



Question 16. Identify the benefits and limitations of organic farming.

Answer. The advantages of organic farming are:

1. Inexpensive Process. Organic agriculture offers a means to substitute costlier agricultural inputs (such as HYV seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) with locally produced organic inputs that are cheaper and thereby generate more return on investment.
2. Generates Income. It generates income through international exports as the demand for organically grown crops is on a rise.
3. Healthier and Tastier Food. Organically grown food has more nutritional value than food grown with chemical farming. It, thus, provides us with healthy foods.
4. Solves Unemployment Problem. Since organic farming requires more labour input than conventional farming, it will solve unemployment problem.
5. Environment Friendly. The produce is pesticide-free and produced in an environmentally sustainable way.

Limitations of organic farming are:

1. It has been observed that the yield from organic farming is much less than modern agricultural farming. Thus, goods produced organically command a higher price.
2. Small and marginal farmers may not adapt to this type of farming due to lack of awareness and limited choice of alternate production in off-seasons.
3. Organic produce may have a shorter shelf life.

Question 17. Enlist some problems faced by farmers during the initial years of organic farming.

Answer.

1. Organic farming requires:
 - (a) Organic Manure
 - (b) Bio-fertilizers
 - (c) Organic PesticidesAlthough they are cheaper to acquire, yet farmers find it difficult to get them.
2. The yield from organic farming is much less than modern agricultural farming.
3. The price of organic foods is high, so it is difficult to sell them.
4. Organic produce generally has a shorter shelf life.

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