

## **Inspite of India being a organic product exporter, only 0.4% of agricultural land is under organic farming**

Jaipur, October 20, 2016

In India, 720000 hectares of land is under organic farming but it is only 0.4% of total agricultural area. An increase in this percentage is only possible when it becomes a movement run by all the stakeholders. George Cheriyan, Director CUTS International shared in the opening remark in the Stakeholders Consultation under Green Action Campaign organized by CUTS International. He added that Indian peoples are consuming 750 times more pesticides than European peoples with vegetable and fruits. Sikkim is 100 percent organic farming state while Kerala is going to become 100 percent Organic farming states in 2016 with the mutual support of government and framers. Though, this programme is considered as people's movement. Rajasthan is moving towards adopting organic farming cultivation. This needs integrated efforts from both government and farmers side.

Dr. Shital Prasad Sharma, Director, State Institute of Agriculture Management shared that CUTS is doing tremendous work of promoting organic consumption as well as production which is important to create a culture of sustainable development.

Varidhi Singh, Project Officer, CUTS International, Jaipur shared the activities conducted under this campaign such as cottage meetings, street plays and signature campaigns, and stakeholders' consultation. The main objective of the campaign was to generate awareness among consumers about organic vegetables and fruits that would encourage consumers to shift towards organic agricultural products and sustainable consumption.

Dr. A. K. Gupta, Prof. & Head, Rajasthan Agriculture Research Institute, Jaipur shared that from the date green revolution period to now India has received food security but the issue of food safety has become main concern on present time. He stressed on healthy soil which gives healthy food. This will achieve with the help of integrated farming method with adopting organic farming and reduced dependency on external inputs use in agriculture

Dr S. Mukherjee from RARI shared about astro- physics interventions of ancient agriculture.

Satyaveer Beniwal from Morarka Foundation informed about certification process in organic farming.

Consultation was attended by more than 50 participants including representatives of civil society organisations, educational and research institutes, universities and media.

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**For more information please contact at**

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