

GREEN ALERT

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The focus of Environment Information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner focuses on 'Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products' This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

Organic food: Nutritional Quality and Safety



Food security, nutritional quality and safety vary widely around the world. The French Agency for Food Safety (AFSSA) performed an up-to-date exhaustive and critical evaluation of the nutritional and sanitary quality of organic food. This review is based on recently published studies. The major points are organic plant products contain more dry matter and minerals (Fe, Mg); and more anti-oxidant micronutrients such as phenols and salicylic acid; 94-100% organic food does not contain any pesticide residues; organic cereals contain overall similar levels of mycotoxins as conventional ones. Thus, organic agricultural systems have already proved able to produce food with high quality standards. The authors proposed to improve organic production to achieve sustainable food production for humans in the near future.

Source: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-007-0394-0_7

Eco product

Unified Regulation on "Organic Foods"

In the spirit of 'One Nation, One Food law', Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released a unified regulation on "Organic Foods." FSSAI has launched "Indian Organic Integrity Database Portal" which would help consumers verify the authenticity of organic foods. The Indian Organic Integrity Database Portal is jointly developed by FSSAI along with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee Systems). Through this portal, the consumers can access all information with respect to the producer, the certification system and the availability of certified organic products. The portal can be accessed at www.jaivikbharat.fssai.gov.in

The Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations 2017 covers under its ambit two existing systems of Organic certification — National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) of APEDA, Department of Commerce and Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India) of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. FSSAI is mandated to regulate organic food in the country under the provisions of Section 22 of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006.

Currently, both systems in operation have separate logos, which would be integrated into a single unified logo for organic food in due course. The unified logo is an identifying mark to distinguish organic products from non-organic ones, supported with the tagline "Jaivik Bharat" at the bottom, for easy identification of Organic Food from India. Effectively intertwining elements of the environment, the logo communicates adherence to the National Organic Standards.

The logo is made green that has one circle, a leaf and a tick mark on it. The circle (O) represents global holistic wellness, the green leaf represents nature, the tick mark represents the product is FSSAI certified as organic and the green colour represents the environment.

Shri Pawan Agarwal, CEO, FSSAI highlighted that "the launch of 'Jaivik Bharat' logo will be a game changer in the history of Organic Foods. This initiative will not only help in building consumer confidence in Organic Foods but will also accelerate the growth of Trade and Commerce in Organic Foods both within India and abroad.

Source: <http://jaivikbharat.fssai.gov.in>

Green issue



Eco news

Organic Farming sector to be developed in clusters - Budget 2018



Union Budget 2018 has a provision to encourage organic farming by Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Village Producers Organizations (VPOs) in large clusters, preferably of 1000 hectares each. It will also encourage Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) to take up organic agriculture in clusters under the National Rural Livelihood Programme. Rs 200 crore have been allocated to support organised cultivation of highly specialized medicinal and aromatic plants and aid small and cottage industries that manufacture perfumes, essential oils and other associated product. Rs 500 crore is allocated to 'Operation Greens' to address price volatility of perishable commodities in the Budget 2018. It will also promote FPOs, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management in the sector.

Source: <http://www.businesstoday.in/union-budget-2018-19/news/union-budget-2018-government-promises-to-buy-kharif-crop-at-better-msp-announces-agri-reforms/story/269417.html>

Madhya Pradesh: A leading state in organic farming

Madhya Pradesh is the only state in the country where organic farming is being done over 1.48 lakh hectares, the largest in the country. More than 40% organic agricultural products are produced which is 40% of the total organic produce of the country. 1800 villages have adopted organic farming. The Organic Agriculture Policy was implemented in 2011 to boost organic agriculture. A survey conducted by ASSOCHAM revealed that there is the possibility of export of organic products worth Rs 600 crore in the next 5 years. An Organic Research Centre is set up in Mandla to promote new research and innovations in organic farming. An arrangement of selling organic produce, Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development has selected krishi upaj mandis.

Source: <http://thehitavada.com/Encyc/2018/2/11/MP-leading-state-in-organic-farming.aspx>



Eat Clean and Green, Eat Organic

Fruits and vegetable stickers contain a Product Look Up (PLU) code to help identify how the food was produced. Organic produce has a 5-digit code that begins with a 9, conventional produce has a 4-digit code that begins with a 3 or 4, and genetically modified produce has a 5-digit code that begins with an 8.

Eco tip

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