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Status of Organic Farming and Extension Advisory Services in North Bengal

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Abstract: Organic farming is an alternative form of agriculture follows mostly components of sustainability and resource conservation. In the countries like India, the certification facilities are yet to smooth for the adopter small and marginal farmers. Despite the advantageous market of Sikkim and Bhutan, farmers of north Bengal not get benefitted due to poor certification facility. Extension advisory is needed to restructure as per the need to organic farmers of the region. Institutions are on conducting training programme for farmers but lack of effort for capacity development of extension deliveries especially on organic farming. And, it widens the knowledge gap of extension worker of those organic clusters to advisory support. There is a need to promote private extension service providers in north Bengal along with public extension to accelerate growth of organic farming like other countries.

Keywords: Organic farming, extension advisory services, organic certification, national initiatives for organic farming

1. Introduction

As an alternative form agricultural system, organic farming effectively reduces environmental pollution to produce less hazardous agricultural products with using any synthetic or chemical agri-inputs. To address quality issues and sustainability concerns, organic farming ensures a profitable livelihood option. According to data released by FiBL & IFOAM: Organics International (2020) globally 71.5 million hectares of area managed by organic farming system. Expansion and promotion of organic farming