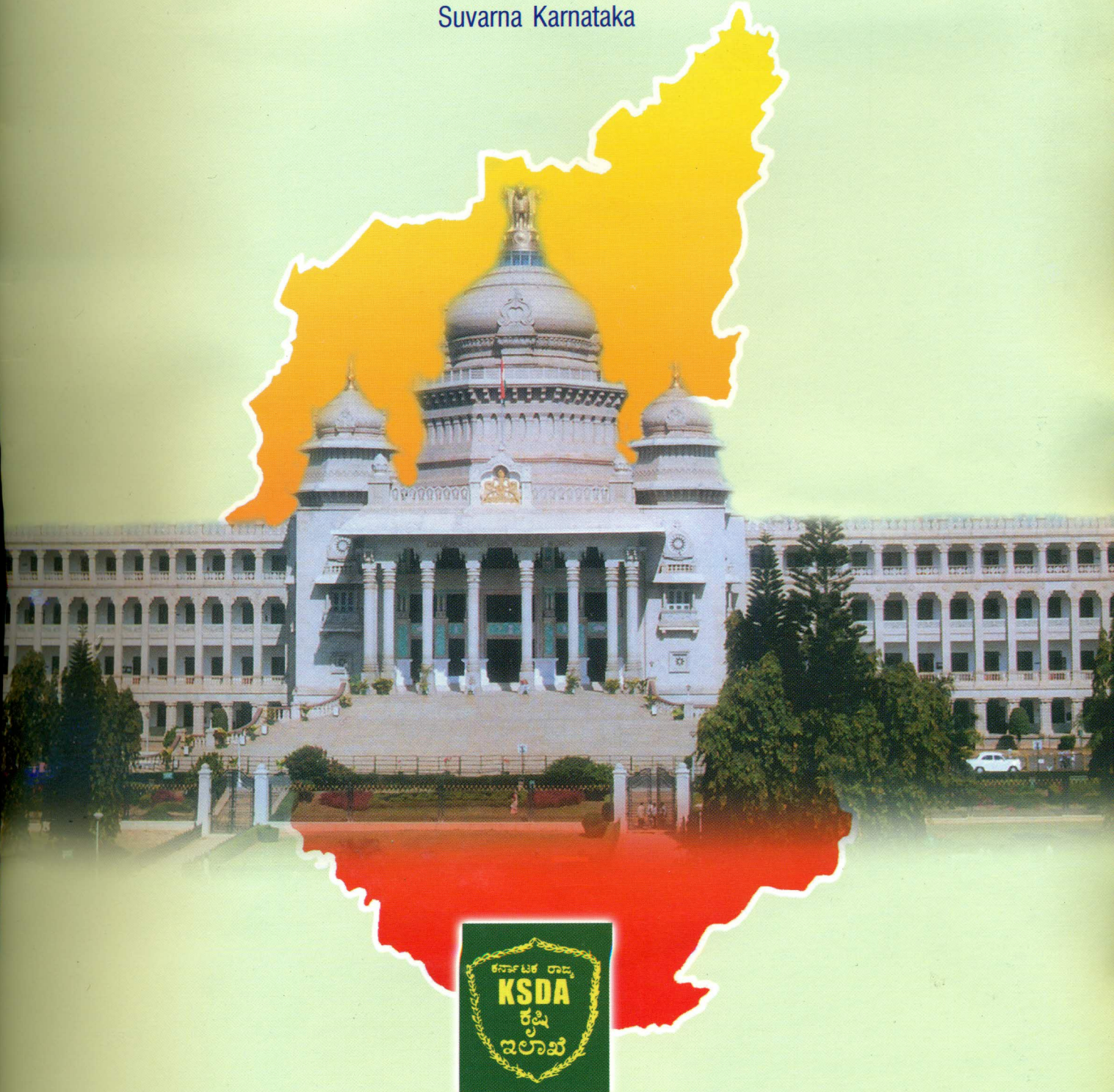


Suvarna Karnataka



Karnataka State Policy on Organic Farming

KARNATAKA STATE AT A GLANCE

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Districts | 27 |
| 2. Revenue Sub-divisions | 49 |
| 3. Taluks | 176 |
| 4. Hoblis | 745 |
| 5. Gramapanchayaths | 5692 |
| 6. Villages | 29406 |
| POPULATION (2001) | |
| | (Crores) |
| Total Population | 5.28 |
| Rural Population | 3.49 |
| Urban Population | 1.79 |
| Male Population | 2.69 |
| Female Population | 2.59 |
| Population density (person /sq.km) | 275 |
| Literacy rate (%) | 67 |
| Total workers | 2.35 |
| Cultivators | 0.688 |
| Agricultural labourers | 0.623 |
| LAND UTILIZATION(2002-03) | |
| | (000 ha.) |
| Geographical area | 19050 |
| Forest | 3078 |
| Land put to non-agricultural use | 1332 |
| Barren and uncultivable land | 788 |
| Cultivable waste land | 421 |
| Permanent pasture & other grazing land | 952 |
| Miscellaneous trees, crops, groves | 305 |
| Current fallow land | 1832 |
| Other fallow lands | 513 |
| Net area sown | 9838 |
| Net area sown more than once | 1694 |
| Gross area sown | 11552 |
| Net irrigated Area | 2450 |
| Cropping Intensity (%) | 117.22 |
| AGRICULTURAL HOLDING (2000-01) | |
| | ('000 Nos) |
| Marginal Farmers (<1ha) | 3252 |
| Area operated ('000ha) | 1492 |
| Small Farmers (1-2ha) | 1909 |
| Area operated ('000ha) | 2742 |
| Medium to Large farmers (2 to >10ha) | 1918 |
| Area operated ('000ha) | 8073 |

| OTHER INFORMATION | (in Numbers) |
|--|--------------|
| ● Industries | 9625 |
| ● Sugar factories | 33 |
| Credit Institutions | |
| ● Banks | 3710 |
| ● Co-operative Banks | 5979 |
| ● Agricultural Credit Co-operatives Societies | 5023 |
| ● PLD Banks | 177 |
| ● Regulated Markets | 487 |
| Education Institutions | |
| ● Primary Schools | 51263 |
| ● High Schools | 8731 |
| ● Colleges | 2689 |
| ● Universities | 16 |
| Health | |
| ● Hospitals | 335 |
| ● Primary Health Centers | 1696 |
| ● Primary Health Units | 581 |
| ● Veterinary Hospitals | 294 |
| ● Veterinary Dispensaries | 1451 |
| ● Primary Veterinary Health Centers | 1456 |
| ● Veterinary mobile dispensaries | 173 |
| ● Artificial Insemination Centers | 400 |
| INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES | |
| ☆ Length of national highways: 3728 km | |
| ☆ Length of State highways: 9829 km | |
| ☆ Total length of railway line: 3170 km | |
| ☆ Mangalore & Karwar are the two important Sea ports | |
| ☆ Has got adequate air cargo facilities | |
| ☆ Has got 141 Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) and 342 sub-markets spread over in the State | |
| ☆ Has got 101 Central warehouses, 19 State warehouses and 8 Private warehouses with total storage capacity of 10.72 lakh Cmts. | |
| ☆ Has got highly modern terminal market-SAFAL established for horticultural produce with a capacity of 1600 MT per day at Kadugodi, Bangalore. | |



Karnataka State Policy on Organic Farming

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ
ಸಾವಯವ ಕೃಷಿ ನೀತಿ



CONTENTS

| Topics | Page |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Farming for sustainability | 3 |
| 2. Principles and principal requirements of organic farming | 6 |
| 3. Objectives of the policy on Organic Farming | 9 |
| 4. Status of Organic Farming in the State | 10 |
| 5. Strategies for promotion of Organic Farming in the State | 11 |
| 6. Annexure I & II | 24 |



1. Farming for Sustainability

Organic farming is gaining momentum all over the world as it offers a means to address food self reliance, rural development and nature conservation. The common thread in this approach is the sustainable use of bio-diversity, in terms of both agriculture's contribution to biodiversity and biodiversity's contribution to agriculture. People's consciousness towards healthy food, ecology and pollution free environment through conventional farming has encouraged them in practicing organic farming. At present about 22.81 million hectares of land area is under organic farming in the world and expected market of organic food is to touch \$31 billion by 2005.

1.1 Organic agriculture used to be a way of life in India, a tradition which for centuries has shaped the thought, the outlook, the culture and economic life of its people. Prior to independence and for two decades thereafter a majority of Indian farmers were unaware of the use of fertilizers for plant nutrition and pesticides for control of pests and diseases. In fact, it was all holistic agriculture then and the majority of farmers were cultivating in this way. However, to feed the ever-growing population of the country, it was felt necessary to rapidly increase the

production of food grains. Thus, to achieve self sufficiency in food, dams and irrigation systems were put in place, use of external inputs like seeds of high yielding varieties of crops, chemical fertilizers and plant protection chemicals were developed and made available.

In the process of attaining higher levels of food production to keep pace with population growth during the past four decades, emphasis was laid on intensive agricultural practices. Though India has become self sufficient in food production over the years, it has resulted in serious environmental degradation and health hazards to mankind, animals and the biodiversity. This has also sometimes resulted in lower returns to the farmers due to a glut in the market. The technologies generated over the past four decades were not in tune with the natural resource base and environment in different parts of the world. Increasing crop yields meant intensification in the use of fertilizers and pesticides in crop production and increased use of concentrates and medical treatment for animal production.

1.2 The advances in agricultural research have propelled dramatic changes in farming practices over the last four decades resulting in a loss of natural habitat and species. The conventional agricultural practices have caused:

- 1) Soil erosion
- 2) Decrease in water availability
- 3) Increased salinisation
- 4) Pollution due to fertilizer and pesticides
- 5) Genetic erosion
- 6) Reduced socio-economic values
- 7) Ill effects on environment
- 8) Danger to food security, quality and safety of food, and
- 9) High input costs pushing the farmers into a debt trap.

1.3 Modern agriculture largely depends on the use of fossil fuel based energy intensive inputs such as chemical fertilizers, pesticides and labour saving but energy intensive farm machinery. While the application of such high input technologies has undoubtedly increased production and labour efficiency, there is a growing concern over low nutrition, poor taste and adverse effects on soil productivity and harm to the environment. This implies that farmer and the concerned Government agencies have a great social responsibility.

1.4 The gravity of environmental degradation has drawn the attention of scientists and planners towards finding out ecologically sound, viable and sustainable farming systems for different soils and agro-climatic situations, keeping in view the needs of the present and future generations. The organic farming systems proved to be highly sustainable. Adoption of such farming systems should not be treated as a reversion to less productive agricultural practices of the era prior to that of intensive agriculture. Organic farming is responsive to nature with the broad principle of "Live and let live" with an intensive partnership between Agro Forestry and Animal Husbandry ensuring the production on farm of the required inputs.

In view of resurgence of interest to find alternatives for intensive agriculture in recent years, organic farming has been considered to be a sound and viable option in most countries. Plant growth and crop production is a complex process that depends on many interactions between and among organisms. Organic agriculture recognizes that crop rotation and an intensive partnership with animal husbandry is important to maintain the ecosystem balance. Many natural processes occur in nature in such an eco-system, and farmers should take advantage of

these natural processes rather than try to convert them or destroy them with chemicals.

1.5 Organic farming aims at production of quality and safe agricultural products which contain no chemical residues, following eco-friendly production methods and farming systems that restore and maintain soil fertility. It is generally recognized that organic farming:

- ❖ does not pollute the soil and ground water with chemical residues
- ❖ increases the biological diversity among plants and animals
- ❖ reduces leaching of minerals from soil
- ❖ depends on and makes full use of natural, local and renewable resources
- ❖ uses low energy inputs, and
- ❖ depends largely on natural equilibrium for crop protection

Organic farming requires less financial and external inputs and places more reliance on natural and human resources on farm, which are abundant in our country.

1.6 Considering all the aforesaid aspects, the Government of India and many State Governments have felt it necessary to promote organic farming in a big way. In this direction Government of India launched the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) standards and accreditation during 2000 and the National Organic logo "India Organic" has been created. The Government of Karnataka has also initiated action to promote organic farming in the State and intends to formulate policies related to its promotion.



2. Principles and Principal requirements of Organic Farming

2.1 Principles of Organic Farming

Organic agriculture and processing are based on a number of principles. They are *inter alia*:

- ❖ Interact in a constructive and life enhancing way with natural systems and cycles
- ❖ Encourage and enhance biological cycles within the farming system involving micro organisms, soil flora and fauna, plants and animals
- ❖ Sustain soil fertility and productivity
- ❖ Promote judicious use and proper care of water, water resources and all life therein
- ❖ Conserve soil and water
- ❖ Use renewable on-farm resources in locally organised agricultural systems
- ❖ Work with materials and substances which can be re-used or re-cycled, either on the farm or from outside
- ❖ Integration of animal husbandry with the farm providing proper living conditions to livestock, which allow them to perform the basic aspects of their innate behavior
- ❖ Minimise all forms of pollution that may result from agricultural practices

- ❖ To maintain the genetic diversity of the agricultural system and its surroundings including protection of plant, livestock and wild life habitat
- ❖ To preserve and enhance the traditional and indigenous knowledge in farming besides seeds and crop varieties.

2.2 Principal Requirements

In order to achieve the principles of organic farming, certain techniques need to be adopted that safeguard natural ecological balances, thus making it possible to avoid such products and methods which are contrary to set principles.

- ❖ The basis for crop production in farming, gardening and forestry is the consideration for the structure and fertility of the soil and surrounding ecosystem as well as to provide diversity of species. This is achieved by:
 - a versatile crop rotation and cropping systems
 - recycling of organic materials
 - a wide range of methods for control of pests, diseases and weeds and to avoid the use of synthetic fertilizers, chemical pesticides and herbicides.
- ❖ Habitat development is the key factor in restoring the natural eco-system which in turn facilitates the symbiotic relationship or co-existence of fauna and flora apart from promoting natural predators, parasites etc.
- ❖ The basis for animal husbandry is the respect for the physiological and ecological needs of animals.

This is achieved by:

- providing sufficient quantities of good quality organic fodder
- providing “keeping systems” according to their behavioural needs
- proper veterinary care.

❖ Animals are an important part of organic system because:

- they act as agents for recycling of byproducts with value addition

- they contribute to complete the nutrient cycle and thus help maintain soil fertility
- growing forage crops improves the crop rotation, diversification and balance of the system
- they contribute draught energy for agricultural operations.

The basis for natural ecological balance is a marriage between crop production and animal husbandry. This is achieved by establishing as much self-sufficiency of manure and animal feed on the farm as possible.



State Policy on Organic Farming

The basis of processing organic products is that as far as possible the vital qualities of the products are maintained throughout each step of the process. This is achieved by:

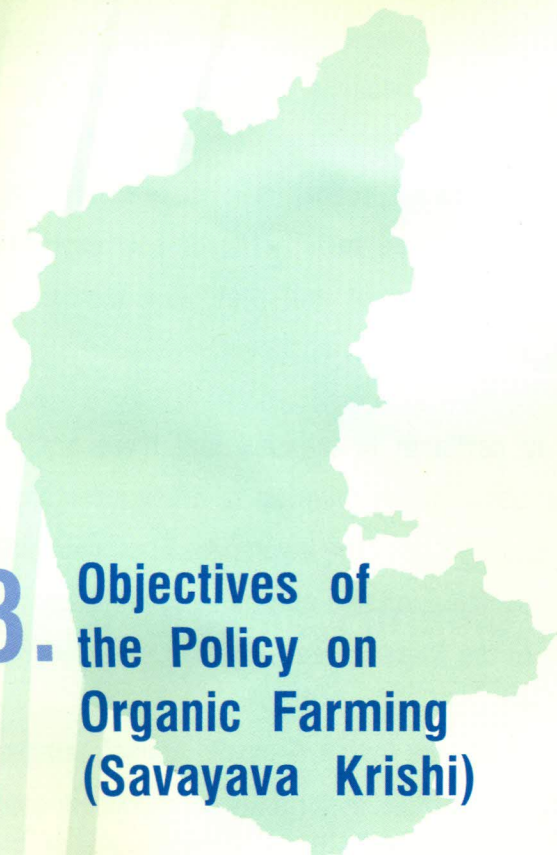
- ❖ choosing and developing methods which are adequate to the specifications of the ingredients and
- ❖ by developing standards which emphasize careful processing methods, limited refining, energy saving technologies, minimal use of additives and processing aids etc.

The production and handling of organically grown produce should minimise the environmental degradation.

This is achieved by:

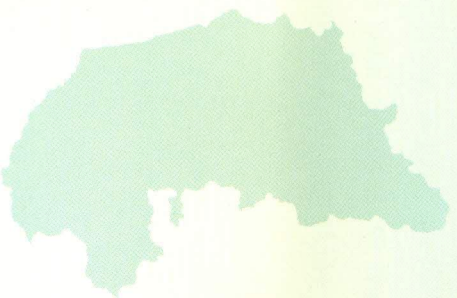
- ❖ Adopting the existing standards and/ or developing new standards, which define the safe methods of waste management in the form of products, besides packing systems and energy saving systems in processing and transport
- ❖ Products produced and processed in a traditional way by indigenous and /or traditional groups can be certified as organic, provided that the sites are subjected to a normal annual inspection and production and / or processing in accordance with the guidelines prescribed under certification standards.





3. Objectives of the Policy on Organic Farming (Savayava Krishi)

- ❖ To reduce the debt burden of farmers and enable them to achieve sustenance (Swavalambana) and self respect (Swabhimana)
- ❖ To enhance the soil fertility and productivity by increasing life in soil
- ❖ To reduce the dependence of farmers on most of the inputs like seeds, manures, and plant protection materials by sourcing local natural resources thereby reducing the cost of cultivation
- ❖ Judicious use of precious water resources and maintenance of production level
- ❖ To improve farmer's income through production of quality produce
- ❖ To increase the food security by encouraging traditional crops and traditional food habits
- ❖ To increase rural employment opportunities and prevent migration to urban areas
- ❖ To facilitate farmers' Self Help Groups for most of their requirements
- ❖ To make the environment safe and pollution free and also to protect health of human beings and animals
- ❖ To equip the farmers to effectively mitigate the drought situation in rain fed and drought prone areas
- ❖ To bring about suitable institutional changes in teaching and research on organic farming.



4. Status of Organic Farming in the State

4.1 Karnataka State is bestowed with varied climatic and soil types spread across ten agro-climatic zones.

The physical features of Karnataka include coastal plains, Western Ghats and plateau enabling it to grow a variety of crops. Karnataka's annual average rainfall of 1130 m.m. and moderate temperature provide ideal conditions to grow a variety of crops throughout the year. The State is also known for its excellence in horticultural crops and animal husbandry. Therefore Karnataka is often called as the State with "Cafeteria of Crops ". In addition, many farmers of the State are pioneers in organic agriculture and have developed many different systems of cultivation through indigenous knowledge base. They have developed their own methods of using organic wastes and developed holistic pest control agents to control pests and diseases.

4.2 The present movement silently taking place in Karnataka is not because farmers foresee a definite market for organically produced crops, but for production oriented reasons viz., reduction in use of external inputs, improvement of soil fertility, lower soil degradation, biological pest control and protecting mother earth, besides improving their economy.

4.3 It is pertinent to mention that there are active farmers' associations involved in organic farming and NGOs promoting this. The awareness of affluent classes & urban societies on use of organic foods is constantly growing in the State as well.

4.4 Above all, the Indian domestic market being quite large, there is ample opportunity for marketing organic produces in the country.

Greater opportunities are also available for exporting certified organic products to countries like USA, Japan and European Union. Although some farmers are practicing organic agriculture, their awareness on certification is limited and they are yet to recognise the importance of Certification.

4.5 Having recognised the importance of Organic Certification for exports, Government of India brought out standards (National Standards on Organic Production) on the lines of international standards (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement). Many accreditation agencies have been identified already by the Government.



5. Strategies for promotion of Organic Farming in the State

5.1 Integrated approach for promotion of organic farming in the State

Developmental Departments of the State Government have been working in one way or the other for promotion of organic farming and environmental protection activities in isolation in the State. There is a strong need to converge all related schemes of different departments to promote organic farming in the State in an integrated approach. The following departments of the State Government/Government of India, State Government Undertakings, Government of India Undertakings/Institutions, Agricultural universities shall work under one umbrella for promotion and implementation of organic farming programmes in the State. The financial allocations of the State shall be pooled under the head "Organic Farming" and the State Level Empowered Committee shall have the powers to allocate the funds to different schemes and agencies.

- ❖ Agriculture Department
- ❖ Education Department
- ❖ Horticulture Department
- ❖ Watershed Department
- ❖ Animal Husbandry Department
- ❖ Sericulture Department
- ❖ Forestry , Ecology & Environment Department
- ❖ Fisheries Department
- ❖ Health and Family Welfare Department
- ❖ Co-operation Department
- ❖ Agricultural Marketing Department
- ❖ Industries and Commerce Department
- ❖ Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department
- ❖ University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and Dharwad
- ❖ Pollution Control Board
- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Board, KAPPEC, HOPCOMS, KMF, KSSRDI
- ❖ Government of India Institutions: APEDA, PDBC, RBDC, CIPMC, IIHR, CFTRI, KVIC

One Additional Director in the Department of Agriculture will be exclusively made responsible for promotion of Organic Farming programmes in the State.

5.2 State Level Empowered Committee for Promotion of Organic Farming

It is proposed to constitute a state level empowered committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner for monitoring

and implementation of this policy; to ensure co-ordination among various departments and organizations concerned with organic farming including management of budget allocation meant for organic farming. The functions and responsibilities of the committee are indicated at Annexure-I. The committee will seek the advice of the working committee on Organic Farming in screening and approval of various proposals concerning organic farming.

5.3 Working Committee on Organic Farming

The Working Committee will be headed by the Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Horticulture. The functions and responsibilities of Working Committee are indicated at Annexure-2. The Working Committee on Organic Farming will act as an advisory body to the State Level Empowered Committee in framing technical guidelines, approval of projects, monitoring of programmes, etc.

5.4 Site specific committees

During implementation of various programmes connected with organic farming in the State, the site specific Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies /SHGs/NGOs, with the prior approval of the State Level Empowered Committee may constitute a site committee for preparation of action plans and their implementation. The state level committee will decide the composition of the site committees. Site-specific committees would recommend location specific programmes to be implemented for the area to the working committee, which would scrutinize and recommend to the State Level Empowered committee.

5.5 Krishik Samaj in promotion of Organic Farming

Krishik Samaj at State, District and Taluk level will take initiatives to implement/translate the Organic Farming Policy into a reality

5.6 Self Help Groups (SHGs)

The Government would encourage formation of SHGs exclusively for the purpose of production of quality compost/vermi compost, organic seeds/ planting materials and plant protection materials. Further, SHGs would also be encouraged to take and maintain community seed banks of local/traditional cultivars.

5.7 Farmers' Co-operatives

Government would encourage formation of Farmers' Co-operatives exclusively for promotion of Organic Farming programmes in the State. Emphasis would be given for small and marginal farmers to be the members of these Co-operatives. These Co-operatives would act as business platform of the farmers, by the farmers and for the farmers. Organic Farmers Co-operatives shall be given assistance for value addition, packing, labeling, certification and marketing of organic produce.

5.8 Formation of Farmers' Company (FC)

The State Government would facilitate creation of 'Farmers' Companies' (FC), a business platform "of the producers, by the producers and for the producers" (the producers in this case being the farmers). This will be a corporate structure as per Amendment IX A of the Companies Act of December 2002. All the members of a Farmers' Company have one vote each to protect the

small and marginal farmers. Farmers' Company shall be given financial assistance to create value addition facilities, packing and labeling facilities, internal control systems and take on the responsibility of ensuring national & international marketing linkages. The profit to each member of the FC shall be proportionate to the quantity of supplies made by him and as agreed in the articles of association with regard to the professionals manning the FC. For purposes of convenience a group of farmers may initially organize themselves as a Self Help Group or a Society or an Association and later convert themselves into a FC as provided in the Amendment.

5.9 Area approach/commodity/crop approach

The shift from the present way of cultivating crops to that of organic cultivation should be attempted gradually so that the available resources with the State Government could be effectively utilized for promotion of organic farming. In this direction, it is initially proposed to select certain areas in the State. Apart from this atleast one village in each hobli comprising 200-500 acres will be converted to Organic village in a phased manner. While selecting the area/village the following criteria would be followed:

- ❖ Least consumption of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides
- ❖ Present level of crop diversification comprising cropping systems and patterns
- ❖ The potential for the organic source of inputs in the area
- ❖ Existing farming systems comprising agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry, piggery, apiculture etc.,

- ❖ Intensity of multi- purpose tree coverage
- ❖ The current level of organic farming practices followed by farmers
- ❖ Presence of Farmer groups/Self Help Groups/NGO's
- ❖ Potential for export of organic produce from the region
- ❖ Availability of infrastructure and logistics
- ❖ Crops in the area which are of commercial/ industrial /medicinal and aromatic/food and trade importance would be identified in the region for production under *organic system of farming*
- ❖ Willingness of the farmers to be stake holders by subscribing to a Farmers' Company (FC).

After gaining some experience with this approach, the programme would be extended to other areas depending on the capacity created and resources available.

Further, special emphasis would be given for rainfed and drought prone areas where there is shortage of quality inputs and constraints in growing high value cash crops. *Such areas would be identified and necessary packages* would be designed to implement organic farming programmes.

5.10 Bio-mass production

Organic farming requires the production of bio-mass on farm. One cow per two acres will ensure the required compost production and cow urine on farm. This should be encouraged and facilitated, as it is also an "Income Generating Activity" for the small/ marginal farmers on commercial scale. To achieve this the extention agencies must ensure that the burning of dry leaves, litter and cow

dung is stopped. Farmers to be facilitated to produce compost from farm waste, leaf litter and bio-degradable waste. The Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/Farmers' Co-operatives/ Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs will produce the compost and sell to the members at reasonable prices if the farmers themselves are not able to produce the compost and Bio dynamic formulations.

5.11 Bio-diversity

Establishing bio-diversity with plant species of the local area is a key factor for successful organic farming. In fact, a combination of tree crop species to meet fodder/timber/fuel/and bio-mass demand apart from providing habitat for birds and beneficial insects would go a long way in ensuring the sustainability of agriculture system under consideration. In this connection appropriate plant/tree species combination would be identified and will be designed as part of the package. In other words, Agri-Horti-Silvi-Pastoral-fodder system would be encouraged on individual farms.



5.12 Mixed farming

Mixed farming is an insurance against natural calamities and a pre-requisite for Organic Farming. As there is need for continuous recycling of nutrients, the best system that ensures this will be live stock component which would be mandatory under mixed farming. In fact livestock comprising cows, buffaloes, piggery, poultry etc., act as agents of recycling of farm by-products / waste produces with value addition. This system alone can keep the farmers active and provide employment throughout the year. Above all, this is a self-sustaining system for production of organic manures on farm, needed for organic cultivation.

Animal Lovers Associations can be involved in organic farming by way of establishing backward-forward linkages with organic farmers to provide fodder in lieu of manure. In addition, it is intended to promote dry dairying for the purpose of producing value added organic manures. The organic waste/discards from slaughter houses would be subjected to proper processing and enriched organic manure would be produced in organized way and such quality manure would be tied up for organic farming. Financial assistance will be provided for this purpose.



5.13 Soil and Water Conservation practices including rain water harvesting

More importance is attached to soil health in organic farming. Living soil is the basic requirement of organic farming. Water being the most limiting and critical factor in crop production, emphasis should be given for conserving soil moisture. Through on going watershed



programmes, Government would extend financial assistance to the following soil and water conservation activities.

- ❖ Construction of farm ponds/percolation tanks
- ❖ Construction of trenches, ditches, bunds etc.,
- ❖ Silt traps
- ❖ Rain water harvesting structures
- ❖ Well and bore well recharging structures
- ❖ Roof water harvesting structures

Suitable legislative measures for rainwater harvesting, bore well recharging and tree planting would be taken up to improve ground water table and conserve the top soil.

5.14 Land regeneration, building up of soil fertility and creating bio-diversity in the farm

Government will support activities which enhance soil fertility and bio-diversity on the farm such as

- ❖ Land reclamation programmes
- ❖ Green manuring
- ❖ Intercropping/multiple cropping/multistoried cropping

- ❖ Crop rotation
- ❖ Composting/Vermi-composting in the farm
- ❖ Live fencing
- ❖ Supply of suitable tree species for fuel, fodder, timber and green manure by dove-tailing the ongoing schemes apart from new programmes as and when launched.
- ❖ Establishing permanent tree cover (Gundu Topu, Nadu Topu, Devara Kadu etc.)

5.15 Input support

Critical inputs required for organic farming would be produced by the Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/Farmers' Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs and made available to farmers at reasonable prices. The following inputs would be covered under the programme.

- ❖ Organic seeds and seedlings, and other planting materials
- ❖ Nutrition management aids
- ❖ Insects / Disease management aids



Farmers' Association / Farmers' Clubs / Farmer's Co-operatives/ Farmers' Companies /SHGs /NGOs/ engaged in production of organic plant protection materials would be encouraged.

The Government will provide necessary financial assistance to the Farmers' Associations /Farmers Clubs/ Farmer's Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/ NGOs for the production and or purchase of the inputs. The Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/ Farmer's Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs will obtain financial assistance also from the financial institutions on the basis of bankable project proposals.

With regard to quality control of organic inputs produced by the input manufacturers, Government of India will be persuaded to bring organic inputs under the purview of the existing Seed Act 1965, Fertilizer Control Order 1985 and Insecticide Act 1968. Industry producing inputs required for Organic Farming are eligible for an additional subsidy of 5% over and above the subsidies available under the Industrial Policy 2001-06.

5.16 Assistance for value addition, on farm processing and storage

Farmers practicing organic farming shall be partners in the value addition of their produce with the Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/ Farmers' Companies/SHGs/ NGOs. For this primary grading at farm level is a must. All processing activities taken up by the Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/ NGOs shall be supported. Any machinery, implements, packing material and eco-friendly substances required

for the said purpose would be subsidised. Apart from availing subsidy under the Ministry of Food Processing, Government of India , the State Government would also extend suitable incentives and concessions for farm processing activities taken up by individual farmers or groups of farmers.

In addition the existing infrastructure facilities available at APMCs including cold storage facilities would be expanded for creating separate storage space for storing organically grown produce.

5.17 Assistance for organic produce processing industry

Organic produce processing units would be supported for development of infrastructure facilities. They would also be provided with tax rebates as applicable to the cottage industries.

Organic Processing Industry shall be declared as seasonal industry for the purpose of Labour Act. These units shall be exempted from payment of minimum demand charges to the power utility supplier during closure period of 30 days at a time. The power supply company to offer power at concessional rate than normal tariff applicable. This would be applicable for an initial period of three years. Similarly Organic Processing Industries would be exempted from payment of electricity tax.

All Organic Processing Units which purchase agricultural produce directly from the farmers on contract farming basis would be exempted from market fees/ cess under APMC act.

State Policy on Organic Farming

All processing units using Organic produce will be eligible for additional subsidy of 5 % over and above the fixed subsidy limit as per the Industrial Policy 2001-2006.

The incentive available under the New Industrial Policy for obtaining ISO and other International Certification will be extended for Organic Processing Industries in respect of HACCP and other safety regulations and processes and also to meet the cost of certification from accredited agencies.



5.18 Installation of renewable energy sources

Assistance would be extended for installation of Bio-gas plants, Solar energy units and Wind energy units in the organic farms so as to reduce the dependence on external energy sources like Electricity and Petroleum products. In addition, for each Bio-gas plant it would be made compulsory to establish one vermi compost unit.

5.19 Assistance for Conversion and Certification

Certification of organic farms by the authorized agency is an important feature of organic farming. For

certification, a systematic record keeping of all the activities carried out on the farm is essential. Government shall provide service providers for record keeping. Government would bear a part of certification charges during initial three years. In case of Small and Marginal farmers group certification shall be encouraged.

The existing NSOP and IFOAM standards would be adopted for certification apart from recognizing agencies for certification. Government would take suitable steps to create more number of inspection and certification agencies and trained inspectors to take up certification of organic farms. Financial assistance shall be provided for establishment of domestic certification agencies.

5.20 Marketing of Organic Produce

The existing channels of marketing of Agriculture/Horticulture produces like SAFAL/ APMC/HOPCOMS/NCS/ KAPPEC/KVIB shall create separate markets/facilities for Organic Produce marketing. However, a separate space/accommodation with requisite storage facility would be created exclusively for organic products so that the contamination with conventional produce is avoided. In addition, direct marketing of organic produce from Farmers' Associations/ Farmers' Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/ Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs to buyers shall be supported. Transport of produce from point of production to customers will be subsidised.

Minor organic forest products (Eg. honey, soap nut, herbs etc.) would be marketed through these outlets. Forest Department shall help in Certification in forest areas to benefit tribal SHGs living in forests.



Government would organise periodic organic produce melas/exhibitions at cities/towns. Growers and Buyers of organic produce meets shall be arranged through weekly markets.

Aims and objectives of Khadi and Village Industries Commission go well with the concepts of organic farming. Present schemes of KVIB may be suitably modified to benefit organic farmers and processors. KVIB/KVIC sales points shall be made use of for marketing of organic produce. The Government would provide atleast one sale point at the district head quarters and two in major cities exclusively for sale of organic products. These market

outlets would be run by Farmers' Associations/Farmers Clubs/Farmer's Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs etc.

Information pertaining to availability of organic produce/products with farmers/groups /association would be made available on the internet.

5.21 Credit Facility

Credit facility for organic farming at concessional rates of interest is very crucial. The NABARD, Nationalised Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative institutions would be persuaded to extend special line of credit to the Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs, processing industries, marketers and exporters apart from input industries involved in production of organic inputs.

Interest rates would be subsidized by the Central/State Governments on the loans availed by the individual organic farmer/ Farmers' Group/Farmers' Associations/ Farmers' Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs for raising crops and other inter related activities in mixed farming.

5.22 Export promotion

State with its diverse agro climatic conditions and existence of traditional agricultural practices can be a major producer of variety of organic products which could be exported with commercial advantage. Government shall provide information on export potential of different products in the international market.



Assistance for processing, packing and storage as per international standards shall be provided for export purposes. Transport subsidy would be provided to the Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/Farmers' Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs. Government shall arrange growers and international buyers meet to facilitate export.

Government would assist establishment of pesticide residue analysis laboratories to ensure chemical residue free products apart from the laboratory facilities to check quality and safety of inputs as per National /International standards.

5.23 Research and Development

The two Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vignana Kendras in the State, apart from Agricultural and Horticultural department farms would be given the mandate to take up research programmes on organic farming on a holistic basis. They shall also prepare package of practices on organic farming suitable for different agro-climatic zones of the State. Farmers' Associations/Farmers' Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/ Farmers' Companies/ SHGs/NGOs involved in research activities on organic farming would be recognized and supported. In addition, both the agricultural universities would address the following issues through appropriate research / syllabus development.

- ❖ Introduction of Degree courses in Organic Farming
- ❖ Introduction of course curriculum both at under graduate and post graduate levels
- ❖ Give special emphasis for identification, improvement and preservation of local/traditional cultivars suitable for organic cultivation
- ❖ To evaluate traditional varieties to assess adaptability, performance, pest/disease and drought resistance apart from validation of the local practices /technologies adopted by Organic Farmers in the State
- ❖ Shall identify and screen botanicals, bio-pesticides and bio-agents suitable for different crop ecosystems
- ❖ Shall encourage farmer/area specific research
- ❖ Shall validate the research data on nutritional aspects in organic farming

- ❖ Shall give recognition and document the existing practices of organic farmers
- ❖ Agricultural Universities shall convert atleast one of their farms into organic farm for demonstration purpose to farmers and extension personnel
- ❖ Shall identify, screen and develop native livestock breeds which are locally adaptable and resistant to parasites and diseases. They shall also screen herbal remedies for control of diseases and parasites in livestock
- ❖ Shall document ancient wisdom / knowledge available in vedic and medieval literature
- ❖ Shall interact closely with progressive and research minded farmers
- ❖ Shall evaluate the research work from time to time.

5.24 Intercropping of Medicinal, Aromatic and Dye plants:

The Farmers' Associations/Farmers Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/ SHGs/NGOs will be financially assisted to obtain planting materials of MADPs, and set up post harvest processing facilities.

5.25 Training, Extension and Study Tours

State Government departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture and Animal Husbandry shall ensure an intensive partnership at all the farms owned by the State and set up organic farms to serve as "Model Farms" for purpose of training and education to farmers and extension workers.

Government will make necessary budgetary provisions for imparting trainings on principles of organic farming in keeping with National Standards on organic farming to departmental officers of concerned departments. Separate trainings shall be arranged for selected farmer groups especially Farm Women on concepts of organic farming, organic standards and certification requirements. Educational tours would be arranged for both departmental officers and farmers especially women farmers to model farms inside and outside the state.

Bio-dynamic farming, panchagavya and agnihotra practices would be encouraged.

Farmers' who excel in Organic Farming would be identified and rewarded.

The services of NGOs where required for conducting demonstrations and other extension activities would be utilized for promotion of organic farming in the State through required financial support under the programme.

Government under the supervision of the Bio-technology Centre, Hulimavu, would encourage community seed banks for preserving and multiplying local/traditional



State Policy on Organic Farming

seed varieties. Farmers-to-farmers seed exchange programme would be given thrust.

5.26 Publicity, Propaganda and Awareness

Mass media like television, radio, news paper; publications through poster, handout, video production of success stories shall be effectively used to create awareness among public especially women on harmful effects of modern agriculture on environment, animals and human beings. Importance of eco-friendly organic farming in restoration of ecological balance would be stressed. Harmful effects of chemical residues in food shall be highlighted. In order to safeguard the interests

of consumers, provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 would be strictly enforced. Further, officers of the Agriculture/ Horticulture department would be notified as Inspectors under the Act. Strict regulations shall be enforced in labeling of organic products for exports. In cities/towns organic terrace gardens and kitchen gardens shall be encouraged and supported.

5.27 Organic farming syllabus in primary/secondary education

The syllabus on organic agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, biodiversity, forestry, etc shall be introduced in primary and secondary education so as to create



awareness in children, teachers/parents regarding chemical free safe practices and their relevance to a pollution free environment and good health in rural areas.

5.28 Preference to organic farmers

While selecting beneficiaries for various state Government development programmes, preference shall be given to farmers practicing Organic Farming.

5.29 Safe food to children

Children suffer far more from pesticide / chemical residues in food compared to adults as children's immune system is less developed and they lack certain bio-chemical detoxifying mechanisms that help to remove toxic chemicals from the body. Knowing this, many of the developed countries are now coming out with the policy of feeding their children only with organically grown foods. The baby food industry has grown substantially in many of the developed countries with these products.

State Government would encourage the baby food industry in the State to use organic inputs. Contract farming tieups will be arranged by the Farmers' Associations/ Farmers' Clubs/ Farmers' Co-operatives/Farmers' Companies/SHGs/NGOs with organic farmers and manufacturers of baby foods.

5.30 Eco-tourism

Eco-tourism is gaining momentum worldwide. The idea is to conserve indigenous life styles while promoting

them as a source of economic development. This initiative combines traditional agriculture, environment and hospitality to attract high value niche market of domestic/ foreign visitors.

Organic villages / bio-villages are ideal eco-tourism destinations with pollution free air, food and water. Government would support and promote such spots giving wide publicity through mass media.

5.31 Fertilizer/ pesticides free zones

There are certain areas which are ecologically sensitive with rich bio-diversity and also certain areas wherein natural resource base (eg. water bodies) needs to be protected from pesticide and fertilizer residues. Also, there are areas in the state wherein the usage of plant protection chemicals and fertilizers is minimal. Such areas would be identified and declared as "Chemical fertilizer/Pesticides Free Zones"

5.32 Level of Assistance to different programmes

State level Empowered Committee in consultation with the Working Committee on organic farming would evolve guidelines and finalize the level of assistance /subsidy to be provided for different Organic Farming promotion programmes/components outlined in this policy.

Annexure I

Functions and Responsibilities of State Level Empowered Committee for Promotion of Organic Farming in State

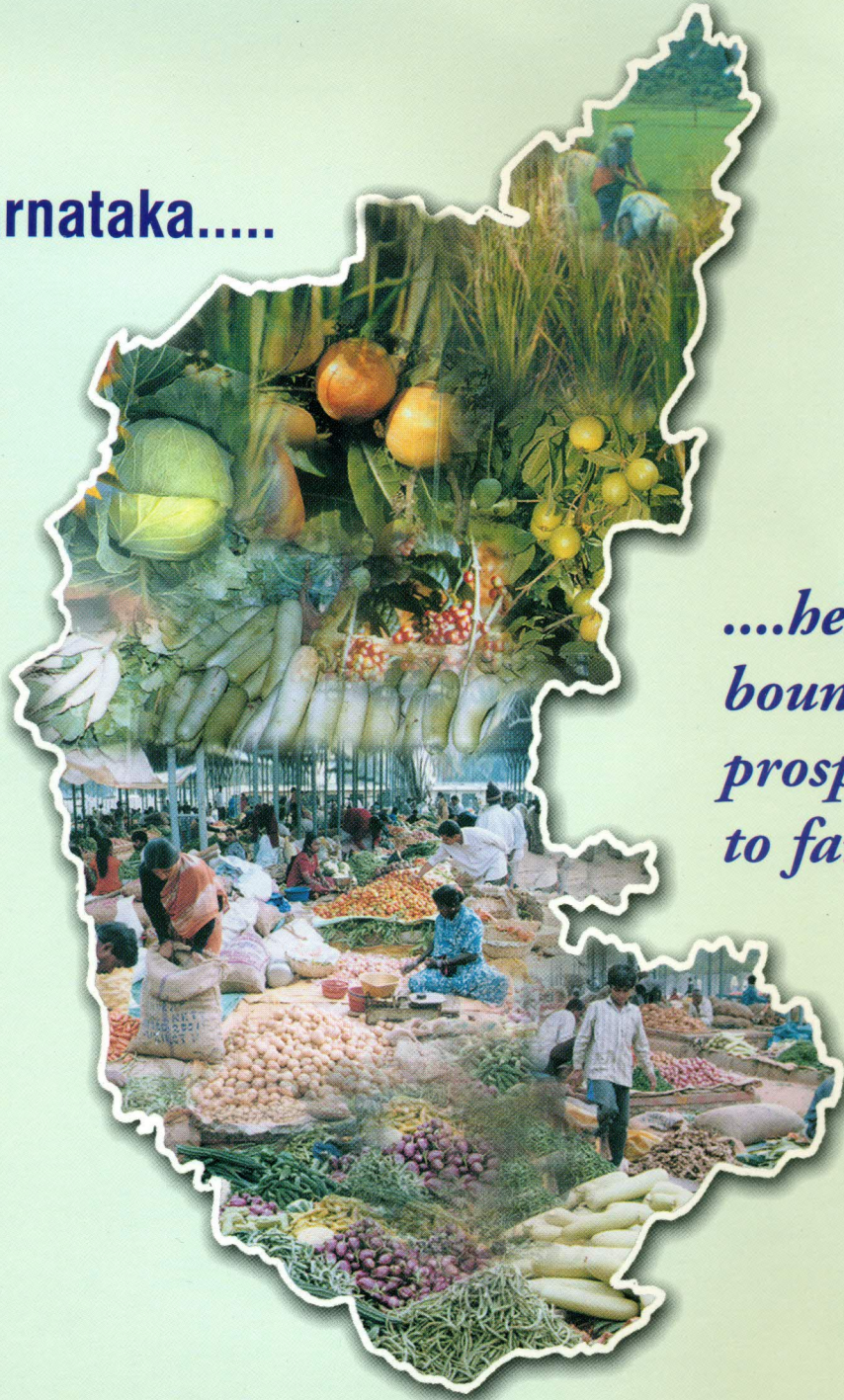
1. Shall review from time to time, the state policy for promotion of organic farming with the advice of the Working Committee in the state.
2. Ensure co-ordination among different departments/sectors and agencies involved in organic farming
3. To approve guidelines and schemes proposed for popularizing organic farming in the state.
4. To fix assistance/subsidies to different components of organic farming.
5. To formulate legislative measures if any relating to organic farming.
6. To co-ordinate with national and international organizations in all matters relating to organic farming.
7. To constitute Sub-Committees/Site Specific Committees wherever necessary for focussed action.
8. To guide and issue directions to Site Specific Committees.
9. To review the progress in implementation of organic farming programmes by various agencies as per the State policy.
10. Any other issues related to promotion of organic farming in the state.
11. The committee shall meet at least once in three months.

Annexure II

Functions and Responsibilities of Working Committee on Organic Farming

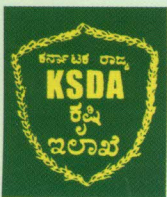
1. To formulate programmes and operational guidelines for promotion of organic farming in the state.
2. To develop guidelines to implement the programmes with single window approach / to facilitate implementation of the programmes in a convergent manner among different implementing departments / organisations.
3. Screening and approval of project proposals received from the site specific committees.
4. Recommendation for release of grants for implementation of programmes and to oversee the implementation of Organic Farming programmes.
5. To apprise State Level Empowered Committee on various projects / schemes.
6. To prepare annual plans and action plans with budgetary allocations for different sectors and put up for the approval of the Empowered Committee.
7. To decide subsidy level/assistance level for promotion of organic farming and to recommend to State Level Empowered Committee for approval.
8. To formulate quality control guidelines for production and marketing of organic inputs, establishment of quality control laboratories for detection of pesticide, nitrate and heavy metal residues.
9. To co-ordinate with NGOs, farmers organizations, processing industries, marketing agencies, export organizations, certification agencies in promoting Organic Farming in the state.
10. To draw action plans in relation to transfer of technologies on Organic Farming, organic certification, quality control of organic inputs and related matters.
11. Any other tasks assigned by State Level Empowered Committee from time to time for promotion of organic farming.

Karnataka.....



*....heralding
bounty and
prosperity
to farmers*

www.raitamitra.kar.nic.in



**Organic Farming Cell
Commissionerate of Agriculture**

1, Seshadri Road, Bangalore - 560 001
Tel: +91-80-22212804 Fax: +91-80-22212688
email: agriorganic@mail.kar.nic.in