ORGANIC FARMING POLICY
OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH

By:
Department of Agriculture
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
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Arunachal Pradesh is located in north eastern India and called as “Land of the Rising Sun”. It is divided into seventeen districts viz., Tirap, Changlang, Lohit, Anjaw, Lower Diwang Valley, Upper Diwang Valley, East Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang, Lower Subansiri, Upper Subansiri, Kurung Kumey, Papum Pare, East Kameng, West Kameng, Tawang and Longding. It is known for its natural beauty and has a strong agricultural economy- pulses, sugarcane, rice, wheat, maize being its main crops. It has a considerable amount of forest cover which ensures that the forest products also contribute to its economy. The tourism sector of the state, however, has not been fully utilized.

Arunachal Pradesh with a massive 94% rural population is the largest state in the North-East India. Consequently, the economy of the state is based of agriculture.

The climate of the state varies in accordance with the altitude which is affected by Himalayas to a large extent. The upper regions of the state experience alpine or tundra climate, while the middle Himalayan portions have temperate climate. Humid conditions prevail in the lower regions of the state. The mean annual rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh is between 2000-5000 mm with a small zone of heavy rainfall of the border of 3000-5000 mm along the foothills of Himalayas north of the Brahmaputra River. It appears that this is the region of highest rainfall in the country.

Undulating topography and varied agro-climatic conditions offer vast potential for the development of Horticulture for growing varieties of tropical, sub-tropi-
cal and temperate fruits, vegetable including off season vegetables, spices, aromatic and medicinal plants flowers and mushroom. The fruits being perennial in nature help in checking soil erosion.

Arunachal Pradesh is primarily an agricultural state. The main crops are rice, pulses, sugarcane, wheat, millets, oilseeds and ginger. Arunachal Pradesh is also ideal for horticulture and fruit orchards.

The mountain slopes and hills are covered with alpine, temperate and sub-tropical forests of dwarf rhododendron, oak, pine, maple, fir, juniper, sal (*Shorea*) and teak are the main economically valuable species. The soils in the valleys are rich in organic content and clayey-alluminus. Soils in Arunachal Pradesh are highly acidic which may be ascribed to the high rainfall and heavy run-off soils. The soils look red, black and white (Pure sand). It may be mentioned that red soils is considered to be fit for growing root crops like radish, carrot, turnip, potato, beet root, tapioca, yams, etc. in addition to crops like millets and maize. At the same time black soils with clay is recognized suitable for paddy and loamy soils are suited for wheat, barley, potato cultivation.

A variety of medicinal plants is also available in the forests which are utilized by the natives for treatment of various ailments.

**Jhum cultivation** is the predominant agricultural practice in the state and is more widespread in the upland areas. The crops cultivated in jhum lands include food grains, vegetables, root crops and fruit species. Settled agriculture is mainly found in lowland river banks and in the Apatani settlements in Ziro plateau. The latter is particularly well known for integrated wet-rice cultivation and pisciculture. The agro-ecosystems in Arunachal Pradesh include jhum, wet cultivation, horticulture, plantations and home gardens. Of these the last three are of much significance as far as agro-forestry is concerned. Paddy, millet and maize are the major crops. The indigenous vegetables are sweet potatoes, brinjal, ginger, chilies, pumpkin, cucumber, and local cowpea. Pine apple, oranges, lemon, litchi, papaya, banana and peach walnut, almond etc are also grown in Arunachal Pradesh.
Jhum cultivation is the most common and traditional livelihood of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. Out of 83, 74, 200 hectares, 1.10 lakhs hectares are under Jhum cultivation and the remaining area is under permanent cultivation.

The jhum ecosystem is based on a cycle of forest-agriculture-forest. The cycle may be repeated two or more times in a single plot depending upon the pressure of population. Traditionally, the jhumias cultivate a plot for one to two years or as long as they get sufficient yield, and leave the area in search of fresh plot in another section of forest as and when they feel it necessary. The jhum system is based upon capitalizing upon the soil fertility build-up during the natural forest fallow development, without any additional human inputs into its management.

Livestock

While agriculture is the primary occupation in Arunachal Pradesh, it is followed up and accentuated by the proper maintenance of livestock. The livestock in Arunachal Pradesh is not only employed solely for agricultural purpose, they also have the efficacy and usage value of their own. They are also the sources of milk, meat, egg, manure and also as a means of transportation are rural areas. So, livestock in Arunachal Pradesh forms a part and parcel of the family as well as the state’s economy.
CHAPTER 2

Concept of organic farming

1.1 Why Organic Farming?

Population explosion followed by over exploitation of natural resources has led to poverty, environmental pollution and unsustainable growth. So, to achieve sustainable development in agriculture, the need of the hour is promotion of organic farming. With the introduction of Green Revolution technologies the modern agriculture is getting more and more dependent upon steady supply of inputs. Organic farming is gaining momentum all over the world as it offers a means to address food self reliance, rural development and conservation of nature. The common thread in this approach is the sustainable use of bio-diversity.

Organic farming is of growing importance due to some serious risk to health and environment and is adopted in several developed countries. There is an increasing awareness among the consumers on the deleterious effects of pesticide residues in food. Organic agriculture in many ways would be an eminently preferable model for the development of agriculture.

Organic farming could be a potential alternative to chemical pesticides, fertilizers and other inputs. Organic farming is the form of agriculture that relies on techniques such as crop rotation, green-manure, compost and biological pest control which ultimately promote biological diversity and maintaining soil fertility. Organic farming creates a natural self-sustaining balance that helps to get high quality food in healthy quantities year after year.
Due to above mentioned risks and adverse effects of Intensive farming, the present agriculture scenario is rapidly moving towards another **green revolution through adoption of Organic Farming on large scale**. But, it has been observed that rate of adoption of on agricultural and horticultural crops among the farmers is slow or farmers are not yet aware of such modern agri-systems. Among the major reasons responsible are lack of awareness, training and certification, reduction in yield due to non-use of technology inputs and the most important is lack of proper Marketing of produce.

Reduction of external inputs, as in the case in organic agriculture is the key to economic and ecological rejuvenation of Arunachal Pradesh. **Organic Agriculture** can lead to a very cost-effective rejuvenation of hill agriculture and is envisioned to bring about the overall rural development of the state.

### 1.2 Opportunity for Organic Farming

Farming in this hilly State has been traditionally organic by default. It would be relatively easy for farmers to shift to organic farming or improve their already known organic ways of farming from intensive or jhum farming.

States has ample variety of vegetables and fruits could substantially diversify farming to meet demands of the consumers for vegetables within the State. Increasing access to Arunachal Pradesh farmer’s organic produce of vegetables, fruits, grains in local markets will serve a meaningful purpose.

In many parts of the settled areas of hilly region Rabi crops are not grown due to lack of irrigation facilities. Irrigation facilities created under conversion to organic farming will provide an opportunity to the farmers to grow wheat, barley, mustard and a large variety of vegetables crops during Rabi season also.

Besides other fruits, Kiwi fruit (Chinese gooseberry), Avocado and Ornamental Orchid have a potential for large scale organic commercial production for national and international markets. Organic cultivation of the spice crop, Ginger
also has a potential in the State. Rice-fish culture practice may yield both organic rice and fish if grown under organic management. Organic mushroom cultivation is also have a commercial scope for export to other states in India.

Large scale cultivation of Organic apple may be taken up for export purpose. Conversion of substantial area from Conventional Farming to Organic Farming is likely to usher in an era of Regional Self-reliance in food production. Certification of organic produce would add value for export purpose.

Wetland rice agro-ecosystem though not as extensive as jhum ecosystem, is prevalent in comparatively low altitude areas. Unlike jhum system, wet rice agro-ecosystem ensures crop yield year after year from the same piece of land and encourages the formation of permanent villages.

The major constraints are low level of productivity, capital inadequacy, lack of infrastructural support, unfavorable terrain, and high cost of production along with demand side constraints. The non availability of basic preservation, storage and processing facilities, low value addition and unfavorable price of Agricultural commodities are severely affecting as a whole which directly encourages migration from rural areas to urban centers.

The agro-climatic condition of the Northeast is favorable for organic farming and the cultivators and players of the region must be given proper and adequate training for producing organic products and organizes market which is already existent.

1.3 Objectives of Organic Farming Policy

- To maintain and encourage agricultural and natural biodiversity on the farm and surroundings through the use of sustainable production system.
- To improve the depleted soils of Jhum land areas by addition of organic manures to make them input responsive.
- To produce sufficient quantities of high quality food, fiber and other products.
• To maintain and increase long-term fertility and biological activity of soils using locally adapted cultural, biological and mechanical methods as opposed to reliance on inputs.

• To maintain and conserve genetic diversity through attention to on-farm management of genetic resources.

• To make the farmers less dependent on external supply of inputs and raise crops with available resources, thus making farming less expensive and profitable.

• To reduce dependence of farmers for most of the inputs like seeds, manures, and plant protection materials by sourcing local natural resources thereby reducing the cost of cultivation.

• To improve farmer’s income through production of quality produce.

• To increase rural employment opportunities to prevent migration to urban areas.

• To facilitate Farmer’s Self Help Groups (FSHG’s) for most of their requirements and for easy and effective trading.

• To maintain safe and pollution-free environment and also to protect health of human beings and animals.

• To recognize the importance of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITKs) and traditional farming systems.

• To support the establishment of an entire production, processing and distribution chain which is both socially and ecologically responsible.

• To increase food security by encouraging traditional crops and traditional food habits.
1.4 Vision of Organic Farming Policy

- To make the State organic producer of food grains, Apple, Ginger, Kiwi, Avocado, Passion fruit etc. which are likely to fetch premium prices in international market.

- To make farming sustainable, eco-friendly, rewarding, and competitive, ensuring poison-free water, soil and food for the betterment of every citizen.

- To improve overall livelihood development through better revenue generation.

- To increase fertility of settled jhum land and developed for organic cultivation.

- To promote cultivation of Rabi crops and make the State self-reliant in food production.

- To generate employment opportunities for the unemployed rural youth.

- To develop brand value for organic products of the State.

The crop production in Arunachal Pradesh has traditionally been organic with a majority of produce being cultivated chemical free. In order to reap the benefits of already advantageous situation, it becomes inevitable to get the organic certification for these areas in the first phase and establish better market linkages / market support system to ensure better prices of the produce of the farmers.
Strategies for implementation of organic farming policy

Reforming Agriculture and Allied Sector Policies to bring these in line with Organic vision. “When the state will promote natural resource based organic agriculture, keeping soil health, sustainability and productivity as prime focus” many policies of other sectors will need to be realigned. The policies would include convergence of related schemes of different departments; encouragement of Govt. for formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) for the purpose of production of quality compost/Vermi-compost/organic seed and planting material and plant protection products would be required. Extension of financial systems to farmer’s co-operatives for value addition, packing, labeling and marketing of organic produce would also be required.

Different policies for implementation of organic farming in the state are as described below:

3.1 Area/land/District selection policy in a phased manner
3.2 Crops selection policy
3.3 Infrastructure policy
3.4 Administration policy
3.5 Certification policy
3.6 Adoption policy
3.7 Enrollment of implementing agency policy
3.8 Organic exit management policy

3.9 Advertisement policy

3.10 Marketing policy

3.1 Area /Land/District Selection Policy In A Phased Manner

A. Implementation of organic farming policies would be undertaken in a phased manner:

The Focus would be on potential crops and areas in order to achieve targeted conversion within a period of 3 to 5 years to be continued further. The total cultivation area in the state is 2.00 lakhs ha in which the Jhum cultivation area is as 1.10 lakhs ha and under permanent cultivation is as 0.90 lakhs ha area.

**Districts in First Year:** In this year, 20% area may be taken from permanent cultivation land i.e. 0.90 lakhs ha. Districts and areas may be selected from high chemical zones/ rain-fed/drought prone areas and it will further decided by the State Government.

**Districts in Second Year:** In this year, 10% area will be selected from permanent cultivation and another 10% will be from Jhum cultivation (among those who will be provided bio-pesticides for orientation in previous year) or it may be further decided by the State Government.

**Districts in Third Year:** In this year also 10% area will be selected from permanent cultivation and another 10% will be from Jhum cultivation or it may be further decided by the State Government.

B. Criteria for the selection of area

- Least consumption of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides
- Present level of crop diversification comprising of 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 (Beekeeping) 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 stakeholders by subscribing to a Producer Group Company (PGC)

3.2 Crops Selection Policy

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 initially it is proposed to select certain areas in the State. While selecting the area/village the following criteria would be followed:

Least consumption of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides

Present level of crop diversification comprising of 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 stakeholders by subscribing to a Producer Group Company (PGC)

After gaining some experience with this approach, the programme would be extended to other areas depending on capacity created and resources available. Further, special emphasis would be given for rain-fed 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.

Crops grown in district will also be selected in a phased manner such as:

**First Phase:** The topography and climate of the State is conducive for the cultivation of food crops i.e. rice, millet, wheat, pulses, sugarcane and potatoes those having an ample scope of marketing in the state. Tea plantation may also be encouraged during this phase.

**Second Phase:** Rice will be grown as a main crop in Jhum cultivation areas along with maize & millets. In Jhuming areas, certified biofertilizers such as *Pseudomonas, PSB, Azotobacter* and *Trichoderma* would be distributed for Crop
Management and Soil conditioning for the reoccurrence of nutrients in the areas. Crops like arum, ginger, mustard, vegetables and fruits such as orange, papaya, banana and pineapple may be grown in permanent cultivation areas. Tea plantation and other cash crops like cardamom may also be encouraged during this phase.

Third Phase:

- In this phase, cash crops, tea, medicinal plants, forest produce i.e bamboo etc. will be grown.
- Other agricultural and horticultural crops may also be encouraged to cultivate.
- It is proposed to provide financial assistance to tea farmers/growers in order to convert traditional Jhum cultivation into commercially more sustainable plantation crops like tea, besides agri-horti cultivation in the state.
- It is proposed to give emphasis on Organic tea cultivation with the similar financial support either to be operated by the state department of Agriculture/ Organic Mission or through the out sourced implementing agencies through the process of EOI.

3.3 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

A. 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 maintain community seed banks of local/traditional cultivars. For easy and effective trading, a unique registration number will be provided to each and every SHG’s by the Government.

B. Farmers Co-operatives

Government would encourage formation of Farmers Co-operatives exclu-
sively 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, certification and marketing of Organic produce.

C. Organic produce processing industry

- Organic produce processing units would be supported for development of infrastructure facilities.
- Organic Processing Industries would be exempted from payment of electricity tax.
- Organic Processing Industry shall be declared as seasonal industry for the purpose of Labour Act.
- The power supply company offer power at concessional rate than normal tariff applicable. This would be applicable for a period of initial three years.
- 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.
- Subsidy may be provided by the Government to set-up the processing unit in the state.

D. Bio-mass production unit and input supply

This should be encouraged and facilitated, as it is also an “Income Generating Activity” for the small/marginal farmers on commercial scale. Farmers are to
be facilitated to produce compost from farm waste, leaf litter and bio-degradable waste. Government should provide subsidy to the various Farmers’ Associations/ Farmers Clubs/ Farmer’s Co-operatives/ Farmers’ Companies/SHGs/NGOs to 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.

As per the guidelines of NPOP, following norms should be followed by the operators:

- **The certification programme shall lay down restrictions for the use of inputs** such as mineral potassium, magnesium fertilisers, trace elements, manures and fertilisers with a relatively high heavy metal content and/or other unwanted substances, e.g. basic slag, rock phosphate and sewage sludge.

- **Permitted matter produced on an organic farm unit** such as farmyard & poultry manure, slurry, urine, crop residues and green manure, straw and other mulches.

**E. 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.

**F. 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 the live stock component would be mandatory under mixed
farming. In fact livestock comprising cows, buffaloes, piggery, poultry etc., act as the agent 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 is required to be provided for this purpose.

G. Water management in organic farms

The importance of irrigation is recognized for many crops because the yields of irrigated crops are comparatively better than dry land crops.

- Government should provide subsidy under various schemes to develop infrastructure for irrigation so that farmers themselves meet the requirement of irrigation on their farms.

- Encouraged creating in-situ water harvesting ponds, wells, tubewells, hand-pumps and adopting suitable irrigation method like sprinkler and drip irrigation, mulching of the soil and suitable cropping pattern.

- Water harvesting and runoff recycling serve as a contingency measure against weather aberrations in areas where rain fall is erratic and unpredictable.

- Subsidy may be provided by the Government for the promotion of effective irrigation practices as discussed in above points.

- Watershed management will be supported or funded by MGNREGA/ NABARD etc
H. Soil fertility management

Biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin produced from organic practices should form the basis of the fertility programme. Loss of top soil should be minimized through minimal tillage, contour ploughing, crop selection, maintenance of soil plant cover and other management practices that conserve soil. Necessary measures should be undertaken to prevent soil erosion, compaction, salination, and other forms of soil conservation. Nutrient losses from the farm to the natural environment should be minimized. Nutrients should be used in such a way and at appropriate time and places to optimize their effect. Accumulation of heavy metals and other pollutants must be prohibited. Manures containing human faeces and urine must not be used unless free of human pathogens.

I. Other Logistic and Infrastructural Supports

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 a period of initial 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. 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.

**J. 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.

Logistic supports required from the Central/State Govt. are as follows:

- **Rural Godowns**: Government may provide subsidy to Private companies/NGO’s/Marketing agencies etc to set up godowns at towns/cities in a district to procure and facilitate the domestic marketing & export in the state.

- **Cold stores**: Subsidy schemes need to be availed for creation of cold stores to the private entrepreneurs for storage of produced organic crops.

- **Cold chain**: For the marketing purpose and supply of produces to other cities in rapid communication, cold chain vehicles may be provided on subsidy to the marketing companies.

- **Soil testing labs**: Five no. of Soil testing laboratory should be setup in the state which are fully funded by the Govt. and on subsidy scheme for Private Entrepreneurs.

- **Bio-control laboratory**: For the preparation of Bio-control agents, Five no. of Bio-control laboratory should be proposed which are fully funded by the Govt. and on subsidy scheme for private entrepreneurs.

- **Plant Clinics**: For detection of plant protection problems, five no. of Plant clinics should be set up which are fully funded by the Govt. and on subsidy scheme for private entrepreneurs.
• **Organic missions Training Schools:** One Central school to be developed in the Naharlagoon, and Organic training schools should be run by the Govt. or SAU under fully funded subsidy schemes.

The above infrastructural facilities would be made available in all the districts for various farm and marketing activities. Funding sources may include Ministry of North Eastern Hill Region, Govt. of India; Ministry of Rural Development; Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States; Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY); National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) etc.

### 1.4 ADMINISTRATION POLICY

#### A. State Administration

**State Organic Mission**

State Organic Mission for Promotion of Organic Farming may be constituted as follows:

- Agriculture Production Commissioner : Chairman
- Secretary, Ministry of Finance : Member
- *A National Level Eminent Scientist* : Member
- **Nodal Officer, Organic Mission** : Member
- Director, Agriculture : Member
- Director, Horticulture : Member
- Director, Animal Husbandry : Member
- Director, Agricultural Product Marketing Committee : Member
- District Agriculture Officer (nominated from two districts in rotation) : Member
- District Horticulture Officer (nominated from one district in rotation) : Member
Secretary, Department of Agriculture : Member Secretary

*A National Level Eminent Scientist with wide experience on organic farming to be nominated / appointed by the Chairman

**Nodal Officer, Organic Farming will be nominated among the existing officials of Department of Agriculture with rank on or above the Dy. Director, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.

Functions of State Organic Mission:

1. Shall review from time to time, the state policy for promotion of organic farming with the advice of the Mini Mission in the state.

2. Ensure co-ordination among different department/ 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 provide a List of minimum five Certifying Agencies duly approved by APEDA through Expression of Interest (EOI) procedure for selection of Certificating Agency by the Implementing Agency.

9. To guide and issue directions to Site Specific Committees.

10. To review the progress in implementation of organic farming programmes by various agencies as per the state policy.
11. Any other issues related to promotion of organic farming in the state.

12. The Secretary Agriculture of State Organic Mission will Head the Mini Mission

13. The committee shall meet at least once in three months.

❖ **Mini Mission on Organic Farming**

Secretary, Agriculture : Chairman

*Technical Specialist (2 No.) : Member

**State Level Technical Consultant (2 No.) : Member

Nodal Officer, Organic Farming : Member Secretary

*Technical Specialist, one each in the area of Organic Farming will be nominated as per the decision of the state organic mission preferably from the state level bodies like ICAR/KVK/University.

**State Level Technical Consultants will be appointed/ nominated from existing officers by the Secretary, Agriculture, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

➢ Functions and Responsibilities of Mini Mission on Organic Farming :

1. Major Administrative functions will be performed by Mini Mission as per Guidelines from State Organic Mission.

2. To formulate operational guidelines for promotion of organic farming in the state.

3. To screen and apprise State Organic Mission on various projects/schemes.

4. To prepare annual plans and action plans with budgetary allocations for different sectors and put up for the approval of the State Organic Mission.

5. To suggest components of subsidy/assistance for promotion of organic farming.
6. To formulate quality control guidelines involved in production and marketing of organic inputs, establishment of quality control laboratories for detection of pesticide, nitrate and heavy metal residues.

7. To co-ordinate with NGO’s, farmer’s organizations, processing industries, marketing agencies, export organizations, certification agencies in promotion of Organic Farming in the state.

8. To draw action plans in relation to transfer of technologies on Organic Farming, organic certification, quality control of organic inputs and related matters.

9. Any other tasks assigned by State Organic Mission from time to time for promotion of organic farming.

10. Committee would meet at least once in 2 months.

B. Others Administration Policy

❖ Allocation of funds for organic farming

The financial allocations of the state shall be pooled under the head “Organic Farming” and the “State Organic Mission” shall have the powers to allocate the funds to different schemes and agencies. Different departments of the State Government/Government of India, State Government Undertakings, Government of India Under-takings/Institutions, Agricultural universities shall work for the promotion and implementation of the organic farming programmes in the State.

❖ Facilitate private investment in agriculture

Efforts would be made to create conditions that encourage participation of the private enterprises in the establishment of Agro-based industries. An incentive package and guideline would be finalized ensuring participation of private sector & financial institutions in the Agricultural sector as a whole, NABARD will have to play a major role in channelizing investment. To meet local credit needs of farmers, Rural Credit Banks are to be set up.
Policy for the formation of Producer Group Company (PGC)

The State Government would facilitate creation of ‘Producer Group Company’ (PGC), a business platform “of the producers, by the producers and for the producers”. (The producers in this case being the farmers). PGC shall be given financial assistance to create value addition facilities, packing facilities, internal control systems management, Preparing and providing inputs at low-cost and take on the responsibility of ensuring national & international marketing linkages. 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 PGC.

3.5 CERTIFICATION POLICY

A. Types of Certification will be done in the state under NPOP/NOP/EU norms

- Big Individual growers will get special financial support from the State Organic Missions.

- Small growers groups certifications.

B. The following methodology is proposed for the certification of land size required for the tea plantation/ cultivation of other crops.

- The cultivars in one geographical area should have a registered society comprising of the growers and accumulating the area above 100 ha preferably. (Decision of the State Organic mission will be binding for the area )

- The society will enroll as an individual grower with the certification body with the farmers as partners in cultivation.

- As per the norms of the certification body/ APEDA, the PAN number of the society to be provided to the certifying body.

- The assistance to the implementing agency/ society will be given as per the norms fixed for the cultivation in regular agricultural and horticultural crops.
• The additional inputs needed for the tea plantation may be covered from the input scheduled to be used for retrieval of farmers using Jhum Cultivation.

C. **Criteria for Certification of organic food:** Certification is the key to National Organic programme. The main requirements are as follows:

• The methods and materials used in production must meet organic standards.

• There must be clear and ongoing documentation of these methods and materials.

• There must be a paper trail tracing the product back to its production site in order to verify the methods and materials used in its production.

D. **Criteria for Certification of Non wood forest produce (NWFP)**

The responsible operator shall be dealt with as any other certified party. The operator shall issue instructions to the collectors, that at least:

• Defines the area of collection

• Informs them about the standards and other requirements for certification

• The area of production shall be properly identified on appropriate maps, which shall be large and distinct enough to reduce the risk of mixing up with non-certified production

**Criteria for selection of Certification Agency in the state:** In India, accreditation agencies approved by Ministry of Commerce (MoC) Govt. of India include the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Coffee Board, Spices Board, Tea Board, Coconut development Board and Cocoa and Cashew nut Board and several other Indian initiatives have also applied for accreditation. Certification bodies in India accredited under the NPOP.

- **Functions of certification agency**

  1. The Inspection and Certification Agencies accredited under NPOP shall not
provide any consultancy services to operators.

2. Inspection and Certification Agencies shall have a policy regarding referrals resulting from inquiries from the trade, promotional activities and other market related activities.

3. The Inspection and Certification Agencies shall maintain a system for the control of all documentation relating to the certification system.

4. All records shall be safely stored and held secure and in confidence to the operator, for a minimum period of five years.

5. The Inspection and Certification Agencies shall exercise proper control over the use of its licences, certificates and certification marks.

- **Conflict of Interest**

  - A declaration of interest by all persons involved in certification, inspection and appeals shall be on file at the Inspection and Certification Agency’s office. They shall sign an agreement to abstain from any inspection or other decision making in case they have family or business connection, trade or advisory with the operator.

  - The Inspection and Certification Agencies shall be entitled for a certification fee from the operator. However, the outcome of the certification decision itself shall be independent of the payment of fees.

- **Terms and conditions abide by certification agency**:

  1. The maximum limit of assistance for Certification of organic farming will be @ ₹ 4000/ha for certification process.

  2. The above assistance will be released to Implementing Agency in the ratio of 30:30:40 in three years at different stages.

  3. **In Stage I:** First instalment of 30 percent will be released to the implementing agency upon submission of ICS documents and completion of 1st
internal inspection.

4. **In Stage II:** The second instalment of 30 percent will be released to the implementing agency upon submission of claim/invoice along with C-1 certificate from the Certifying Agency and Audit and Utilization certificates of funds released in the first instalment.

5. **In Stage III:** The third instalment of 40 percent of Certification amount will be payable to the Implementing Agency during 3rd year of the Project. Out of the above amount, 20 percent of the Certification amount will be payable after submission of C-2 Certificate and completion of 3rd internal inspection. The remaining 20 percent will be released on receipt of C-3 Certificate.

6. The Implementing Agency will be responsible for submission of External Audit Reports/Conversion certificates from the certifying agency within 90 days of receipt.

7. The Implementing Agency will be allowed a further period of two years (4th & 5th Year) for obtaining C-3 certificate of the area for which the C-3 Certificate has not been issued during the 3rd year.

8. In case, the Implementing agency fails to obtain C-3 Certificate of total area or part thereof, the entire Certification amount or proportionate amount for the area for which C-3 Certificate is not granted will have to be refunded. Alternatively, necessary instructions will be issued till the concerned Bank/Fixed Deposit for deduction of the amount.

E. **Regulations for grant of licence to use certification mark for organic products**

- Producer / Operator can apply for grant of a licence for use of the Certification Mark only on the certified products produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the National Standards for Organic Products.

- Every application for a licence shall, on receipt by the Inspection and Certification Agency, be numbered in order of priority of the receipt and be
acknowledged.

- The Applicant is entitled to the aforesaid Mark but shall be answerable for the safety of their products themselves.

- The inspection and certification agency may cancelled the licence of the producer/operator, if found any discrepancy in the product or use of the Standard or Certification Mark to deceive the public.

- Operator/ producer shall not be eligible to apply for a period of six months from the date of such cancellation.

- The licensee or applicant shall maintain a complete record of the tests and inspection and such other data as specified in the scheme for testing and inspection, to establish to the satisfaction of Inspection and Certification Agency that the required control of production or process has been and being satisfactorily maintained. Such records shall, on demand, be made available for inspection to Inspection and Certification Agency.

- Inspection and Certification Agency shall arrange at least one inspection visit in a year in respect of each licence.

3.6 ADOPTION POLICY

During the adoption process, following recommendations given below in different parameters must be followed by operators for high quality organic food production.

A. Training, Extension and Study Tours Policy

- 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 train-
ings 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 that is use of bio-origin inputs like panchagavya, agnihotra, Jeevamrit, Neemastra practices would be encouraged.

- Farmer’s who excel in Organic Farming would be identified and rewarded.

- The Implementing agency where required for conducting organic farmers club meetings, demonstrations and other extension activities would be utilized for promotion of organic farming in the State through required financial support under the programme.

- Government would encourage community seed banks for preserving and multiplying local/traditional seed varieties. Farmers to farmers seed exchange programme would be given thrust.

B. Capacity building for Farmers, Implementing Agencies and Local Self Government members

- Trainer’s Training Programmes (TTP) :

  - Trainer’s Training would be imparted to the representatives of various NGOs, progressives farmers etc. across the state on organic farming and related technologies to spread the idea of organic farming.

  - Trainings imparted on seed conservation, improving soil fertility, organic crop cultivation technologies, pests and diseases affecting crops, prepara-
tion of botanical pesticides, pest and diseases affecting vegetable, marketing of organic produce, Internal Control Standards and Certification procedure, Differences between the conventional and organic farming, System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method of rice cultivation etc.

❖ Field Demonstrations

- Preparation of compost, Vermi-compost, NADEP, CPP
- Preparation of botanical pesticides and plant growth promoters
- Production of *Azolla*, Blue Green Algae & green manure seeds.
- Apiculture (Bee keeping)
- Poultry rearing
- Biogas production
- Cultivation of organic fodder crops
- Maintenance of Buffer zone

❖ Training Centres

- Training centres would be established in different district which would be utilized for regular training programmes meant for farmers, NGOs and staff members. A training hall to accommodate about 100 trainees, a dormitory and small office space would be required.

C. Policy for On-farm organic manure production

Implementing agency should promote the farmers and provide trainings for production of On-farm organic manure under the various schemes and subsidy may be provided by the Government for those farmers who themselves are not able to produce. Green manure crops like legumes are the cheapest source of nitrogen for
the crops. Biofertilizers such as *Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azolla* and *Azospirillum* fixes Nitrogen in soil & plants and helps to increase the yield of crops.

The edible oilcakes like groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, sesamum, linseed and castor and non-edible cakes such as neem, karanj, mahua, castor etc. lies mainly in its nitrogen content. These cakes contain small quantities of $P_2O_5$ and $K_2O$. Vermi-compost is a preferred balanced nutrient source for organic farming. Every farmer can do Vermi-composting in his own farm using agriculture waste. Government may provide subsidy on the preparation of NADEP, CPP, Vermi-compost to encourage the farmers to promote the organic farming.

**D. Policy for Soil fertility management & land regeneration**

Necessary measures should be undertaken to prevent soil erosion, compaction, salination, and other forms of soil conservation. Nutrient losses from the farm to the natural environment should be minimized. Nutrients should be used in such a way and at appropriate time and places to optimize their effect. Loss of top soil should be minimized through minimal tillage, contour ploughing, crop selection, maintenance of soil plant cover etc. to conserve soil. Accumulation of heavy metals and other pollutants must be prohibited. Manures containing human faeces and urine must not be used unless free of human pathogens.

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

- Land reclamation programmes
- Green manuring
- Intercropping/multiple cropping/multi-storied cropping
- Crop rotation Composting/Vermi-composting in the farm
- Live fencing
- Supply of suitable tree species for fuel, fodder, timber and green manure by
dovetailing the ongoing schemes apart from new programmes as and when launched.

E. Policy for Pest, disease, weed and growth management

- Scientist / Experts of State Agricultural Universities (SAU) will provide training to the farmers/ producers about the proper use of pest & nutrient management practices such as:
  - Choice of appropriate species and varieties
  - Appropriate rotation programs
  - Mechanical cultivation
  - Protection of natural enemies of pests through provision of favorable habitat, such as hedges, nesting sites and ecological buffer zones that maintain the original vegetation to house pest predators
  - Thermal weeding
  - Seed bed preparation
  - Release of predators and parasites against the target species
  - Acceptable biodynamic preparations from stone meal, farm yard manure of plants
  - Mulching and mowing
  - Grazing of animals
  - Mechanical controls such as traps, barriers, light and sound

- Government may provide subsidy on different mechanical traps like Light trap, Sticky trap etc. to farmers to reduce the intensity of the insects.

F. Policy for animal husbandry/ livestock management
• Government may provide 50% subsidy or more to the farmers for the rearing of one or more livestocks.

• Traditional animal breeding should be encouraged.

• The livestock should be fed 100% organically grown feed of good quality. All feed shall come from the farm itself or be produced within the region.

• Animals have sufficient space to stand naturally, lie down easily postures and movements such as stretching and wing flapping

• Maintain appropriate stocking rates, flock or herd sizes and rotations to allow for natural behavior patterns and to maintain natural resources and environmental quality.

• Practice methods of animal management that reduce stress, promote animal health and welfare, prevent disease and parasitism and avoid the use of chemical allopathic veterinary drugs should be encouraged.

• Animals may be fed with carried fresh fodder where this is a more sustainable way to use land resources than grazing.

• The diet shall be offered to the animals in a form allowing them to execute their natural feeding behaviour and digestive needs.

• Colouring agents shall not be used in organic livestock production.

• Natural medicines and methods, including homeopathy, ayurvedic, unani medicine and acupuncture, shall be emphasized.

• Genetically engineered vaccines are prohibited but legally required vaccinations are allowed.

G. **Seed recommended and supply policy to farmers**

• Production of seeds, seedlings and planting materials, would be taken up at the Panchayat level, so as to become self-sufficient in the availability of
good quality local seeds, both indigenous and breeder seeds.

- Production, storage and supply of good quality seeds would be entrusted to farmer groups, seed banks and seed co-operatives.

- Encouragement of farmers to produce organic, good quality seeds and develop participatory seed production programmes along with the Agricultural University and other institutions of agricultural research.

- Development of storage facilities/crop protection measures using traditional methods Declaration of Genetically Modified (GM) free seed villages/Panchayat/ districts in the State

- Government should regulate the mechanism of seed prices and may provide subsidy to the farmers who are not able to buy from markets.

- Ensure maintenance of traceability chain mandatory at the local self Government Institution level by the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) with regard to seeds produced, sold, transferred and shared in the Panchayat to protect the farmers from spurious low quality seeds, including hazardous genetically modified seeds.

- To reduce post harvest wastage, effort would be made to add values especially to agricultural and horticultural produce by setting up small processing units in production areas.

- The Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) will be activated to cater to the need of farmer entrepreneurs. Tea will be brought under Agriculture sector, but for processing it may be under industries sector.

**H. Policy for parallel production**

If a farm is engaged in parallel production, the certification programme shall ensure, in addition to the requirements for part conversion, such as:

- buffer zones are maintained for demarcation
• the crops are visually distinguishable or

• The crops are harvested in such a way that there are reliable methods to verify the actual harvest of the respective crops (i.e. inspections between harvests, extra inspections during harvests)

3.7 POLICY FOR ENROLMENT OF IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

A. Criteria for Selection of Implementing Agency:

• Expression of Interest should be invited from Institutions, Agencies, Corporate bodies/Govt. or Private Organization/NGOs possessing at least one year experience of successful completion of a Scheme/Project on Organic Farming in two agro-climatic zones.

• Advertisement for the purpose may be issued in leading National English/Hindi News Paper dailies.

• The Expression of Interest may be scrutinized and those black listed for unsatisfactory performance by Central/State Govt./Private Companies should be summarily rejected.

• Agency with annual turnover of a minimum of three Crores every financial year will only be eligible.

• Technical competence in the area duly supported by sufficient number of technically qualified persons/Consultants and other employees will be desirable.

• Proof of successful execution of Schemes rather lowest rate(s) quoted for execution should form the basis of selection.

• More than one Agency may also be selected for different districts in the State for competition and better execution of the Scheme.

B. Functions of Implementing Agency:
- Selection and Registration of farmers in the allotted district area.
- Orientation of Farmers meetings.
- Formation of clusters/Nominating Cluster in charge/ District in Charge
- Providing Diaries for recording farming events and sources of inputs.
- Providing Biofertilizer and Bio-pesticides to the Farmers.
- Arranging visits of experts for technical guidance on plant protection measures etc.
- Warning farmers on the possible outbreaks of diseases, pests etc. in case of prevailing favourable weather conditions for such outbreaks through media/suitable means.
- Arranging visits for Internal Control System (ICS).
- Implementing agency would provide the same area for Inspection & certification of crops and record verification to the certification agency.
- Assist the Farmers in marketing of the produce during the conversion period.

**Terms and Conditions abide by Implementing Agency:** The implementing agencies will work on behalf of state organic Mission and under terms and conditions by state organic mission decided from time to time.

### General

1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh/State Organic Mission and the Concerned Implementing Agency mentioning terms and conditions therein.

2. The Project period will be three years for Adoption and Certification and additional period of two years will be for Exit maintenance and Market development.
3. The Implementing Agency will be liable to provide a Bank Guarantee/Fixed Deposit Security amount of 5% of the allotted Project Work Value. This amount will be refundable/will be released on successful completion of the work and issuance of C-3 Certificate.

4. The Implementing Agency will have to submit/certify the name, occupation, mailing address, permanent residential address, telephone, Fax and mobile number(s) of the primary and secondary contact persons for smooth functioning of the conversion programme.

5. The Implementing Agency after allocation of area for Adoption and Certification of organic farming will submit Complete Status Report of identified farmers/area/ clusters to the State Organic Mission until then no fund to be released.

6. The Implementing Agency will ensure that there is no repetition of the beneficiary in the cluster which is already covered by any scheme under Govt./Semi Govt. organization.

7. The Implementing Agency will furnish record for individual beneficiary of the cluster and the same should always be available at the site at the time of inspection and verification by the authority.

8. The proposals and focus should be on clusters of commercial crops/horticultural crops.

9. The Implementing Agency will not charge any Fee/Charges for any of the above mentioned activity from the farmers of the clusters identified.

10. The Implementing Agency will requisition the services of Certifying Agency duly approved by Arunachal Pradesh Organic Mission and recognised by APEDA.

11. The Implementing Agency will draw trained manpower from the State Organic Mission for the Cluster level activities as prescribed for 1/100 ha area. Their salary and wages will be borne by the Implementing Agency.
12. Senior management Personnel above the level of cluster level workers may be outsourced.

13. A local Project Management office of the implementing agency should be established in the State for routine co-ordination and field management.

14. In the event of unsatisfactory performance of the Implementing Agency, the Mission will communicate the Agency in writing about un-satisfactory performance on different parameters. The Agency may be allowed a reasonable period of time for improvement. In case, no improvement is noticeable, then the State Organic Mission will have the right to revoke the work order any time during the continuance of the scheme.

**Adoption and Input Supply**

1. The amount as assistance under Adoption and Input of Organic Farming will be decided by the State Organic Mission and it may vary on the basis of the market value. This assistance will be provisioned for 3 years, subject to maximum limit of 4 ha per beneficiary farmer of the Clusters identified for certification of organic Farming.

2. The assistance under Adoption and Input will be released in three instalments (40:30:30 during 1st, 2nd and 3rd year, respectively) to the Implementing Agency.

3. The first instalment of 40 percent will be released in 1st year of Adoption period to the Implementing Agency upon submission of documents such as Farmer list, list of cluster, farmer-wise field plan (Revenue Map/GPS Data of the cluster with Khasra No. prepared and issued by revenue department), and registration of cluster with an agreement from accredited agency for certification etc.

4. The second instalment of 30 percent will be released to the Implementing Agency during the 2nd year on completion of 1st year of the Adoption and issue of C-1 Certificate and after the successful utilization of the first instal-
ment. This will be allowed upon submission of claim/invoice certificate from the certifying agency and utilization certification for the first instalment from the Implementing Agency.

5. The third instalment of 30 percent will be released to the Implementing Agency during the 3\textsuperscript{rd} year after successful completion of 2\textsuperscript{nd} year of Adoption and issue of C-2 Certificate after successful utilization of second instalment. This will be allowed upon submission of claim/invoice certificate from the certifying agency and utilization certification for the first instalment from the Implementing Agency.

6. The minimum period of conversion into organic farming will be three years. The assistance for Adoption will be paid only for three years to the Agency.

7. The assistance on account of organic inputs for adoption of Organic farming will be given to the farmers through the Agency and the Agency will be fully responsible to ensure the application of organic inputs by the farmer in his field in the identified clusters.

8. If any identified farmer uses chemical fertilizer pesticide during this period, the responsibility for continuation of the organic conversion process will be of the Implementing Agency. The action taken would include discontinuation of assistance to that farmer under this component and inclusion of a new farmer in his place to maintain the cluster.

9. Infrastructural facilities for input production have to be created with the participating farmers and farmers will have to be trained for grading their skills for input production and for its uses. Assistance provided under other schemes (e.g. HMNEH of the State) should be utilized for strengthening of infrastructure for production of Vermi-compost, NADEP-compost, microbe mediated compost including promotion on the used inputs such as bio-enhancers, bio-agents, bio-pesticides, etc. for better nutrient supplement and for effective management of pest and diseases.
C. Reporting to the State by Implementing agency:

- The Implementing Agency will ensure submission of detailed monthly, quarterly, half yearly and annual report of activities etc.

- In case of any departure from the above mentioned terms and conditions, the Implementing Agency will be liable to refund Un-utilized/mis-utilized funds to the State Organic Mission. Otherwise, legal proceedings will be initiated in the court of law for the recovery of these funds or issuance of deduction order to the Bank/ realization of the said amount from Fixed Deposit provided as security. For all disputes, the Jurisdiction for that matter will be Court of Law of Arunachal Pradesh.

3.8 ORGANIC EXIT MANAGEMENT POLICY

- The Organic Certification is accepted only after issuance of C-3 certificate. Therefore, there is need for follow up actions as given below:

- To ensure that the farmer continues organic farming practices.

- To maintain the certification status, re-issuance/renewal of a valid certificate.

- To create market linkages for getting premium price in domestic and export oriented markets.

- To develop and make functionaries of SHGs/Producer Group Company

Therefore, on completion of 3 years of Certification programme, it is mandatory on the part of the Implementing Agency to maintain the converted area under organic system & make it obligatory for the Farmers not to revert back from Organic to the Traditional Method of Cultivation.

3.9 PUBLICITY, PROPAGANDA AND AWARENESS POLICY

A. For the promotion of organic farming in the state, Government will emphasise on these agenda.
• Mass media like television, radio, newspaper; 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.

• In order to safeguard the interests of consumers, provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 would be strictly enforced.

• Strict regulations shall be enforced in favourable of organic products for exports.

B. Organization of Organic Farm and Produce Mela(s)

• State-wide awareness programmes for the promotion of organic farming focussing on advantages of organic produce and deleterious effect of toxic synthetic chemicals.

• Handouts, Documentation of Success stories, Video films, Posters and other awareness materials should be produced and distributed to the farmers especially farm women.

• Workshops, Seminars and other exchange programmes would be arranged for all the stakeholders including Traders, Consumers, Farmers, Semi-Government and Government officials.

• Setting up of organic kitchen gardens in urban and rural households should also be encouraged.

3.10 MARKETING POLICY

• Mass media like television, radio, newspaper; 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.

• 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 favour of organic products for exports. In cities/towns organic terrace gardens and kitchen gardens shall be encouraged and supported.

A. Marketing infrastructure

Emphasis will be laid on development of marketing infrastructure and techniques of preservation, storage, and transportation etc. with a view to reduce the post harvest losses and ensuring a better return to the grower. Direct marketing and procurement by a notified State level procurement agency, as and when required with storage facilities of different items will be made available to the production areas. Upgradation and dissemination of market intelligence will receive particular attention. Efforts will be made to strengthen the market infrastructure.

B. The State Government policy for marketing of organic produce in the state:

- The existing channels i.e. Govt/ Private companies/ Public–Private enterprises etc of marketing of Agriculture/Horticulture produces like SIMFED/ Safal/APMC/ HOPCOMS/ NCS/ KAPPEC/ KVIB shall create separate markets/facilities for Organic Produce marketing.

- A separate space/ accommodation with requisite storage facility would be created exclusively for organic products so that the contamination with conventional produce is avoided.

- Direct marketing of organic produce from Farmers’ Associations/ Farmers Clubs/ Farmer’s Co-operatives/ PGC’s/SHG’s/NGO’s to buyers shall be supported.

- Transport of produce from point of production to suppliers & customers will be subsidised.
C. The State Government criteria for selection of marketing agency:

- The agency having experience of marketing in the hilly areas may be given preference.
- Minor organic forest products (Ex: 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 mela(s)/exhibitions at cities/towns. Growers and Buyers of organic produce meets shall be arranged through weekly markets.
- Present schemes of KVIC 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 at least one sale point at the district headquarters and two in major cities exclusively for sale of organic products.
- Information pertaining to availability of organic produce/products with farmers/groups/association would be made available on the internet.

D. Processing and Handling Policy

- Techniques used to process organic food shall be biological, physical, and mechanical in nature.
- Extraction shall only take place with water, ethanol, plant and animal oils, vinegar, carbon dioxide, nitrogen. These shall be a quality appropriate for their purpose.
- Irradiation is not permitted.
- Filtration techniques that chemically react with or modify organic food on
a molecular basis shall be restricted. Filtration equipment shall not contain asbestos or utilize techniques or substances that may negatively affect the product.

- The following conditions of storage are permitted.
  - Controlled atmosphere
  - Temperature control
  - Drying
  - Humidity regulation
  - Ethylene gas is permitted for ripening

E. Packaging Policy

- Processors of organic food should avoid unnecessary packaging materials
- Organic food should be packaged in reusable, recycled recyclable, and biodegradable packaging
- Packaging materials shall not contaminate organic food.
- Packaging materials and storage containers, or bins that contain a synthetic fungicide, preservative or fumigant are prohibited
- Organic produces shall not be packaged in reused bags or containers that have been in contact with any substance likely to compromise the organic integrity of product or ingredient placed in those containers.

F. Labeling Policy

- The person or company legally responsible for the production or processing of the product and the certification body shall be identifiable.
- To be labeled as “produce of organic agriculture” or equivalent protected terms, a product shall company with at least these standards.
Mixed products where not all ingredients, including additives, are of organic origin and products that are entirely in compliance with these standards shall be labeled in the following way: Where a minimum of 95 percent of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, products may be labeled “certified organic” or equivalent and should carry the certification mark of the certification body.

- Where less than 95 percent but not less than 70 percent of the ingredients are of certified organic origin product may not be called “organic”.

G. Credit Facilities

Credit facility for organic farming at concessional rates of interest is very crucial. The NABARD, Nationalized Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-Operative institutions would be favourable to extend special line of credit to the Farmers’ Associations/Farmers Clubs/ Farmer’s 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/ PGC’s/Farmers’ Associations/Farmers Clubs/ Farmer’s Co-operatives/PGC’s/SHGs/NGO’s for raising crops another inter related activities in mixed farming.

H. 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/Farmer’s 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.

I. Research and Development

- The Agricultural University and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) 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/ Farmer’s Co-operatives/Farmers’ Companies/SHGs/NGOs involved in research activities on organic farming would be recognized and supported. In addition both agricultural universities would address the following issues through appropriate research / syllabus development. Introduction of Degree courses in Organic Farming.

- Introduction of course curriculum at both 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, biopesticides and bio-agents suitable for different crop eco-systems. 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 at least one of their farms into or-
ganic 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

J. 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 adjoining places of Tourist attraction in the State 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.