

The status of Organic Farming in East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh

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Abstract: This paper studies the current status, the Working Of MOVCD-NER, the challenges and Achievements of organic farming in East Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh. Drawing from secondary data, field reports, and institutional initiatives, the study explores farmer participation, crop choices, challenges, and policy support. While organic farming is practiced traditionally in East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh through traditional and resource-conserving methods, the region lacks full-fledged organic certification, awareness, and market linkages. The study focus on examining the status of organic Farming in the area, to look into the working of MOVCD-NER and to identify the Challenges associated with Organic Farming in east Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh.

Keywords: organic farming, MOVCD-NER, challenges, Farmer Participation.

1. INTRODUCTION

According to IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements), organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity, and local adaptation rather than the use of synthetic inputs. IFOAM defines organic agriculture through four key principles: Health, Ecology, Fairness, and Care. The US Department of Agriculture defines organic farming as “A production system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetically compounded fertilisers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additions. To the maximum extent feasible, organic farming systems rely on crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, legumes, green manures, off- farm organic wastes and aspects of biological pest control to maintain soil productivity and tilt, to supply plant nutrients and to control insects, weeds and other pests” (Lampkin, 1990).

Organic Farming is a production management system excluding of all synthetic off farm inputs but rely on farm agronomic, biological and mechanical methods like crop rotations, crop residues, animal Manures, off farm organic waste, mineral grade rock additives and Biological system of nutrient mobilization and plant protection etc. which promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and agro-system health.

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh, along with the Agencies like the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Is actively promoting organic farming in East Siang district

The Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) is a pivotal initiative launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare to harness the immense potential of organic farming in the North Eastern states of India. Implemented across Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura, the mission is designed to develop certified organic production in a value chain mode, ensuring a seamless connection between organic growers and consumers.

MOVCDNER is committed to transforming conventional farming practices into high-value, self-sustaining organic enterprises. By promoting organic farming, it aims to position the North Eastern Region as a major supplier of organic commodities in both national and international markets.

Mission Goals

- Establishing institutional systems at both central and state levels to promote organic farming.
- Empowering 30,000 to 50,000 farmers by forming 100 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).
- Transitioning subsistence farming to a commercial organic farming model with full end-to-end value chain support.
- Positioning the North Eastern Region as a key supplier of organic products to national and global markets.

East Siang district, located in central Arunachal Pradesh, is primarily agrarian. The region's traditional Adi tribal communities have long relied on ecological farming methods. However, with the advent of modern inputs, there has been a partial shift toward chemical-based agriculture. This study assesses the current state of organic farming in East Siang, highlighting opportunities and barriers for growth.

The growth and development of organic Farming will have immense positive effect on the socio economic and ecology of the area in the study. It is going to benefit farmers, consumers, national economy, and environmental sustainability. Here's a structured summary: Some of the significance can be highlighted in these forms

2. Objectives

- To assess the present status of organic farming practices in East Siang district.
- To identify challenges faced by organic farmers.
- To study the working of government initiatives like MOVCD-NER.

3. Methodology

This is a descriptive non Experimental paper based on the facts and information collected from various sources secondary data only. The journals, published books of national and international standard, publications from government of India and Arunachal Pradesh, articles, newspaper publications, information from Internet (Google.com), scholar etc are consulted to collect the relevant data.

Additional data for the paper were gathered from the office of the District Agriculture Officer East Siang District Pasighat, Government of Arunachal Pradesh Operational Guidelines: Mission Organic Value Chain Development for NER etc.

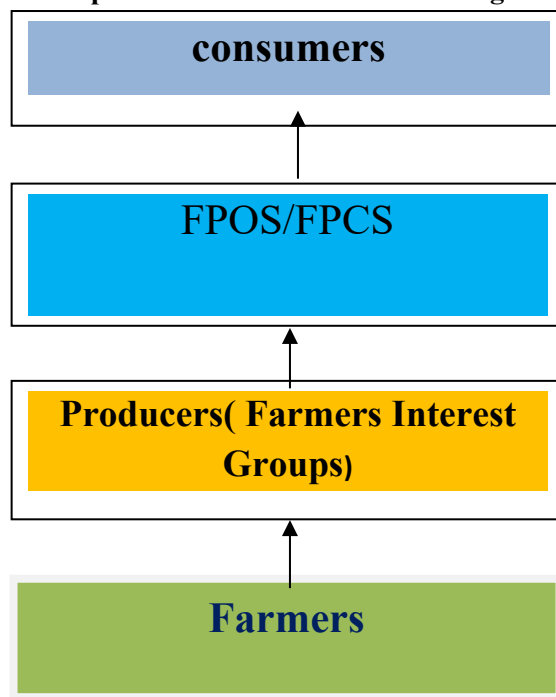
4. Findings and Discussion

Organizational structure of MOVCD-NER

Realizing the potential of organic farming in the North Eastern Region of the country Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare launched a Central Sector Scheme, now a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (with 100% GoI share), titled "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)" for implementation in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, during the 12th plan period with an allocation of ₹ 400 crore. The scheme aimed at the development of certified organic production in value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of the entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, and certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing marketing, and brand building initiatives. Since the scheme was in value chain mode, it has been able to create concentrated production clusters of specific commodities with necessary postharvest infrastructure and market linkages. All these clusters were targeted for export focus crops and certified under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) which is a third-party certification process.

Three phases of MOVCDNER have been concluded covering 1.79 lakh ha and 379 FPOs. The phase IV of the scheme will cover an additional 50,000 ha and 100 FPOs.

Value chain mode that links the producers to the consumer through FPOS/FPCS



Under Value chain mode the likeminded farmers are identified and formed into Farmer Interest Groups. Out of the FIGS or farmer interest groups, the FPOS /FPCS (Farmer Producer organizations/farmer producer companies)are formed. The FPOS/FPCS are a type of organizations or Companies where the Farmer themselves are the Members. The FPCS are formed as per the company Act and the Government helps in its Formation. These companies will have their own Board of Director and will decide the working of the company. The Company will carry out the marketing of the value added organic products of the Farmers who are the producer of those products. Hence, a value chain is created wherein the producers are linked to the consumers through FPOS.

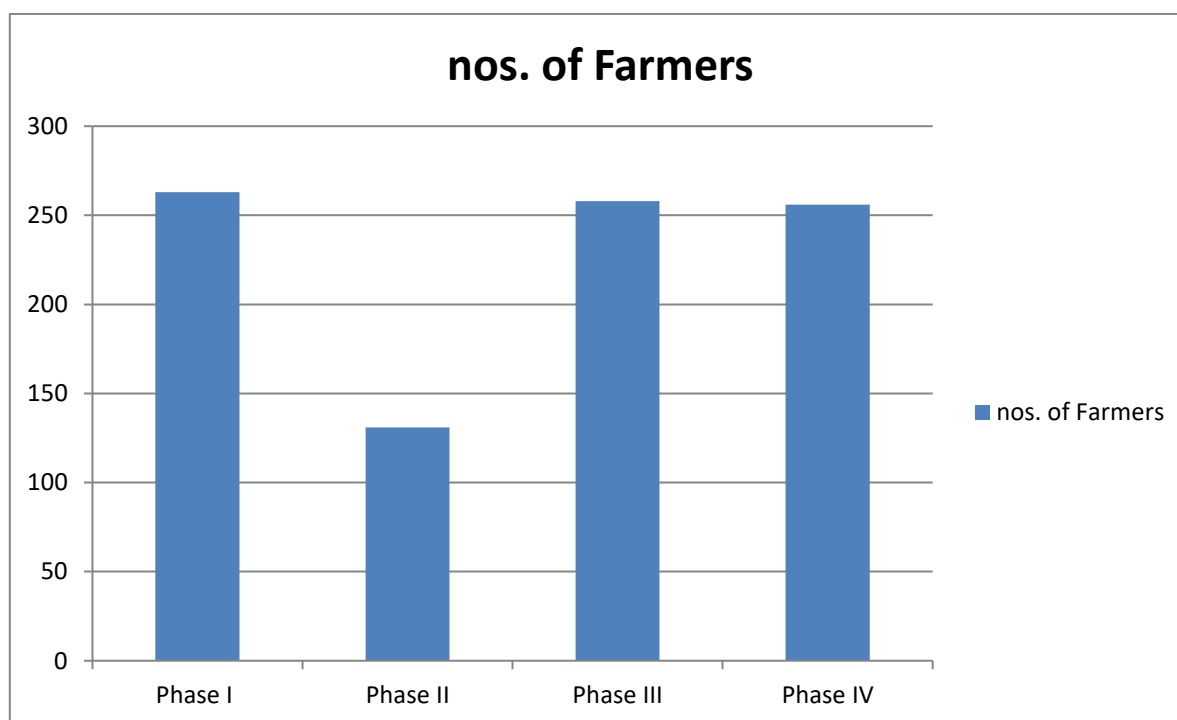
5. Status of Organic Farming In East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh
Action Plan for Organic Farming in East Siang District as Per MOVCD-NER
(2024-2028)

1. Identification of farmers group and crop for organic certification.
2. Identification of farms for organic certification and demarcation of boundaries with allocation of buffer zones.
3. Preparation of map of the farms requested for certification.
4. Awareness and training to farmers regarding organic farming.
5. Starting of internal control system and audit and record maintenance.
6. Preparation of organic system plan and field history.
7. Registration of farmers group for organic certification and regular annual audit by the certification agency.
8. Training delegated to the farmers for
 - a) Organic farming management.
 - b) Organic input production.
 - c) Pest and disease control measures.
 - d) Weed control measures.
 - e) Seed and planting material arrangement and their treatment.

- f) Crop management-mixed cropping and crop rotation.
 - g) Harvest management.
 - h) Storage management.
 - i) Farm equipment's handling and management.
 - j) Packaging and transportation.
9. Organic Certification.
 10. Regular Maintenance of the records of the farmers for internal control system audit and annual external Audit.
 11. Value addition to the crop produced and linkage to target audience for increasing economic prosperity of the Farmers.

Nos. of Farmers that were brought under the scheme of MOVD-NER, Govt of India.

Phase wise implementation	Name of cluster/FPO/FPC	Nos. of farmer	No of FIGS
Phase I (2016-2017)	Donyi Sango FPC Ltd.	263	12
Phase II(2019-2020)	Pasighat Organic FPC Ltd.	131	09
Phase III(2021-2022)	Ledum Agro Organic Producer Ltd.	258	13
Phase IV(2024-2025)	Ruksin Koje Nane FPC Ltd.	256	10

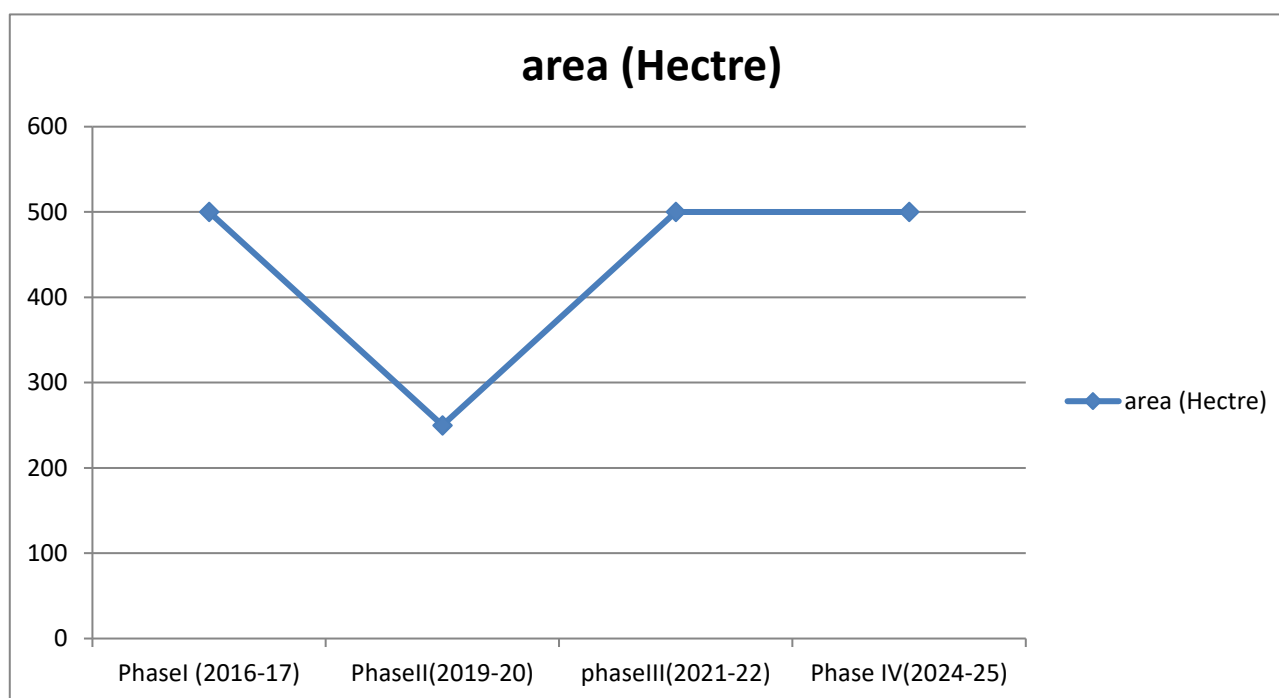


Source: Office of District Agriculture Officer, East Siang District

As per the report from the department of Agriculture Government of Arunachal Pradesh, the organic farming was started under the initiative of the Government of India under the Banner of MOVCD-NER. The scheme was introduced in a phase wise manner in which a single phase composed of three years. It was initially introduced during the year 2016-17 with 263 farmer beneficiaries. During the second phase (2019-20) the nos. of beneficiary farmers were 131 which again increased to 258 during the third phase and again fell down two points to 256 during the current phase of year 2024-25.

Area and crops under Organic Cultivation in East Siang District

Phase wise implementation	Area (Hectres)	crops
Phase I (2016-17)	500	Arhar, Ginger,Turmeric
Phase II (2010-20)	250	Arhar,Ginger,Turmeric
Phase III(2021-22)	500	Ginger,Turmeric
PhaseIV(2024-25)	500	Ginger,Turmeric,King Chilly



Source: Office of District Agriculture Officer, East Siang District

The area under organic crops was 500 hectares during Phase I which went down to 250 Hectres During Phase II. The reason cited by the department was that it was due to the Variation in the fund Allocation that comes from the centre. the area under organic crops increased during the III and IV phase to 500 Hectres. The Main Crops that is covered under Mission organic North East were Arhar , Ginger, Turmeric and King Chilly.

6. Challenges

- I. Certification Costs: Lengthy and expensive certification processes deter smallholders.
- II. Maintaining quality and varietal uniformity
- III. Collection, aggregation ,processing and marketing of organic produce
- IV. High production cost
- V. Pest and weed management issues
- VI. Soil fertility concerns
- VII. Lack of co ordinations among the farmers and differences in ideas and thinking
- VIII. Proper Storage Facility Including Cold Storage Facility to prevent Damage of Crops

7. Achievements

- I. Promoting organic Farming and supporting Farmer Producer Organisation
- II. Bringing a large area under Organic Farming
- III. Establishing Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO/FPC) for creating a network of Farmers and supporting their collective efforts.
- IV. Developing Infrastructures like crops collection centres and Facilitating Marketing of Organic Products.
- V. Providing Exposure to the Farmers by Facilitating their participation in Events like IFOAM(International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements), Organic World Congress, Providing Opportunities for Farmers to Interact with Buyers and Sellers.

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