

ASSAM TOWARDS ORGANIC

GOVT OF ASSAM
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
INDIA

ORGANIC FARMING IN ASSAM

Assam, one of the States of North Eastern India is endowed with abundant fertile land and water resources. The mighty Brahmaputra and the Barak flow through out the two valleys keeping the State fertile and cool.

Assam is a hot spot of bio-diversity due to its warm humid climate with abundance of forest and hilly areas. Abundance of bio-waste from the Nature for recycling as organic or Natural farming. In hilly areas, Pineapple, Orange, Assam Lemon, Passion Fruits, Spices like Ginger and Turmeric are grown in a big way with no use of chemicals. The Northern Himalayan foot hill border is almost free from all sorts of chemicals. The chemical fertilizer consumption is about 53.50 kg per ha against the National average 104.5 kg per ha. The pesticide consumption is also very low i.e 81.58 gm ai per ha. Thus Assam is organic by default - it is to make Assam certified organic by design only. Accordingly a certified organic programme as Pilot Scheme on Organic Farming was launched during 2004-05 in 91.0 hectares of land with Joha rice as the crop. Now Department of Agriculture is in receipt of NPOP & Nop standard organic certificate. M/s SGS India Pvt. is the inspection and certification agency for organic Joha rice.

JOHA RICE

Rice is the main crop of Assam. Joha, an unique class of rice is known for its flavour, quality and palatability. It is an indispensable food

Productivity :
1.50 - 1.75 MT per ha.
Variety :
Kunkuni (Local)



Composition :

Crude Protein -	11.50%
Soluble Protein -	6.50%
Total Soluble Sugar -	0.93%
Reducing Sugar -	0.30%
Non-reducing Sugar -	0.62%
Starch -	73.00%
Crude Fat -	9.20%
Crude Fibre -	1.25%
Phosphorus (mg/100gm) -	0.30
Calcium (mg/100 gm) -	27.90
Iron (mg/100) -	27.90
Aroma Intensity - +	+ +
Total Starch extracted (TSE) -	19.45%
Amino Protein of TSE -	80.55%

Albumin	: Globulin	: Prolamin	: Glutelin
3	15	6	66

High fat, Albumin and Globulin contents make Joha rice a suitable nutritious cereal.

Marketing : During May, 2007, the first consignment of organic Joha rice (17.5 MT) was exported to Europe through M/s. Sunstars Overseas Ltd., Haryana. The second consignment (32 MT) could not be exported due to ban on non-Basmati rice for export.



NATIONAL PROJECT ON ORGANIC FARMING :

(i) Two model organic farms have been established during 2006-07 as follows -

Sl. No.	Location	Area (Ha)	Crop (Area in Ha)	
a.	Lakhimpur	2.0	Turmeric	1.0
			Bhut Jalakia	0.5
			Brinjal	0.5
b.	FTS, Telia Bebejia	2.0	Turmeric	1.0



(ii) **Vermiculture Hatchery**

Units : 20 Nos. of Hatchery units also have been established during 2007-08 and the production has already been started.



(iii) During 2008-09 the implementation process of conversion of about 7,500 hectares of conventional land to organic under 15 Nos. of Service Provider Schemes has already been initiated covering both Agricultural & Horticultural crops.

(iv) Twenty number of more hatchery units and four number of model organic farms are also coming up during 2008-09 for development of infrastructure and as well as a part of promotion of Organic Farming in the State.

HORTICULTURE TECHNOLOGY MISSION :

Under Technology Mission for integrated development of Horticulture, Organic Farming has also been taken up as follows from 2007-08-

Sl. No.	District	Crop	Area (in ha)
1.	Golaghat	Ginger	300
2.	Tinsukia	-do-	300
3.	Karbi Anglong	-do-	200
Total			800

M/s.SGS India Pvt. Ltd. is the working as inspection and certification agency.

STATE BIO-CONTROL LABORATORY :

A State Bio-Control Laboratory Guwahati is an integral part of IPM. Now the laboratory has become an important infrastructure for development of Organic Farming in the State. The laboratory produces Bio-agents like Tricho-cards for controlling of various harmful insects. Pseudomonas flourescens and Trichoderma are two another important products of State Bio-control Laboratory.



STATE INITIATIVE :

(i) Of late, Department of Agriculture, Assam, Karbi Anglong district has taken initiative from promotion of Organic Farming in the district as follows where M/s SGS India Pvt. Ltd. has been appointed as inspection and certification agency -

1.	Joha rice	-	100 Ha.
2.	Ginger	-	200 Ha.
3.	Pineapple	-	60 Ha.
4.	Turmeric	-	40 Ha.
5.	Orange	-	100 Ha.
Total -			500 Ha.

(ii) Department of Agriculture, Assam has also planned to invest Rs. 1.4 Crores for promotion of various Organic activities in the State. Within this financial outlay, an important item is to establish 300 number of Vermicompost production units for infrastructure development of organic Farming.

(iii) Department of Agriculture, Assam has taken initiative to establish a Super Organic Market in Guwahati. The preliminary work has already been initiated.

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