History and Development of Organic Product

Until the early part of the 20th Century pretty much all the food grown across the world was organic. It wasn’t called organic food – it was just food. Nobody had thought of putting chemicals into soil and sprays to enhance crop growth and yield. And genetic engineering took place over generations as farmers selectively bred to improve their stock or their seeds.

With the rise of the petro-chemical industries in the early 1900s, agricultural research became focused very much on the chemicals that are needed for plant and animal growth. That these chemicals come from finite resources, most often as by-products of oil refining, was rarely thought of. That they could cause other problems was seldom recognized until the problems became too big to ignore.

We use the development history of organic product industry in United States and Europe because their technology and regulation is reputed as mature industry in the world and used by a lot of developing counties as basis for their organic product development and regulation.

History in Time Line

**In 1920 - 1940** American and British publications form the foundation of organics**.**

Writers in the United States and Great Britain -- Sir Albert Howard, Rudolf Steiner, Lady Eve Balfour and J.I. Rodale to name a few — publish influential works introducing the basic idea of organics. They posit that the health of plants, soil, livestock, and people are interrelated. They advocate for an approach to farming based on working with natural systems rather than trying to control them.

**In 1940s** Chemical pesticides and herbicides make their way into agriculture.

Synthetic pesticides and herbicides are introduced to American agriculture as part of the Green Revolution. Exactly i**n 1939, Paul Muller developed DDT,** the first of a new class of insecticides – chlorinated hydrocarbons to counter the pest problems. Since then, a new way of farming emerged, where the use of chemicals was heavily promoted. This **led to the outright dismissal of organic farming methods.**

**In 1940 - 1960** Organic farmers form network and write their stories.

A loose network of farmers - including J. I. Rodale, Ehrnefried Pfeiffer of Kimberton Farm School, and Paul K. Keene of Walnut Acres Farms - shun chemical agriculture by farming organically and writing about their experiences.

Consumers gain increased access to organic food, with the forming of Natural Food Associates (NFA) in Atlanta, Texas, to help connect scattered organic growers with fledgling markets for organically grown foods.

In 1962, science writer Rachel Carson published Silent Spring, a book where she criticized the improperly use of chemical pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers. The book title refers to the ultimate disappearance of songbirds because of the effects of DDT. This book documents some of the negative consequences associated with chemical use in agriculture and gives rise to a new environmental consciousness and renewed focus on organic agriculture.

**In 1960s and 1970s, The ‘be natural’ approach is** growing as result of the growth of consumer interest in health and nutrition, the growth of the green movement, the focus on conservation and environmental issues stimulated the development of the organic market and encouraged farmers to adopt organic methods.

In 1973 Consumer opposition to chemical pesticides grows. In United States started to bans the pesticide DDT, which some mark as the start of the modern environmental movement. The organics industry grows appreciably due to expanding consumer opposition to chemical pesticides coupled with a desire for food that is produced without harming the environment.

In this era, regional groups from across the US begin to develop private organic certification standards. The expansion of the organic food industry prompts activists across the United States to form regional groups and create organic standards by which to certify farmers and their crops.

**In 1990s** as the organic industry grows, national standards begin to form. The organic food industry reaches estimated sales of more than $1 billion. Congress passes the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, which establishes the framework to create National Organic Standards.

In 1997/8 Consumers speak out about questionable National Organic Standards. Organic food industry members and consumers supporting the write-in campaign with our customers - send over 275,000 comments to the USDA on their proposed National Organic Standards, which included provisions not recommended by the NOSB. These controversial provisions were removed based on these comments.

The USDA's Economic Research Service releases a major study on the status of organics in the United States showing that certified organic cropland more than doubled during the previous decade and that some organic livestock sectors - eggs and dairy - grew even faster.

In **millennium era**

In 2002, the Organic Standards arrive with the full implementation of the U.S. National Organic Standards takes place October 21st.

2008 Americans choose organics; the Farm Bill increases organics research. A study by the Hartman Group reveals that nearly 70% of U.S. consumers buy organic products at least occasionally, with organic fruits and vegetables the most popular type of organic foods purchased.

The 2008 Farm Bill introduces a five-fold increase in the amount allocated for existing organic programs and additional funding for new organic programs. Initiatives include research efforts and assistance for farmers managing organic certification costs.

In 2011 the organic food industry shows no signs of slowing. The organics market tops $30 billion, representing a 9.5% growth over previous years.

Organic Products offered only through health food stores in the 1970s and 1980s spread to the corners of supermarkets in the 1990s. Today, organic products occupy prime shelf space in the big chain supermarkets. Nowadays, it becomes a massive market impact in food industry.

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