

Is the Only Solution Organic Farming System?

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Organic farming is a type of school of thought in the spectrum of sustainable agricultural systems. It is considered a good alternative to conventional agriculture that covers an area of about 38% of Earth land amount. Conventional farm is accused of being unsustainable. Organic farming is a good alternative in order to provide sustainability and efficient resource use [1]. Yet, its production is not robust enough to play a significant role in feeding the world which has 793 million undernourished people. Consequently, organic farming system is beneficial for natural resources and environment, at first, but food security problems of mankind may be endangered by expanding organic fields. It relies on more land to produce the same amount of food as conventional agriculture. Crop yield averages are 8 to 25 % lower in organic farming systems [2]. If it is true, the organic farming system will be threatening our world in near future because growing population is expected to reach 9 to 10 billion people by 2050. Critical forest areas and wetlands can be converted to agricultural land to remain at the same production level. Apart from the productivity debates of organic farming, the sharability issues are remarkable. Increasing demand to organic foods in Europe and North America has caused imports from developing world to developed world [3]. Local producers of developing countries cannot approach to this new world crops because of its premium prices. If the social equity issues are left to one side, you may contribute to the fact that organic products are produced by the poor and they are consumed by the rich.

In fact, the issue is related with inaccurate nourishment system of the world rather than current farming system. A report supports this phenomenon that 1.9 billion adults are overweight and of these 600 million are obese, while 793 million people are undernourished. In addition, 28% of children under the age of five are stunted due to malnourishment [4,5]. It is a reality that the world

has enough food to feed all humans in next generations as well. However, global competition, possible trade wars and other known factors have helped to maldistribution of the staple crops or processed food products.

Despite of abovementioned topics, justifying the intensive agriculture does not benefit to humanity. Environmental degradation, public health issues, loss of genetic biodiversity, loss of family farms, severe impacts on ecosystems are just a few issues of intensive agriculture. Such impacts of intensive agriculture are not observed in economic system. If they are considered as negative externality, price differences between organic and conventional products would be monetary damage value of this agricultural externality. This additional payment is necessary to reach family farms dealing with organic farming. Yet, in developing countries, the width of consumer marketing channels limits the price paid to the organic product to the producer.

Some strategies need to be implemented to ensure that organic agriculture is truly sustainable agriculture. Organic agriculture should be applied in regions where productivity levels are extremely low. In addition, research support for organic farming should be increased because organic agriculture skills are slower developing than that off conventional agriculture. Organic products should be excluded from being a product consumed only by the rich countries, and such a global system must be designed so that the poor can also consume that healthy products.

As for title question, it is not the only solution organic farming for next generations. Conventional production systems, organic agriculture systems and good agricultural practices must be in a logical mixture in a country.

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