Why Organic?
Motivations

* For healthier food

* To safeguard the environment

* To be more in harmony with nature by using simple techniques and farm-made material

* To protect the health of farmers

* For higher profits – traders and growers
Motivations

- For exports

Or

- Domestic market
Challenges

- Government policies
- Subsidy regime
- Mindset of ICAR scientists
- Business lobby (seed, pesticide, fertiliser cos.)
- Popular perceptions
Challenges

- For Farmers:
  - No compensation during 3-5 years taken for conversion
  - Lower yields in initial period
  - Lack of seeds
  - Contamination from conventional farming
Challenges

- Certification
  - Too costly for small farmers
  - PGS is a way out; but inherent problems
  - Can we do away with certification?
Challenges

- Price
- Changing farmer base
- Consistency of supplies, quality
- Transportation issues
- Scale of operations
Hopeful trends

- States promoting organic farming; trying different models
- Farmers looking for alternatives
- Consumer awareness
India’s profile

- India tops the global chart in number of certified farmers -- 400,551
- But ranks 33rd globally in land under organic
- And ranks 88th globally in agricultural land under organic
India’s profile

Main organic crops

- Medicinal and herbal plants (46.22%)
- Cotton (14.24%)
- Rice (4.56%)
- Oil seeds (9.30%)
- Spices-condiments (3.35%)
- Miscellaneous (9.17%)
- Cereals (except rice) (4.42%)
- Fresh fruits and vegetables (8.66%)

Total organic production: 3.88 million tonnes
This is just about 1 per cent of the total production
India’s profile

Area under organic production

- In-conversion cultivated area: 0.18 million hectare (4%)
- Organic cultivated area: 0.6 million hectare (14%)
- Wild area: 3.56 million hectare (82%)

This is less than 1 per cent of the total cultivated area

*Source: Ministry of Agriculture*

All figures for the year 2010-11
Global Scenario

Development of organic agricultural land in the regions 1999-2011

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL Surveys 2000-2013, based on data from governments, the private sector and certifiers.
Global Scenario

Growth of the organic agricultural land 1999-2011

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL Surveys 2000-2013, based on data from governments, the private sector and certifiers.
Global Scenario

Development of the global market for organic food 2000-2011

Source: Organic Monitor, various years