



# Organic Farming



EE 390

Monday, February 17, 2014

\$1.25

## What is Organic Farming?



- A Production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people.
- Relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects.
- Promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

Principles  
Methods



## ADVANTAGE OF ORGANIC FARMING



## DISADVANTAGE OF ORGANIC FARMING

- **Productivity Yield**  
The conversion period from conventional to organic farming can be 2-3 years. During this period, the yield is significantly lower than conventional farming.
- **Cost**  
Organic farming is more expensive than conventional farming due to the higher cost of labor and the need for more land.
- **Time**  
Organic farming requires more time for crop production and processing.
- **Skill**  
Organic farming requires more knowledge and experience in soil management and pest control.

A bigger issue during the conversion period from conventional to totally organic when transition related problems are posing (it takes to build a healthy farm ecosystem that copes well without synthetic crutches).

## ORGANIC FARMING IN THAILAND

- **Background information of Organic Farming in Thailand**
- **Reason why Organic Farming can not go mainstream in Thailand**
  - The number of farmers has been decreasing.
  - Most of the farmers are involved in low level of organic farming and do not have sufficient knowledge about organic farming and most of them have no access to market.
  - The cost of Organic Farming is much higher than conventional farming.



## CONCLUSION

Organic farming can't go mainstream in Thailand

Despite many advantages organic farming might grant, organic farming still can not go mainstream in Thailand for many reasons. In the present, young adults are less likely to be interested in farming than most farmers are old and didn't receive proper education. Organic farming requires great amount of skills in both management and farming when preparing soil for harvest and harvesting produce without using any chemical substances. Moreover, most farmers in Thailand depends their lives on their crop productivity but organic farming yields lower productivity so farmers would not see organic farming as attractive. The conversion of organic farming is more costly conventional farming and a lot of case has to be paid upon. Most of the farmers might not have sufficient funds to transition from conventional to organic farming so organic farming might not be as attractive. These are the reasons why organic farming can't go mainstream in Thailand just yet.

## QUESTION & ANSWER

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## ADVANTAGE OF ORGANIC FARMING



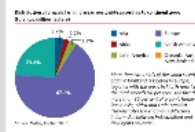
## DISADVANTAGE OF ORGANIC FARMING

<p><b>• Productivity Yield</b></p> <p>The organic yields are lower than synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. This is because the soil has more organic matter and less nitrogen. This means that the soil has more organic matter and less nitrogen.</p>	<p><b>• Skill</b></p> <p>It requires a lot of knowledge and experience to manage an organic farm. This is because organic farming is a complex system that requires a lot of knowledge and experience.</p>
<p><b>• Time</b></p> <p>Organic farming requires more time to prepare the soil and to harvest the crops. This is because organic farming is a more labor-intensive system that requires more time to prepare the soil and to harvest the crops.</p>	

A bigger issue during the conversion period from conventional to wholly organic when transition related problem are peaking (it takes to build a healthy farm ecosystem that copes well without synthetic crutches).

## ORGANIC FARMING IN THAILAND

- Background information of Organic Farming in Thailand
- Reasons why Organic Farming can not go mainstream in Thailand
  - The number of farmers has been decreasing
  - Most of Thai farmers are uneducated and lack of sufficient knowledge about organic farming and most of them have unstable financial status.
  - The cost of Organic Farming is much higher than conventional farming.



## CONCLUSION

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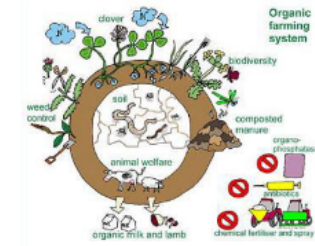
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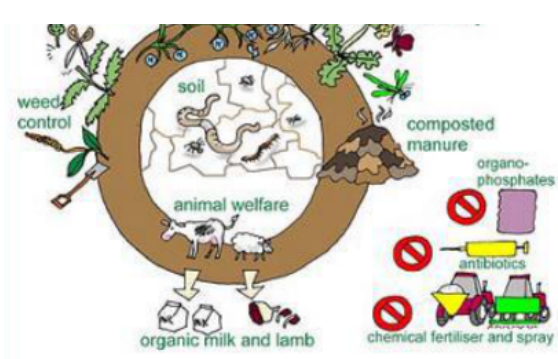


# What is Organic Farming?

- A Production system that works with nature, soils, ecosystems and the environment
- Relies on ecological processes and cycles adapted to local conditions, and the use of inputs with the least possible impact on the environment
- Promote fair relations between people who grow, distribute and consume food



# Farming!



- A Production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people.
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## Principles

## Methods



# Principles



## Principle of Health

Sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet

## Principle of Ecology

Based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, and help sustain them

## Principle of Fairness

Build on relationships that ensure fairness

## Principle of Care

Protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment



# Crop Rotation

Grow various kinds of crops in the same area, according to different seasons, in a sequential manner

# Green Manure

Refers to the dying plants that are uprooted and stuffed into the soil in order to make them act as a nutrient for soil to increase its quality

# Biological Pest Control

Living organisms are used to control pests

# Compost

Recycled organic matter which are highly rich in nutrients used as a fertilizer in the agriculture farms

# Soil Management

Using bacteria that is present in animal waste to enhance soil quality

# Weed Management

- Mulching - plastic films are used in order to block the growth of weed
- Mowing and cutting - a removal of weeds' top growth

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# ADVANTAGE OF ORGANIC FARMING

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1. Organic farming is a type of agriculture that uses natural methods to grow crops and raise animals. It avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and antibiotics.

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## 1. The Promotion of Biodiversity

Organic methods help to promote biodiversity, which returns health to each species. Organic farms are havens to wildlife, so our ecosystems are improved, as well.

## 2. The Reduction of Farm Pollution

With these chemicals removed from the equation, organic farming is far more beneficial and less impactful on our environment.

## 3. The Reduction of Toxic Substances in the Environment

Over 900 million acres of land subjected to chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as well as other substances used in livestock farming. Any reduction of this number would have a benefit to the environment around us.

## 4. Better-Tasting Food

With these chemicals removed from the equation, organic farming is far more beneficial and less impactful on our environment. It's not just imaginary: organic food actually can taste better than its conventionally farm-raised counterpart. Some organic produce has lower nitrate contents than its non-organic version. This lends to better-tasting fruits that also have been shown to contain higher levels of antioxidants.

## 5. Better Soil

Instead of chemical fertilizers and ammonia - we would instead see an increase in the healthiness of the topsoil, which in turn would produce fruit and vegetables higher in minerals and micronutrients.

## 6. Job Creation

There are more than 10,000 certified organic producers in the United States comparing to the nearly 2 million conventional farms. Organic farms often require more employees. It's not difficult to equate the economic benefit and job creation that a shift to organic farming would create.

## 7. Assisting the Fight against Climate Change

It reduces nonrenewable energy use. It takes considerable amounts of fossil fuel to create the synthetic fertilizers and pesticides used in conventional farming. What's more, organic farming increases the amount of carbon returned to the soil, which in turn lessens the impact on the greenhouse effect and global warming.

## 8. Safer Water

The runoff of the chemicals from conventional farming seeps groundwater supplies, and groundwater pollution has become a serious issue. Organic farming enriches the soil, which not only removes the risk of ground water pollution but can also act as a way to rehabilitate soil in areas.

## 9. Preservation of the Culture of Agriculture

Organic farming celebrates healthfulness and biodiversity. It removes damaging chemical toxins from our environment and our food. That is something to promote and foster.

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# DISADVANTAGE OF ORGANIC FARMING

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- **Productivity Yield**

- The organic farm is free from those pesticides, fertilizers and antibiotics. Thus it implies that the yield from organic farm will be likely to yield less than conventional.



- **Time**

- Organic farming requires greater interaction between a farmer and his crop for observation, timely intervention and weed control for instance
- It requires more work: weed control, with the use of human labor
- Meet organic requirements very detailed methods and techniques

- **Skill**

- It requires considerably more skill to farm organically
- Professional farming of any sort naturally imparts a close and observant relationship to living things
- Farmers may consider getting an education

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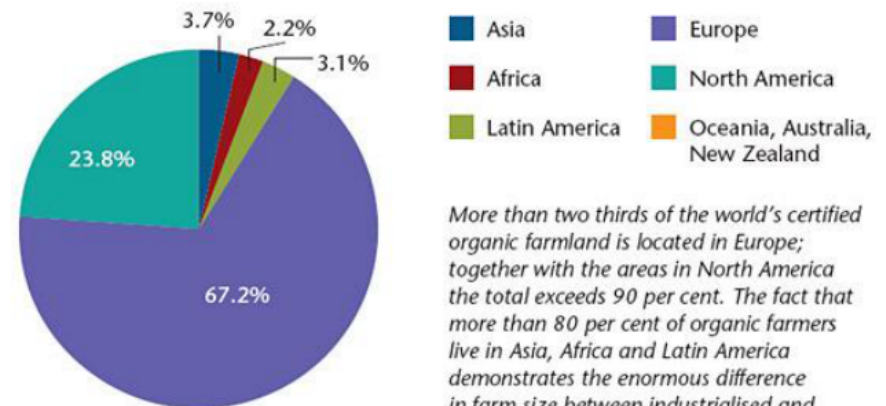
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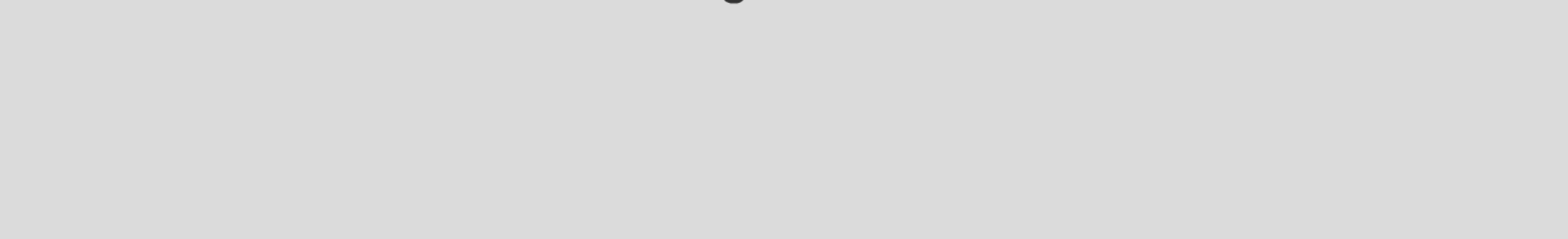
Distribution of organic farming areas worldwide according to continent 2009  
(total 5.5 million hectare)



Source: Willer, Kilcher 2011

*More than two thirds of the world's certified organic farmland is located in Europe; together with the areas in North America the total exceeds 90 per cent. The fact that more than 80 per cent of organic farmers live in Asia, Africa and Latin America demonstrates the enormous difference in farm size between industrialised and developing countries.*

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# QUESTION & ANSWER

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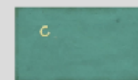
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## ADVANTAGE OF ORGANIC FARMING



## DISADVANTAGE OF ORGANIC FARMING

### • Productivity Yield

The conversion of conventional to organic farming is a long process. It takes 3-5 years to build up soil fertility and to establish a healthy ecosystem. During this period, the yield is significantly lower than conventional farming.

### • Skill

Organic farming requires a high level of skill and knowledge. Farmers need to understand the complex interactions between different elements of the ecosystem and to manage them accordingly.

### • Time

Organic farming is a labor-intensive process. It requires a lot of time and effort to maintain the soil and to manage the pests and diseases.

“A bigger issue during the conversion period from conventional to totally organic when transition related problems are posing it takes to build a healthy farm ecosystem that copes well without synthetic crutches.”

## ORGANIC FARMING IN THAILAND

### • Background information of Organic Farming in Thailand

- Occurrence why Organic Farming can not go mainstream in Thailand
  - The number of farmers has been decreasing.
  - Market: The farmers are not interested and they do not have the knowledge about organic farming and most of them have already transitioned to conventional farming.
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