

*Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation*

## **Comparative Performance of Organic and Inorganic Farming practices on Productivity of different Cropping Systems<sup>1</sup>**

ASHISH KUMAR\*

### **I. Introduction**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HAS caught the imagination and action all over the world for more than a decade. Environmental impacts of agricultural production processes, in fact, are influenced by the climate, the soil type, the agricultural practices and many other factors that make impacts extremely variable and, subsequently, hard to control and reduce. In this context, organic farming aims at being climate friendly with respect to conventional farming, by granting a lower carbon footprint and reduced environmental impacts. India is bestowed with lot of potential to produce all varieties of organic products due to its agro-climatic regions. In several parts of the country, the inherited tradition of organic farming is an added advantage. This holds promise for the organic producers to tap the market which is growing steadily in the domestic market related to the export market. Organic farming systems have attracted increasing attention over the last one decade because they are perceived to offer some solutions to the current problems in the Indian agricultural sector. However, some farmers are reluctant to convert because of the perceived high costs and risks involved in organic farming. Despite the attention which has been paid to organic farming over the last few years, very little accessible information actually exists on the costs and returns of organic farming in India. So, since profitability is the most important factor for a farmer, in this paper we analyzed the economics of organic *vis-a-vis* non-organic (conventional) farming practices in India.

<sup>1</sup> The Thesis was submitted to CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur, in 2017, for the award of Ph.D. Degree awarded in 2017, under the supervision of Dr. J.P. Saini, Professor and Head, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Department of Organic Farming, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh 176062, INDIA

\* Agriculture Development Officer, The Department of Agriculture Himachal Pradesh, Agriculture Development Officer Tissa at Bhanjradu, Post Office Tissa, Tehsil Churah District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh 176316, INDIA

*Submitted August 2018 ; Accepted October 2018*