

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

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Our environment is at risk from an age of exponential growth. Populations and the demand of our economies and lifestyles are eroding the Earth's natural capital and environmental services-possibly at an *unsustainable* rate. Some outcomes are too familiar: waste, pollution, degraded land, destruction of habitats, extinction of species, climate change, and poverty. The degraded environment can have a disastrous effect on human health.

Research in ecosystem processes earth observation and early warning is applied to natural resource disciplines such as tropical agriculture, fisheries, forestry, wildlife, biodiversity and conservation. Warning of natural disasters includes - drought, desertification, flood, volcanic eruption, and soil salinisation. Environmental degradation can be linked to weaknesses in social market mechanisms, policy failure, weak institutions and regulatory frameworks, a lack of public awareness and participation, underdeveloped technical capabilities, and rapid population growth. No doubt, environmental degradation is one of the first indicators of *unsustainable* social and economic system.

Ecology-based farming mimics nature to create an agro-ecology, where biodiversity is high, plant nutrients are recycled, soil is protected from erosion, water is conserved and not polluted, and tillage is minimised. But in developing countries like *India*, modern high-input intensive agriculture has produced great increases in crop yields. But the social and environmental costs have been high. Loss of topsoil, water pollution, loss of biodiversity, dependence on non renewable resources, rising production costs and falling prices of crops, the decline of rural communities, and fewer and fewer farmers are some of *unsustainable* results of industrialised farming.

The pollution in general and poisoning of food with harmful chemicals, and their effect on human health and environment is making people to look for quality nutritive food. Consumers in developed countries and in some developing countries also have become more health conscious and they have started spending on greener, healthy and natural foodstuffs organically produced and labelled products.

In India, traditionally, Eco-farming has been practised since ancient time but in non-systematic & non-scientific way and government has not given more emphasis to till date. No incentives for promotion, no reward and encouragement for innovative farmers. Bio fertilizers and bio pesticides not popular in India because of low demand, erratic supply and farmers are ignorant. Majority of farmers are not known about the environmental degradation and its future consequences. National and International organisation should come forward in developing countries like *India* to promote the Eco-friendly farming system for sustainable environmental soundness.

It is the right time to shift for Eco-farming that enhances the environment balancing, sustainability, diversification, and creates more employment opportunities in rural sector. Also there is people's demand for quality nutritive added, residue free and diseases free agro-products throughout the world.

It is essential to create a form where participation can share information about key issues, to work in partnership with professional decision makers and to communicate through educators, to promote attractive landscapes, assuring a safe, nutritious local food supply, maintaining strong rural community.