



**Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural
Research Policy**



National Research Priorities on Organic Agriculture

**National Committee on Organic Agriculture
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Organic Agriculture**

Objectives

Identify research needs and prioritize them in organic agriculture to improve the production of cleaner foods; improve the quality of landscapes which includes soils, water, biota and aesthetics; minimum impact on the environment; economically viable and acceptable to society.

Expected Outcomes

Expected to provide;

Priority research themes for the national researchers as a guideline to address the current research needs and to form a platform to execute those issues with better collaboration

Basis for the stakeholder Research Institutes/ Departments/ Universities etc . which involve in the organic and allied fields, to re-direct their research programs to be more focused

Strategic directions for the national research programs to formulate research projects and investments in the future

National Stakeholder Consultation workshop comprising leading stakeholders of organic producers of all levels held at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute on the 6th December 2012

Government departments and institutes, private sector organizations, universities, etc. was held at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute

The Expert Consultation Forum held at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Peradeniya on the 3rd and 4th October, 2014.

The Expert Consultation Forum held at the Regional Agriculture Research and Development Centre in Makandura on 18 August 2016

Based on the outcome of these consultation meetings → key thematic areas to be researched were identified .

There are **Seven Thematic** area

Then major issues under a given thematic areas and specific issues per each major issue, and research strategies and activity plan per each specific issue were

Thematic Area 1: PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LAND IMPROVEMENT

Major Issue 1: Marginal or Unproductive Land with Poor Soil and Water Conditions Available For Organic Agriculture

Specific issues:

Degraded lands, Contaminated soils

1.1.1 Research Strategies:

- Categorization of agriculture lands and identification of land improvement requirements in categories.
- Identification of lands based on pollutants/contaminants level and developing soil reclamation mechanisms.
- Identification of most appropriate farming systems for specific site conditions considering eco-physical, social and cultural issues.

1.1.2 Activities:

- Land classification, mapping and development of site quality indices for categorization of suitable land use types for organic farming
- Identification of organically based suitable soil and water improvement and conservation measures.
- Detection of soil and water pollutants /contaminants, causal factors, and developing soil and water reclamation measures.
- Identification of most appropriate organic farming systems based on the site condition, organic matter availability in the area, and also based on social and cultural aspects.

Major Issue 2: Lack of Suitable Planting Materials for Organic Agriculture

Specific Issues:

- Lack of high potential crop species/varieties/cultivars
- Inadequate supply of quality planting materials
- Lack of seed and planting materials multiplication methods

Major Issue 3: Poor Agronomic Management

Specific Issues:

- Inappropriate land preparation and management systems
- Lack of organically based inputs
- Poor pests, diseases and weed management
- Poor water management
- Inappropriate farming systems and crop/animal combinations

Thematic Area 2: MAKING AVAILABLE OF QUALITY ORGANIC INPUTS AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE

Major Issue 1: Inadequacy of Organic Inputs

Specific issues:

Lack of less bulky local bio-fertilizers

Lack of growth promoting substances and production technology

Lack of pest, diseases and weed control products and protocols

Thematic Area 3: QUALITY ASPECTS OF ORGANIC FOODS

Major Issue 1: Lack of Information on Nutritional Benefits and Contamination Levels in Various Organic Foods

Specific issues:

Lack of knowledge on quality variations of organically grown products based on genetic, environment and management measures

Thematic Area 4: POST HARVESTING, PROCESSING AND VALUE ADDITION

Major Issue 1: Lack of Knowledge and Technologies on Postharvest Handling

Specific Issues:

Lack of accepted methodologies for storing and maintaining keeping qualities of organic products until they are reached the customers.

Thematic Area 5: CERTIFICATION, MARKETING AND TRADING PROMOTION

Major Issue 1: Limited Awareness on Certification Requirements

Specific issues:

Lack of awareness on standardization and certification process

Thematic Area 6: DEVELOP SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR INDIGENOUS ORGANIC MEASURES

Major Issue 1: Promotion of Non-Evidence Based Different Local/Traditional Concepts

Specific Issues:

Lack of scientific information of specific local/traditional management measures

Thematic Area 7: NATIONAL POLICY ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Major Issue 1: Lack Of Organic Farming National Strategy, Plan and Policies to Address the Current Needs

Research Strategies

Identification of policy gaps and need of new policies.

Identification of the impacts of other national and international trade policies on organic production sector.

Thank You