

# Organic Farming



**Government of Himachal Pradesh**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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## Progress of Organic Farming

| Sr. No. | Particulars  | Unit | Achievement     |
|---------|--|------|-----------------|
| 1.      | Capacity building through service providers  | Nos. | 15,040          |
| 2.      | Setting up of vermiculture hatcheries  | Nos. | 20              |
| 3.      | Vermicompost unit  | Nos. | 2,87,420        |
| 4.      | Farmers' training  | Nos. | 12,897          |
| 5.      | Development of model organic farm  | Nos. | 6 (2 certified) |
| 6.      | Registered growers   | Nos. | 15,040          |
| 7.      | Area under organic farming   | Ha.  | 5,500           |
| 8.      | Training of extension officers on production and Quality Control of organic inputs | Nos. | 26              |

## Programme for 2009-10

| Sr. No. | Particulars  | Unit | Achievement |
|---------|--|------|-------------|
| 1.      | Capacity building through service providers  | Nos. | 9400        |
| 2.      | Setting up of vermiculture hatcheries  | Nos. | 10          |
| 3.      | Vermicompost unit  | Nos. | 1,50,000    |
| 4.      | Farmers' training  | Nos. | 200         |
| 5.      | Registered growers   | Nos. | 9400        |
| 6.      | Area under organic farming   | Ha.  | 1000        |
| 7.      | Training of extension officers on production and Quality Control of organic inputs | Nos. | 20          |





## ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming is a form of agriculture production system, which avoids or largely excludes synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, plant growth regulators, livestock additives, genetically modified organisms. It follows natural way of farming based on ancient teachings. Organic farmers rely on crop rotation, crop residues, animal manures and mechanical cultivation to maintain soil productivity and tilth to supply plant nutrients and to control weeds, insects and other pests.

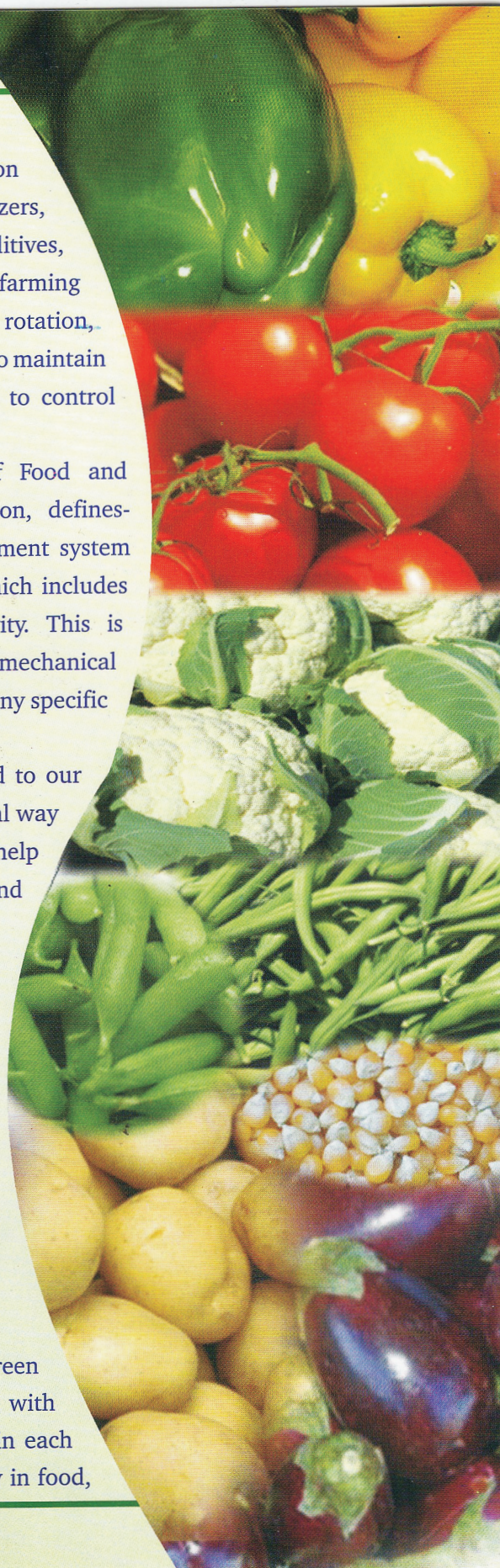
Codex Alimentarius Commission, joint body of Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Health Organisation, defines- "Organic agriculture as holistic food production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, which includes biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. This is accomplished by using, possibly agronomic, biological and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfil any specific function within the system".

Organic food is man's natural diet, the best suited to our nutritional needs. Organic farming practices are the natural way to protect the environment. An organic lifestyle will help improve physical health, emotional and mental well being and heal the planet.

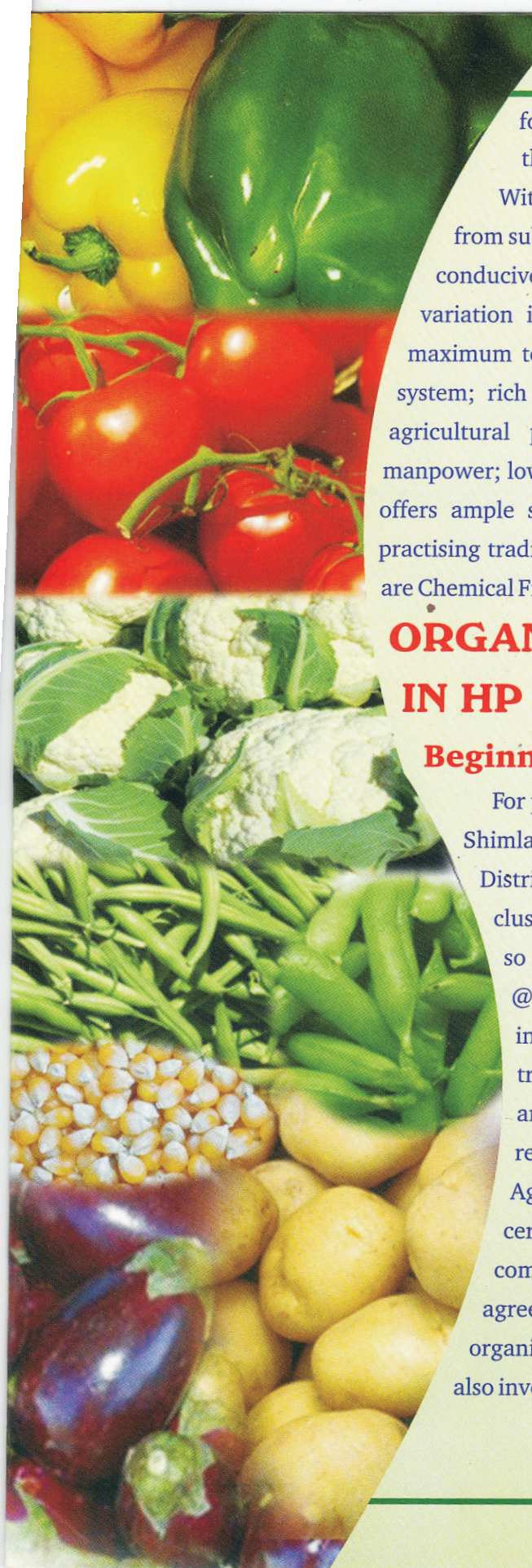
The increased popularity of Organic Agriculture in recent times has been the outcome of rising concerns related to food safety and sustainability of productive assets i.e. natural resources. More and more farmers have shown willingness to adopt Organic Agriculture, having realised that by minimising the use of external inputs the overall cost of production is considerably reduced in the long run. In addition, they are getting premium prices and organic markets are coming up in a big way.

## OUR PROFILE

Himachal Pradesh, with its unique beauty and lush green valleys and snow covered Himalayan ranges, is endowed with unique and diverse forms of flora and fauna inhabiting in each zone. The state is a storehouse of a large array of diversity in food,







fodder, vegetables, horticultural, forest and medicinal plants that grow in valleys, hill terraces and on mountain slopes.

With nine distinct agro-ecological climatic regions, varying from sub-tropical sub-montane to dry temperate high hills, provide conducive conditions for production of wide range of crops; wide variation in agro-climatic parameters i.e. rainfall, minimum and maximum temperature, humidity etc; prevailing traditional farming system; rich indigenous traditional knowledge base; self sustaining agricultural production systems; availability of sufficient skilled manpower; low consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, State offers ample scope for organic farming. Farmers in some areas are practising traditional farming with out any use of chemicals. Such areas are Chemical Free areas.

## **ORGANIC FARMING ACTIVITIES IN HP**

### **Beginning**

For promoting organic farming, a project has been taken up in Shimla district in collaboration with Morarka Foundation and District Rural Dev. Agency, Shimla. Under the project, 48 clusters were formed and 5800 farmers have been registered so far. The Department of Agriculture is providing assistance @ Rs.1500/- per farmer. This assistance would be provided in three years for documentation, data base management, training and capacity building, organic certification, linkage and value addition. Besides this, training of farmers regarding organic farming is also organised. One Cert Asia Agri. Certification Pvt. Ltd., Jaipur has been engaged for the certification of Organic produce. After the certification, this company will explore the market for this produce by making agreement with the interested companies. The programme of organic farming promotion has been extended to other districts also involving local NGOs/ KVKs in other districts.