

Textbook of Agricultural and Allied Sciences



Sunil Kumar
P. Smriti Rao
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NATURAL FARMING

Sunil Kumar, Anjali Verma

Introduction

“Natural farming is a farming practice that imitates the way of nature,” it was practiced in Japan by Masanobu Fukuoka and Mokichi Okada. It is described as “the natural way of farming” or “do nothing farming”.

“Organic Farming is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agroecosystem, including soil, organisms, plants, livestock and people. The principal goal of organic production is to develop enterprises that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment”

Natural Farming is a chemical-free alias traditional farming method. It is considered as agroecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity.

In India, Natural farming is promoted as Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme (BPKP) under centrally sponsored scheme-Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). BPKP is aimed at promoting traditional indigenous practices which reduces externally purchased inputs. It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations; periodic soil aeration and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs. According to HLPE Report, natural farming will reduce dependency on purchased inputs and will help to ease smallholder farmers from credit burden. The BPKP programme has been adopted in State of Andhra Pradesh,