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## A study on perception of farmers about natural farming

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### Abstract

The present study was conducted mainly with the objective to study the "Perception of Farmers about Natural Farming" For the study; Auraiya district was selected from Uttar Pradesh. Two blocks namely, Ajitmal and Bhidhuna were selected purposively. Two villages from each block were selected purposively. From each village 30 farmers were selected purposively. Thus, constituting the sample size of 120 farmers. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study.

A number of profile characteristics were selected as independent variables to find out profile of farmers of the study area. It was revealed from the study, that majority (54.16%) of the respondents belonged to middle age category, the respondents (56.66%) had medium farming experience category and the respondents(30.83%) were belonged to small farmers category (1.01 to 2.00 ha.). Majority (65.00%) of farmers had medium annual income (Rs. 115076 to Rs. 392139), majority (69.16%) of the respondents had medium category of social participation, majority (64.16%) of respondents had medium level of extension contact and had medium (57.5%) use of sources of information. Majority of the respondents (68.33%) was having medium level of risk orientation, the majority (71.66%) of farmers had medium perception whereas.

**Keywords:** Perception, farmers, natural farming

### Introduction

Natural farming is different from that of organic farming by not using any organic manure like FYM, vermi-compost, etc. 'Natural Farming' means farming with the nature. Natural farming nurture the growth of beneficial micro-organisms and earthworms without any external inputs which reduce the cost of farming, increase the productivity of land, improve soil health and gives toxic free food to consumers. Natural farming is also known as Spiritual Farming due to its holistic approach and recently it renamed as 'Subhash Palekar Natural Farming'. Natural farming is the best alternative to the present chemical inputs based conventional agriculture and address the adverse impacts of climate change. According to Palekar, Plants takes about 98 to 98.50% nutrients from air, water and solar energy. So, there is no need of fertilizers to plants. Jee amrita, beejamrita, acchadana and waaphasa are four aspects of natural farming which are essential for processing of farming

### Research Methodology

The present study was conducted in Ajitmal and Bhidhuna blocks of Auraiyadistrictin Uttar Pradesh state. In Auraiya there are 7 blocks, out of which two blocks namely, Ajitmal and Bidhuna were selected purposively in Auraiya district. From each block, 2 villages were selected purposively and from each village 30 farmers were purposively selected to comprise 120 respondents. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study.

Data were collected by personally interviewing the respondents. Collected data were tabulated properly. Mean and standard deviation, frequency, percentage, coefficient of correlation methods of statistical tools were used for interpretation of data.

### Results and Discussion

It is apparent from the table 1.0 that majority (97.5%) of the respondents were agree about it is possible to sell natural farming products at higher price demand, (79.2%) respondents were agree about natural farming reduces cost of cultivation to a greater extent, It is possible to solve our environmental problems through natural farming (78.3%).

**Table 1:** Perception of farmers about natural farming

Sr. No.	Statement	Response(n=120)		
		A	UD	DA
1.	Natural farming reduces cost of cultivation to a greater extent	95 79.2%	19 15.8%	6 5.0%
2.	Soil will be enriched with natural farming	98 81.7%	14 6.5%	8 6.7
3.	Natural farming increases micro-organism and earthworms in soil	96 80.0%	16 13.3%	8 6.7%
4.	Natural farming gives sustainable yields	53 35.0%	25 20.8%	42 35.0%
5.	Natural farming facilitates natural enemies population	79 65.8%	21 17.5%	20 16.7%
6.	Quality production is possible with Natural farming	67 55.8%	22 18.3%	31 25.8%
7.	Natural farming gives more net returns	82 68.3%	15 12.5%	23 19.2%
8.	Natural farming practice should be practiced by all farmers	90 75.0%	23 19.2%	7 5.8%
9.	Natural farming is relatively advantageous over chemical farming	92 76.7%	23 19.2%	5 4.2%
10.	It is possible to sell Natural farming products at higher price demand	117 97.5%	2 1.7%	1 0.8%
11.	Natural farming is feasible to adopt in present farming situation	103 85.8%	10 8.3%	7 5.8%
12.	It is possible to solve our environmental problems through Natural farming	94 78.3%	11 9.2%	15 12.5%
13.	Adoption of Natural farming on large scale is possible	58 28.3%	28 23.3%	34 28.3%
14.	Preparation of asthras is difficult	59 49.2%	23 19.2%	38 31.7%
15.	Adoption of Natural farming practices is practically not feasible	57 47.5%	28 23.3%	35 29.2%
16.	Adoption of Natural farming practices is highly risky and hence it is not advisable to follow the same	65 54.2%	18 15.0%	37 30.8%
17.	Natural farming is difficult to practice	64 53.3%	18 15.0%	38 31.7%
18.	Availability of traditional varieties seed is difficult	23 19.2%	36 30.0%	61 50.8%

Soil will be enriched with natural farming (81.7%), natural farming gives sustainable yields (35.0%). Quality production is possible with natural farming (55.8%). Natural farming is feasible to adopt in present farming situation (85.8%), natural farming increases micro-organisms and earth worms in soil (80.0%), natural farming gives more net returns (68.3%), natural farming facilitates natural enemies population (65.8%), natural farming is relatively advantageous over chemical farming (76.7%), natural farming practice should be practiced by all farmers (75.0%), adoption of natural farming on large scale is possible (28.3%), preparation of asthras is difficult (49.2%), natural farming is difficult to practice (53.3%). Adoption of natural farming practices is practically not feasible (47.5%), Adoption of natural farming practices is highly risky and hence it is not advisable to follow the same (54.2%), availability of traditional varieties seed is difficult (19.2%), respectively.

Whereas, majority (30.0%) of the respondents were undecided about availability of traditional varieties seed is difficult, followed by adoption of natural farming practices is practically not feasible (23.3%), adoption of natural farming on large scale is possible (23.3%), natural farming gives sustainable yield (20.8%), preparation of asthras is difficult (19.2%), natural farming is relatively advantageous over chemical farming (19.2%), natural farming practice should be practiced by all farmers (19.2%), quality production possible with natural farming (18.3%), natural farming facilitates natural enemies population (17.5%), natural farming reduces cost of cultivation to a greater extent (15.8%).suffering the initial natural farming is difficult to practice (15.0%). Adoption of natural farming practices is highly risky and hence it is not advisable to follow the same (15.0%), natural farming increases micro-organisms and earth worms in soil (13.3%), natural farming gives more net returns (12.5), It is possible to solve our environmental problems through natural farming (9.2%), natural farming is feasible to adopt in present farming situation (8.3%), Soil will be enriched with natural farming (6.5%), it is possible to sell natural farming products at higher price demand (1.7%).

It is also revealed from table 1.0 that, majority (50.8%) of responds were disagree about availability of traditional varieties seed is difficult, followed by natural farming gives sustainable yields (35.0%) and natural farming gives sustainable yields (35.0%), (31.7%) respondents disagree natural farming difficult to practice. Adoption of practices is highly risky and hence it is not advisable to follow the same (30.8%), Preparation of asthras is difficult (30.7%), adoption of natural farming practices is practically not feasible (29.2%), adoption of natural farming on large scale is possible (28.3%). Quality production is possible with natural farming (25.8%),natural farming gives more net returns (19.2%), natural farming facilitates natural enemies population (16.7%), it is possible solve our environmental problems through natural farming (12.5%), natural farming increases micro-organisms and earth worms in soil (6.7%), Soil will be enriched with natural farming (6.7%), natural farming practices should be practiced by all farmers (5.8%), natural farming is feasible to adopt in present farming situation (5.8%), natural farming is relatively advantageous over chemical farming (5.0%), natural farming reduces cost of cultivation to a greater extent (5.0%). It is possible to solve natural farming products at higher price demand (0.8%).

**Table 2:** Overall distribution of the respondents according to their perception about natural farming

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents(n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (Below 22)	15	12.5
2.	Medium(22to30)	86	71.66
3.	High(Above 30)	19	15.83
	Total	120	100.00

The table 2.0 shows that 71.66 per cent of farmers had medium perception, 15.83 per cent farmers had high perception about natural farming followed by 12.5 per cent of farmers had low perception level about natural farming.

The probable reason might be due to the fact that majority of farmers had high level of education and were good mass media exposure which helps them to get knowledge regarding natural farming. Another reason for such kind of the result may be due to farmers who attended trainings related to natural farming having high knowledge and perception about it.

**Table 3:** Coefficient of correlation between profile of farmers with their perception about natural farming

Sr. No.	Independent	Correlation coefficient ®
1.	Age	-243**
2.	Farming experience	-242**
3.	Education	344**
4.	Land holding	252**
5.	Annual income	299**
6.	Social participation	243**
7.	Extension contact	183*
8.	Sources of information	264**
9.	Risk orientation	192*

\*\*Significant at 0.1 level of probability \*significant at 0.05 NS non-significant

It can be evident from table 3.0 that, variables like education, land holding, annual income. Social participation, sources of information found to be have positive and highly significant relationship with perception of farmers about natural farming. While extension contact and risk orientation found to he have positive and significant relationship with perception of farmers about natural farming at 0.05 per cent probability. While Age and farming experience found to be have negative and non-significant relationship with perception of farmers about natural farming.

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