

Network Project on Organic Farming

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Source: *Indian Council of Agricultural Research*

Objectives

- To study productivity, profitability, sustainability, quality, and input-use-efficiencies of different crops and cropping systems under organic farming in different agro-ecological regions.
- To develop efficient crop and soil management options for organic farming.
- To develop need-based cost-effective new techniques for farm-waste recycling.

The genesis of the NPOF

- In order to develop a comprehensive technological package of organic farming for different crops in system mode at various locations of the country, a Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) was initiated during 2004-05 by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi with Project Directorate for Farming Systems Research (PDFSR) as nodal institute.
- Four experiments were planned and conducted at 13 centers to address, all issues such as
 1. Comparison of organic
 2. Inorganic and integrated nutrient management practices
 3. Method and source of nutrient application
 4. Management of pest
 5. Diseases and weeds in various crops/ cropping systems.
- **The mandate of the project is to infuse scientifically validated organic farming approaches** and to develop

location/ region-specific management protocols for organic farming.

- In the 12th plan, the Directorate was renamed as ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research.