* **ORGANIC FARMING/AGRICULTURE**
* According to definition of USDA organic farming is a production system, which avoids or excludes the use of synthetic inorganic fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additives. This system largely depends upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, green manures, off-farm organic wastes, mechanical cultivation, mineral bearing rocks and aspects of biological pest control to maintain soil productivity, to supply pant nutrients and to control insects, pathogens and weeds.
* According to the definition of FAO, organic farming is successful management of resources for agriculture to satisfy changing humans needs while maintaining or enhancing the quality of environment and consuming natural resources. It emphasizes the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adopted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfill any specific function within the system. In organic farming major emphasis is given on recycling of recyclable organic wastes (crop residues, animal waste and municipal and sewage wastes). These are valuable sources of plant nutrients and humus. When industrial waste are recycled as manure for crop production and are subjected to degradation and assimilative capacity of soil pollution of streams/rivers receiving these wastes is reduced to a large extent as compared to their direct disposal in water bodies. The manurial value and quality of these wastes could be improved by composting and enriching these organic sources alongwith inexpensive material such as rock phosphate. There is great potential for utilization of crop residues/straw of some of major cereals and pulses considering that about 50% of these residues are utilized as animal feed, the rest could be very well utilized for recycling of nutrients. Crop residues have wide C:N ratio and when applied directly nutrients may get immobilized leading to initial adverse effect on crop growth. Hence, adequate care is required to use residues after proper composting with efficient microbial inoculants. Inoculation of these wastes produces enough simple sugar for growth and multiplication of beneficial micro flora like free living nitrogen fixers and phosphate solubilizers in the soil which ultimately increases crop yield.

**CONCEPT OF ORGANIC FARMING**

Organic farming systems do not use toxic agrochemical inputs (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and fertilizers). Instead they are bases on development of biological diversity for

* Substitution of manures, farm organic resources and biofertilizers for inorganic fertilizers to maintain and replenish soil productivity.
* Insects, diseases and weeds management instead of chemical control.

**AIMS/OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIC FARMING**

Organic farming system approach is based on the perception that tomorrow‘s ecology is more important than today‘s economy. Without ecology there is no economy. The economy must readjust to the primary production factors and not the other way round. International Federation Of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFDAM) expressed the objectives of organic farming as follows:

1. To work, as much as possible, within a closed system with regard to organic matter and nutrient elements,
2. To maintain and increase long term fertility and productivity of soils,
3. To stop degradation and re-establish natural balance,
4. To avoid all form of pollutions that may result from agricultural techniques,
5. To minimize the use of fossil energy in agriculture,
6. To work with natural system rather than seeking to dominate them,
7. To use as far as possible, renewable sources in locally organized agricultural systems,
8. To encourage and enhance the biological cycles with farming system involving microorganisms, soil flora and fauna, plants and animals,
9. To give all livestock, conditions of life that allow them to perform all aspects of their innate (natural) behavior,
10. To maintain the genetic diversity of agricultural system and its surroundings, including the protection of plants and wildlife habitats,
11. To produce food of high nutritional quality in sufficient quantity,
12. To allow agricultural producers an adequate return and satisfaction from their work including a safe working environment,
13. To consider the wider social and ecological impact of the farming system.