

EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND SOCIETY

Towards a Holistic Future

Volume VII : Arts – Economics

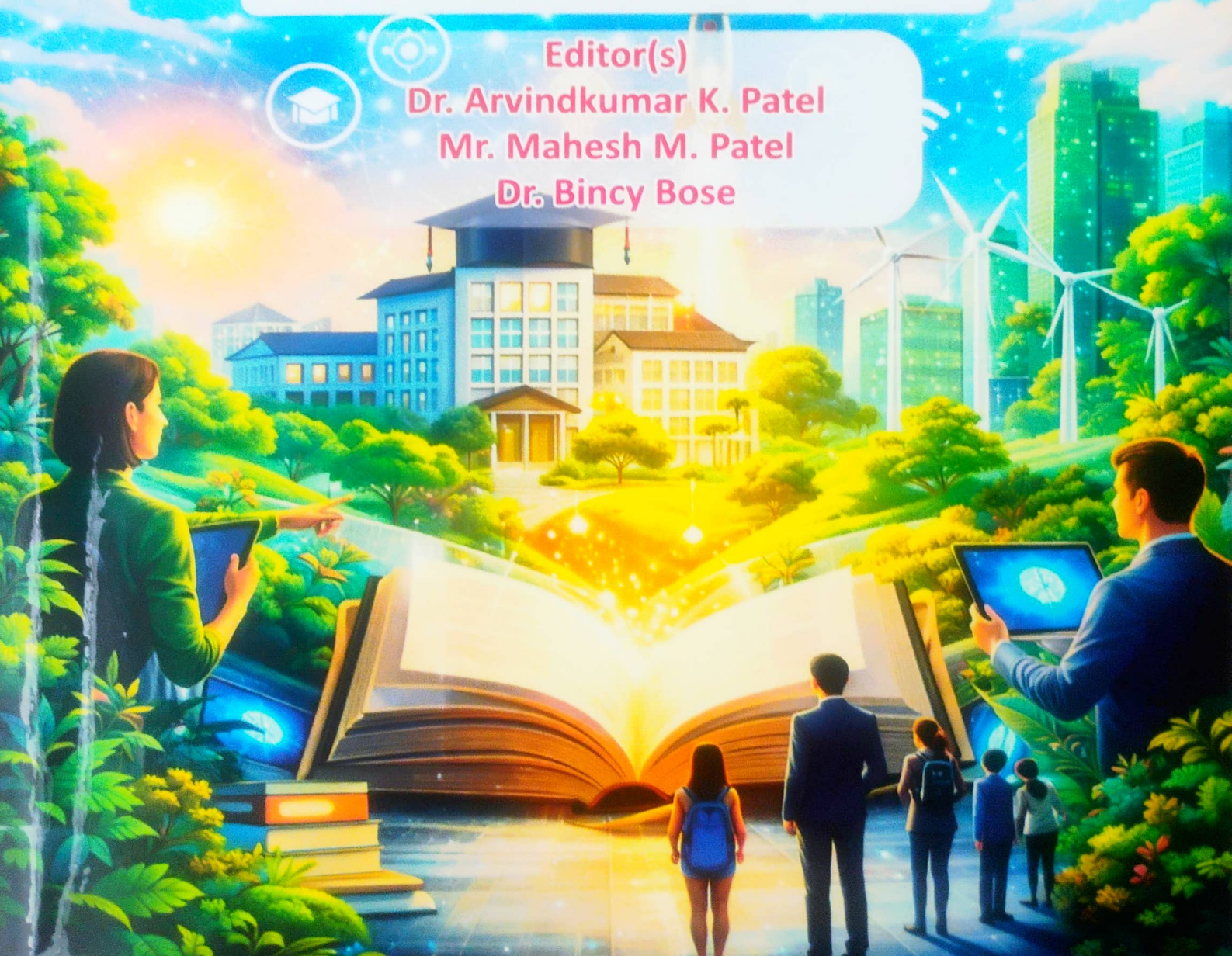


Editor(s)

Dr. Arvindkumar K. Patel

Mr. Mahesh M. Patel

Dr. Bincy Bose



Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

(ISBN: 978-93-89724-93-6)

One-Day International Conference on

**“Education, Innovation and Society:
Towards a Holistic Future”**

Volume VII : Arts – Economics

Organised on
17 January 2026

Organised by

**IQAC, S. S. Mehta Arts and
M. M. Patel Commerce College**

Himmatnagar – 383 001 (Dist. Sabarkantha), Gujarat – India

(Managed by Himmatnagar Kelavani Mandal)

Affiliated to Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan

In Collaboration with

**IQAC, The HNSB Ltd. Science College, Himmatnagar
and**

IQAC, Law College, Himmatnagar

Editor(s)

Dr. Arvindkumar K. Patel (Ph.D., M.A.)

Mr. Mahesh M. Patel (M.A.)

Dr. Bincy Bose (Ph.D., M.A.)

Published by

S. S. Mehta Arts and M. M. Patel Commerce College, Himmatnagar

2026

Disclaimer: The Author is solely responsible for the contents of the book in this volume in any manner. Errors, if any are purely unintentional and readers are requested to communicate such errors to the editor to avoid discrepancies in futures.

Published by

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

S. S. Mehta Arts and M. M. Patel Commerce College, Himmatnagar (Dist. Sabarkantha)

(Affiliated to Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan)

ISBN : 978-93-89724-93-6

Printing and Page Formating

ASF COMPUTERS,

G-16, Osian Complex,

Nr. Bank of Baroda, Nana Bazar,

Vallabh Vidyanagar-388120

Mo: 8000274250

Index

Sr. No.	Title of the Paper	Author	Page No.
1.	Indian Economy and Global Challenges: Opportunities, Constraints, and the Road Ahead	Dr. Dhavalkumar P. Dave	1
2.	A Study on "Green Energy Transition and India's Economic Growth: Opportunities and Challenges	Dr. Manilal R. Patel	15
3.	Global Challenges, Local Responses: India's Economic Adaptability in a Multipolar World	Dr. Rakeshkumar K. Shah	23
4.	Organic Farming and Government Initiatives: A Case Study of Gujarat	Dr. Krupa D. Bhatt	32
5.	ANALYSIS OF GUJARAT'S CERAMIC INDUSTRY	Dr. Vishalkumar H. Joshi	45
6.	World Tariff War: Impacts on Indian Economy and Remedies	Dr. Arvind K. Patel	55
7.	A Study of Indian International Trade and Balance of Payment	Pooja A. Patel	63
8.	ગરીબી, અસમાનતા અને રોજગાર : એક વિશ્લેષણાત્મક અભ્યાસ	પટેલ કલ્પના એમ.	70
9.	અનુસૂચિતજાતિ (SC)ને બજેટની ફાળવણી સંદર્ભે પડતી મુશ્કેલીઓ અને તેના ઉકેલો (ઉત્તર ગુજરાતનાં સંદર્ભમાં)	વાણકર મહેશકુમાર ડી.	77
10.	Jobless Growth: A Case of Agro-based Manufacturing Industries of India	Dr. Sagar J. Rohit	86
11.	ભારતમાં ગરીબી, અસમાનતા અને રોજગારની સ્થિતિ	Dr.Shaktisinh P. Solanki	97
12.	ભારતીય અર્થતંત્ર અને વૈશ્વિક પડકારો	Dr. Ketankumar R. Bhoi	111

4. Organic Farming and Government Initiatives: A Case Study of Gujarat

Dr. Krupa D. Bhatt

Abstract

Organic farming has emerged as a sustainable alternative to conventional agriculture in response to environmental degradation, declining soil fertility, climate change, and health concerns associated with chemical-intensive farming. Governments across the world have recognized the importance of organic agriculture and have initiated policies and programs to promote its adoption. In India, organic farming has received increasing attention at both national and state levels. Gujarat, traditionally known for commercial and industrial agriculture, has recently taken significant steps to encourage organic and natural farming practices. This research paper examines the concept, evolution, and significance of organic farming and analyses government initiatives promoting organic agriculture with a specific focus on Gujarat as a case study. The paper explores the policy framework, institutional support, implementation strategies, and outcomes of organic farming initiatives in Gujarat. It also identifies key challenges faced by farmers and evaluates the prospects of organic farming in the state. The study concludes that while government initiatives have created a positive foundation, sustained policy support, market development, and farmer capacity-building are crucial for the long-term success of organic farming in Gujarat.

Keywords Organic farming, sustainable agriculture, government initiatives, Gujarat, agricultural policy, natural farming, rural development

Introduction

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Indian economy, providing livelihoods to a majority of the rural population and contributing significantly to national food security. Since the Green Revolution, Indian agriculture has experienced substantial growth in productivity due to the adoption of high yielding varieties, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and mechanization. However, this growth has come at a considerable environmental and social cost, including soil degradation, groundwater depletion, biodiversity loss, and health risks due to excessive chemical use.

In recent decades, concerns about the sustainability of conventional agriculture have led to renewed interest in alternative farming systems, particularly organic farming. Organic agriculture emphasizes ecological balance, conservation of natural resources, and the production of safe and nutritious food. Recognizing its potential, governments have begun promoting organic farming as part of broader sustainable development and climate-resilient agriculture strategies.

* Assistant Professor, Uma Arts & Nathiba Commerce Mahila College, Gandhinagar, 7433005889, bhattkrupa8@gmail.com

Gujarat, one of India's most economically advanced states, has a diverse agricultural landscape ranging from arid and semi-arid regions to fertile irrigated zones. While the state has traditionally focused on productivity-driven agriculture, increasing awareness of environmental issues and market demand for organic products has encouraged the government to support organic and natural farming. This paper presents a detailed case study of Gujarat to understand how government initiatives are shaping the growth of organic farming at the state level.

Concept and Evolution of Organic Farming

Meaning of Organic Farming

Organic farming is an agricultural system that avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and growth regulators. It relies on natural inputs, biological processes, crop diversification, and ecological principles to maintain soil fertility and manage pests.

Organic farming views the farm as a living system in which soil, plants, animals, microorganisms, and humans are interdependent. The goal is not merely high yields but long-term sustainability, environmental protection, and human well-being.

Historical Background

Organic farming is not a new concept in India. Traditional Indian agriculture was largely organic, relying on compost, animal manure, crop residues, and natural pest control methods. The introduction of chemical-intensive farming during the Green Revolution in the 1960s marked a shift toward modern agriculture focused on maximizing yields.

Globally, the organic movement gained momentum in the early 20th century as a reaction against industrialized agriculture. Over time, organic farming evolved into a scientifically supported system with internationally recognized standards and certification processes.

Principles and Practices of Organic Farming

Principles of Organic Farming

Organic farming is guided by four core principles:

1. **Health** – Sustaining the health of soil, plants, animals, humans, and ecosystems.
2. **Ecology** – Working in harmony with natural ecological systems and cycles.
3. **Fairness** – Ensuring equity, social justice, and respect for all stakeholders.
4. **Care** – Adopting precautionary approaches to protect future generations.

Major Practices

Key organic farming practices include:

- Crop rotation and intercropping
- Use of compost, farmyard manure, and vermicompost

- Green manuring and cover cropping
- Biological pest and disease control
- Mulching and mechanical weed management
- Conservation of local seed varieties

These practices enhance soil fertility, improve water retention, and promote biodiversity.

Rationale for Government Intervention in Organic Farming

Organic farming requires systematic support due to its initial challenges including lower yields during the transition period, higher labour requirements, and certification complexities. Government intervention becomes essential to:

- Reduce financial risks for farmers
- Provide technical training and extension services
- Facilitate certification and quality assurance
- Develop market infrastructure
- Promote consumer awareness

Public policy plays a critical role in scaling up organic agriculture from niche practices to mainstream farming systems.

Overview of Agricultural Development in Gujarat

Gujarat is a leading agricultural state in India, known for its entrepreneurial farmers and diversified cropping patterns. The state has achieved remarkable growth in areas such as cotton, groundnut, horticulture, dairy, and fisheries.

However, Gujarat also faces significant agricultural challenges:

- Water scarcity in arid and semi-arid regions
- Soil salinity and degradation
- Rising input costs
- Climate variability and frequent droughts

These challenges have prompted the state government to explore sustainable farming models, including organic and natural farming.

Government Initiatives for Organic Farming in Gujarat

National-Level Schemes Implemented in Gujarat

Several central government schemes aimed at promoting organic farming are implemented in Gujarat:

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

This scheme promotes organic farming through a cluster-based approach, encouraging farmers to adopt organic practices collectively. Financial assistance is provided for organic inputs, training, and certification.

National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

NPOP provides standards and certification frameworks for organic produce, enabling farmers to access domestic and international markets.

Mission Organic Value Chain Development

Though primarily focused on northeastern states, elements of value chain development have influenced organic initiatives in other regions, including Gujarat.

State-Level Initiatives in Gujarat

The Government of Gujarat has undertaken several initiatives to promote organic and natural farming:

Promotion of Natural and Low-Input Farming

The state encourages reduced chemical usage and promotes natural farming practices using locally available inputs such as cow-based formulations, botanical extracts, and biofertilizers.

Training and Capacity Building

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), agricultural universities, and extension agencies conduct training programs, field demonstrations, and farmer exposure visits focused on organic farming techniques.

Support through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

The state promotes the formation of FPOs to aggregate organic produce, reduce marketing costs, and improve bargaining power.

Certification and Quality Assurance Support

Efforts are made to facilitate group certification and participatory guarantee systems to reduce certification costs for small and marginal farmers.

Literature Review

The literature on organic farming spans diverse dimensions including environmental sustainability, economic viability, policy support, farmer adoption, and regional case studies. Researchers across the globe and in India have examined organic farming as an alternative to chemical-intensive agriculture, emphasizing its role in sustainable development and food security. This section reviews major scholarly contributions relevant to organic farming and government initiatives, with particular emphasis on the Indian and Gujarat contexts.

Organic Farming and Sustainability

Several studies have highlighted organic farming as a sustainable agricultural system that enhances ecological balance while ensuring long-term productivity. Scialabba and Hattam (2002) emphasized that organic agriculture improves soil fertility, conserves biodiversity, and reduces pollution by avoiding synthetic agrochemicals. Similarly, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2018) noted that organic farming contributes to sustainable food systems by promoting resource efficiency and resilience against climate change.

Lampkin (2016) argued that organic farming should be viewed not merely as a production system but as a holistic land management approach integrating soil health, biodiversity, and socio-economic sustainability. These

studies collectively establish organic farming as a viable solution to environmental challenges posed by conventional agriculture.

Status of Organic Farming in India

In the Indian context, Ramesh et al. (2010) provided one of the most comprehensive assessments of organic farming, documenting its growth, certification challenges, and policy gaps. The study observed that while India has a strong traditional foundation for organic practices, the transition to certified organic farming faces institutional and market-related constraints.

Singh and Grover (2018) examined the prospects of organic farming in India and identified key challenges such as lower yields during the conversion period, lack of organized markets, and high certification costs. However, they also highlighted opportunities arising from increasing domestic and international demand for organic products.

Nair and Radhakrishnan (2019) analysed the economic dimensions of organic farming and concluded that although organic yields may initially be lower, reduced input costs and premium prices improve profitability over time. Their findings support the argument that organic farming can enhance farmer income in the long run if supported by appropriate policies.

Government Policies and Initiatives

Government intervention has been widely recognized as a critical factor in promoting organic farming. The Planning Commission of India (2014) emphasized the need for policy support, financial incentives, and capacity building to mainstream organic and natural farming. The report recommended cluster-based approaches, simplified certification, and integration of organic farming into national agricultural strategies.

The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), launched by the Government of India, has been analyzed by several scholars as a significant policy initiative promoting organic farming through farmer clusters and participatory approaches (Government of India, 2015). Studies suggest that PKVY has helped reduce the cost burden on farmers by providing financial assistance for organic inputs and certification.

The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) has also been reviewed extensively in the literature for its role in standardizing organic certification and facilitating exports (Government of India, 2020). However, researchers point out that certification procedures remain complex for small and marginal farmers.

Regional and State-Level Studies

While national-level studies dominate the literature, regional analyses provide valuable insights into localized experiences of organic farming. Yadav and Verma (2017) examined the impact of organic farming on soil health and

farm income in different Indian states and found significant improvements in soil organic carbon and microbial activity.

Studies focusing on Gujarat are relatively limited but growing. Government of Gujarat (2022) reports indicate that organic and natural farming practices are expanding in regions facing water scarcity and high input costs. Some scholars have observed that tribal and rainfed areas of Gujarat are more conducive to organic farming due to traditionally low chemical usage.

Research also highlights the role of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and extension services in Gujarat in promoting organic farming adoption by improving market access and farmer awareness.

Organic Farming and Sustainable Development Goals

The linkage between organic farming and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been widely discussed in recent literature. The United Nations (2015) recognized sustainable agriculture, including organic farming, as essential for achieving goals related to zero hunger, climate action, and environmental protection. FAO (2021) further emphasized that organic farming contributes to climate resilience and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Research Gap

The review of literature reveals that while extensive research exists on organic farming and government initiatives at the national and global levels, **state-specific, integrated case studies focusing on policy implementation, farmer response, and outcomes remain limited**, particularly in the context of Gujarat. Most studies either focus on environmental or economic aspects in isolation, with limited attention to how government initiatives operate on the ground.

This research attempts to bridge this gap by providing a comprehensive case study of Gujarat, examining government initiatives, regional adoption patterns, challenges, and future prospects of organic farming.

Objectives of the Research Paper

To examine the role of government initiatives in promoting organic farming in Gujarat and assess their impact on agricultural sustainability, farmers' livelihoods, and environmental conservation.

Objectives

1. To analyse the **concept and significance of organic farming** as a sustainable agricultural practice in the context of India.
2. To examine the **policy framework and government initiatives** at the national and state levels aimed at promoting organic farming in Gujarat.
3. To study the **extent and patterns of adoption of organic farming** across selected regions of Gujarat, namely South Gujarat, Saurashtra, and the tribal belt of eastern Gujarat.

4. To assess the **environmental, economic, and social impacts** of organic farming initiatives implemented in Gujarat.
5. To identify the **major challenges and constraints** faced by farmers adopting organic farming practices in the state.
6. To evaluate the **effectiveness of institutional support mechanisms** including extension services, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and certification systems.
7. To examine the **contribution of organic farming initiatives** in Gujarat toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
8. To suggest **policy measures and strategic recommendations** for strengthening the promotion and adoption of organic farming in Gujarat.

Hypotheses of the Study:

H₁: Government initiatives have a significant positive impact on the adoption and expansion of organic farming practices in Gujarat.

Research Methodology and Data Analysis

Research Design

The present study adopts a **descriptive and analytical research design** to examine the role of government initiatives in promoting organic farming in Gujarat and to assess their environmental, economic, and social impacts. The research design is primarily **qualitative in nature**, supported by quantitative indicators derived from secondary data. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of policy interventions, regional adoption patterns, and outcomes of organic farming initiatives.

The study follows a **case study approach**, focusing on Gujarat as a representative state due to its diverse agro-climatic conditions, progressive agricultural policies, and emerging organic farming initiatives.

Nature of the Study

The study is **analytical and exploratory**, aiming to:

- Analyse existing government policies and programs related to organic farming.
- Examine regional variations in adoption across selected areas of Gujarat.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of institutional and policy support mechanisms.

Since the study does not involve primary field surveys, it relies on **document-based and secondary data analysis**, making it suitable for policy-oriented research.

Sources of Data

The research is based entirely on **secondary data**, collected from reliable and authoritative sources to ensure validity and consistency.

Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data were collected from the following sources:

- Reports and publications of the **Government of India** (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare).
- Documents from the **Government of Gujarat**, including the Directorate of Agriculture and State Agriculture Department.
- Data and reports from **APEDA** related to organic certification and production.
- Publications of **FAO, IFOAM, and United Nations** organizations.
- Research articles published in **peer-reviewed journals**, books, and conference proceedings.
- Statistical data from agricultural universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

Study Area and Regional Selection

To capture regional diversity, the study focuses on **three distinct agro-climatic regions of Gujarat**:

1. **South Gujarat** – representing high rainfall and horticulture-intensive agriculture.
2. **Saurashtra Region** – representing semi-arid conditions and water-scarce agriculture.
3. **Tribal Belt of Eastern Gujarat** – representing low-input, subsistence-oriented farming systems.

These regions were purposively selected to analyse how organic farming adoption varies under different environmental and socio-economic conditions.

Analytical Framework

The analytical framework of the study links **government initiatives** with **organic farming adoption** and its **outcomes**, as illustrated below:

- **Independent Variables:** Government initiatives (PKVY, NPOP, training programs, certification support, FPO promotion)
- **Dependent Variables:** Adoption of organic farming, soil health improvement, farmer income, environmental sustainability
- **Intervening Variables:** Agro-climatic conditions, market access, farmer awareness, institutional support

This framework helps in systematically evaluating the relationships proposed in the research hypotheses.

Methods of Data Analysis

Given the nature of the study, the following methods were used for data analysis:

Qualitative Analysis

- **Content analysis** was employed to examine policy documents, scheme guidelines, and government reports.
- **Comparative analysis** was used to assess differences in organic farming adoption across regions.

- Thematic analysis helped identify recurring issues such as certification challenges, market constraints, and institutional gaps.

Quantitative Analysis

- Descriptive statistics such as **percentages, averages, and growth trends** were used where numerical data were available.
- Secondary indicators related to area under organic farming, number of certified farmers, and scheme coverage were analysed.
- Comparative trend analysis was applied to assess changes over time in organic farming adoption.

No advanced econometric models were used, as the study emphasized **policy evaluation rather than statistical causality**.

Hypothesis Testing Approach

The hypotheses formulated for the study were examined using **logical and inferential reasoning** based on available secondary evidence rather than statistical testing. Findings from government reports, prior empirical studies, and regional observations were used to assess whether the hypotheses were supported or not.

For example:

- Evidence of increased area under organic farming and farmer participation supports the hypothesis that government initiatives positively influence adoption.
- Documented reductions in input costs and environmental improvements support hypotheses related to economic and ecological benefits.

Limitations of the Study

The study is subject to certain limitations:

- Reliance on **secondary data** restricts micro-level farmer-specific analysis.
- Lack of **primary field surveys** limits the ability to capture real-time farmer perceptions.
- Availability and consistency of data across regions vary.
- Findings are specific to Gujarat and may not be directly generalizable to other states.

Despite these limitations, the study provides meaningful insights into policy-driven organic farming adoption.

Case Study: Adoption of Organic Farming in Selected Regions of Gujarat

The selected regions—South Gujarat, Saurashtra, and the tribal belt of eastern Gujarat—represent diverse agro-climatic conditions, enabling a comparative assessment of organic farming adoption under varying environmental and socio-economic contexts.

Regional Experiences of Organic Farming in Gujarat

South Gujarat

South Gujarat is characterized by **high rainfall, fertile alluvial soils, and access to irrigation**, making it one of the most agriculturally productive regions of the state. Districts such as Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, and Valsad have witnessed a gradual increase in organic farming adoption, particularly in **vegetables, sugarcane, banana, mango, and horticultural crops**.

Government-supported training programs and demonstrations conducted by KVKs and agricultural universities have played a crucial role in promoting organic practices in this region. Farmers have shown interest in organic vegetable cultivation due to **high market demand, shorter crop cycles, and better price realization** in urban and peri-urban markets. However, large-scale adoption remains limited due to concerns regarding yield stability and certification costs.

Saurashtra Region

The Saurashtra region, comprising districts such as Junagadh, Amreli, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar, faces **semi-arid climatic conditions, erratic rainfall, and acute water scarcity**. These constraints have made conventional chemical-intensive farming increasingly expensive and risky for farmers.

Organic farming in this region is primarily practiced in **groundnut, cotton, pulses, and oilseeds**, driven by the need to reduce input costs and enhance soil moisture retention. Farmers in Saurashtra have increasingly adopted practices such as **composting, use of biofertilizers, mulching, and crop rotation**, supported by government initiatives under PKVY and natural farming programs.

The formation of **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** has facilitated collective input procurement and limited market access for organic produce. Nevertheless, challenges such as pest management in cotton and lack of assured organic markets continue to affect large-scale adoption.

Tribal Belt of Eastern Gujarat

The tribal belt of eastern Gujarat, including districts such as Dahod, Panchmahal, Chhota Udaipur, and Narmada, presents a unique context for organic farming adoption. Agriculture in this region has traditionally been **low-input and subsistence-oriented**, with limited use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Due to these traditional practices, the transition to organic farming has been relatively easier compared to other regions. Government initiatives focusing on **cluster-based organic farming, group certification, and livelihood support** have encouraged tribal farmers to formalize their organic practices. Crops such as **millets, pulses, maize, and indigenous vegetables** dominate organic cultivation in this region.

Organic farming has also contributed to **livelihood diversification** and **food security** among tribal households, although market access and transportation infrastructure remain significant constraints.

Impact of Government Initiatives on Organic Farming in Gujarat

Environmental Impact

Government-supported organic farming initiatives have led to measurable environmental benefits across regions:

- Improvement in **soil organic carbon levels** due to continuous application of organic manures and crop residues.
- Reduction in **chemical runoff and groundwater contamination**, particularly in vegetable-growing areas.
- Enhancement of **on-farm biodiversity**, including beneficial insects, soil microorganisms, and native crop varieties.

Economic Impact

From an economic perspective, organic farming has demonstrated mixed but promising outcomes:

- Significant **reduction in input costs**, especially fertilizers and pesticides.
- Access to **premium prices** for certified organic produce in niche domestic markets.
- Greater **income stability over time**, particularly for small and marginal farmers once the transition period is completed.

However, initial yield reductions during conversion remain a critical concern, necessitating continued financial and technical support.

Social Impact

The social outcomes of organic farming initiatives in Gujarat are noteworthy:

- Strengthening of **farmer collectives, self-help groups, and FPOs**, fostering cooperation and knowledge sharing.
- Increased **awareness of sustainable agricultural practices** among farming communities.
- Improved **health outcomes** due to reduced exposure to chemical pesticides and fertilizers, especially among women and farm laborers.

Challenges in Promoting Organic Farming in Gujarat

Despite positive developments, several structural and operational challenges persist:

- **Yield reduction during the transition period**, discouraging risk-averse farmers.
- **Limited availability of quality organic inputs** such as biofertilizers and organic seeds.
- **High certification costs and procedural complexities**, particularly for smallholders.

- Absence of **dedicated organic markets and value chains** at the state level.
- **Low consumer awareness** and limited willingness to pay premium prices in local markets.

These challenges underscore the need for **integrated policy frameworks, institutional coordination, and market-driven interventions.**

Organic Farming and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Organic farming directly contributes to several **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, including:

- **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** by promoting sustainable food production systems.
- **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)** through reduced chemical residues in food.
- **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)** by minimizing agricultural pollution.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** by enhancing carbon sequestration and resilience.
- **SDG 15 (Life on Land)** through biodiversity conservation.

Government initiatives in Gujarat align with these goals by integrating organic farming into broader sustainability and climate-resilience strategies.

Future Prospects and Policy Recommendations

Strengthening Policy Support

The state requires a **long-term organic farming policy** with clearly defined targets, budgetary allocations, and monitoring mechanisms.

Market Development

Establishment of **dedicated organic markets, branding initiatives, and digital platforms** can significantly improve farmer access to consumers.

Research and Innovation

Greater investment is needed in **organic seed development, region-specific pest management solutions, and climate-resilient organic practices.**

Farmer-Centric Approaches

Simplification of certification procedures, enhanced financial incentives during transition periods, and **continuous extension support** should be prioritized.

Conclusion

Organic farming offers a sustainable pathway for addressing the environmental, economic, and social challenges associated with conventional agriculture. The Gujarat case study highlights that **government initiatives play a pivotal role** in encouraging farmers to adopt organic practices across diverse agro-climatic regions. While the state has made notable progress through policy support, training programs, and institutional mechanisms, the long-term success

of organic farming depends on **effective implementation, strong market linkages, and sustained stakeholder engagement**

With targeted policy reforms, increased investment and participation of farmers, consumers, and institutions, organic farming has potential to become a mainstream agricultural practice in Gujarat, contributing significantly to sustainable rural development and long-term food security.

References

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2018). *Organic agriculture: Sustainability and food security*. FAO.
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2021). *The future of food and agriculture – Trends and challenges*. FAO.
- Government of Gujarat. (2022). *Agricultural statistics at a glance*. Directorate of Agriculture, Gandhinagar.
- Government of India. (2015). *Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana: Operational guidelines*. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- Government of India. (2020). *National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)*. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- Government of India. (2021). *Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region*. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. (2005). *Principles of organic agriculture*. IFOAM.
- Lampkin, N. (2016). *Organic farming: Sustainable agriculture in practice*. CAB International Publishing.
- Nair, R., & Radhakrishnan, B. (2019). Organic farming in India: Opportunities and challenges. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 74(3), 352–364.
- Planning Commission of India. (2014). *Report of the working group on organic and natural farming*. Government of India.
- Ramesh, P., Panwar, N. R., Singh, A. B., Ramana, S., Yadav, S. K., & Rao, A. S. (2010). Status of organic farming in India. *Current Science*, 98(10), 1190–1194.
- Scialabba, N. E., & Hattam, C. (2002). *Organic agriculture, environment and food security*. FAO.
- Singh, S., & Grover, D. K. (2018). Organic farming in India: Issues and prospects. *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, 31(1), 1–12.
- United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. United Nations General Assembly.
- Yadav, A. K., & Verma, S. R. (2017). Impact of organic farming on soil health and farm income in India. *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture*, 11(2), 45–58.

About the Conference

This International Conference is envisioned as a forum to bring together scholars, researchers, professionals, and students from across the globe to engage in meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas. It seeks to highlight recent developments, emerging trends, and innovative practices in arts, commerce, science and law. The conference will serve as a platform to foster academic collaboration, encourage knowledge sharing, and explore solutions to contemporary global and societal challenges.

In addition, the conference aims to inspire researchers and academicians, provide networking opportunities for future collaborations, and create a space where innovative research can be translated into real-world practices. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, the event aspires to contribute towards holistic development and sustainable progress at both national and international levels.

About S. S. Mehta Arts and M. M. Patel Commerce College, Himmatnagar

Managed by Himmatnagar Kelavani Mandal, S. S. Mehta Arts and M. M. Patel Commerce College is one of the most reputed institutions in the Sabarkantha district. Established in 1965, the college is popularly known in Himmatnagar as "Moti College." It is affiliated with Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan. At present, the college comprises nine departments staffed with highly qualified and dedicated faculty members. It offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in English, Psychology, Gujarati, Economics, Sanskrit, and Commerce. The institution is recognized for its experienced faculty and supportive learning environment, featuring well-equipped classrooms, a spacious playground, a seminar hall, a well-stocked library, and a computer laboratory. Along with its strong academic foundation, the college actively promotes student participation in co-curricular and community service activities, thereby fostering holistic development and nurturing both professional and personal growth among its learners.

The vision of the college is to provide quality education to all, especially to lower strata of society and having less privileged background with a view to improving the society, to prepare a community of responsible youths with higher education and thereby build up healthy society and nation, to motivate the students towards bright career building and work towards a harmonious social order and, to equip the students to face challenges with courage and commitment.

The mission of the college is to become an institution of academic excellence since its inception. Furthermore, to impart knowledge which is empowering and value based in nature, to increase self-confidence among the students and lead them towards their holistic development, to create a vibrant academic atmosphere which focuses on teaching, learning, and research programmes.

About The HNSB. Ltd. Science College, Himmatnagar

With the growing demand for science education in the region, Himmatnagar Kelavani Mandal established The HNSB. Ltd. Science College, Himmatnagar, in June 1993. The college began modestly with just two classrooms and two laboratories, functioning from a separate building. It was named in honour of a generous donation of ₹30 lakhs from The Himmatnagar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd. The college holds the distinction of being the youngest grant-in-aid science college in the Sabarkantha district. Affiliated with Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, the institution currently offers six academic programmes. At the undergraduate level, it offers courses in Chemistry, Botany, Microbiology, and Physics. At the postgraduate level, it conducts programmes in Organic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry. The institution also promotes research activities and provides facilities for Ph.D. studies under the supervision of qualified faculty members. At present, the college has an enrollment of over 500 students. It has been accredited with a 'B' Grade by NAAC in both its first and second cycles and has received a 4-star rating from GSIRF. The college has also applied for NIRF ranking. It consistently upholds high academic standards, with university examination results ranging between 95% and 100%, demonstrating its strong commitment to excellence in science education. The college is certified with ISO 21001:2018 and ISO 9001:2015.

About Law College, Himmatnagar

As a prominent institution managed by Himmatnagar Kelavani Mandal, Law College, Himmatnagar takes pride in nurturing talent and leadership in the field of legal education. Affiliated with Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, the college stands as a flagship institution dedicated to upholding and advancing the standards of legal education in the region. The college distinguishes itself through its innovative and creative academic initiatives, setting high benchmarks across the state of Gujarat. Over the years, it has built strong and enduring associations with government bodies, the judiciary, the community, industries, and the legal profession. These collaborations ensure that students receive a rich, practical, and holistic learning experience that prepares them to become competent and socially responsible legal professionals.



9 789389 724936