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AN ANALYSIS OF ORGANIC FARMING AROUND THE GLOBE WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON INDIA

ANALIZA ROLNICTWA EKOLOGICZNEGO NA ŚWIECIE ZE SZCZEGÓLNYM UWZGLĘDNIENIEM INDII

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B. Data collection/ Zebranie danych
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Abstract

Subject and purpose of work: This article examines the current state and possibilities of organic farming in India and worldwide.
Materials and methods: This study is based on secondary data sources like numerous reports, journals, APEDA (Agricultural Processed Food Products & Export Development Authority), PGS India Web Portal, NCOF annual reports, FiBL Statistics etc.
Results: The data shows that Oceania has the most significant land area proportion, followed by North America and Europe. Australia leads the world in total organic agricultural land, followed by India and Argentina, and India ranks first in the world in terms of total number of organic producers, followed by Uganda and Thailand.
Conclusions: In India, the number of organic producers and the area under organic farming have boosted at a compound annual rate of 13.5% and 12%, respectively. The results show India grows organic products and exports them outside the country.
Keywords: Organic Farming, Global Economy, Agriculture Economics, sustainability

Streszczenie

Przedmiot i cel pracy: Niniejszy artykuł analizuje aktualny stan i możliwości rolnictwa ekologicznego w Indiach i na świecie.

Materiały i metody: Niniejsze badanie opiera się na wtórnych źródłach danych, takich jak liczne raporty, czasopisma, APEDA (Agricultural Processed Food Products & Export Development Authority), portal internetowy PGS India, roczne raporty NCOF, statystyki FiBL itp.

Wyniki: Dane pokazują, że Oceania ma największy udział w powierzchni gruntów, a następnie Ameryka Północna i Europa. Australia jest światowym liderem pod względem całkowitej powierzchni użytków rolnych uprawianych ekologicznie, a następnie Indie i Argentyna. Indie zajmują również pierwsze miejsce na świecie pod względem całkowitej liczby producentów ekologicznych, a następnie Uganda i Tajlandia.

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Wnioski: W Indiach liczba producentów ekologicznych i powierzchnia upraw ekologicznych wzrosły w średnim rocznym tempie odpowiednio 13,5% i 12%. Wyniki pokazują, że Indie uprawiają produkty ekologiczne i eksportują je poza granice kraju.
Słowa kluczowe: rolnictwo ekologiczne, gospodarka globalna, ekonomika rolnictwa, zrównoważony rozwój

Introduction

A prerequisite requirement for sustainable agriculture, organic farming refers to a comprehensive strategy for improving the health of the underlying productivity of soil and plant, which leads to the enrichment of the surrounding ecosystem. The status of organic farming has grown increasingly important in today's global scenario, indicating a paradigm shift towards sustainable agriculture practices. This holistic approach to agriculture puts natural processes first, avoiding industrial chemicals and genetically engineered organisms in favor of improving soil health, biodiversity, and ecological balance. The status of organic farming has emerged as a key issue in addressing the growing concerns about food safety, environmental sustainability, and the long-term health effects of conventional agriculture. Growing interest in organic farming indicates a global commitment to building robust and sustainable food production systems that cut across borders. According to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 'Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity.' Due to the high market demand for organic products, their sustainable agricultural methods, and the steady support they receive from institutions such as the European Union and International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), organic agriculture offers enormous commercial and trade prospects to both developed and developing nations. Since developed nations have stable markets and robust policies, they are currently on top of developing nations in the organic sector. The substantial increase in demand for organic food, particularly from rich countries, has opened up several prospects for many developing countries. Governmental and non-governmental organizations are crucial to the growth of organic agriculture in underdeveloped nations.

India is one of the emerging nations in the organic market. This paper looks at the comparative study of India and other developed countries. It examines their methodologies for improvement and regulation, aiming to enhance our understanding of the current situation and guide the formulation of effective strategies for Indian organic farming. India is recognized as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. Although India's primary occupation has historically been agriculture, the country's workforce has decreased from 89% to 55% as a result of increased industrialization and the tertiary sector. Still, India's agriculture is vital to the country's supply of goods, both domestically and abroad.

Methodology

The study examines the current status of organic farming around the globe and India's potential for organic farming. For this purpose, numerous books and articles written by professionals and international institutions were examined. This study is based on secondary data sources. Information regarding organic farming and its methods has been collected from a broad range of published sources in both developed and developing nations, including journals, periodicals, newspapers, APEDA (Agricultural Processed Food Products & Export Development Authority), PGS India Web Portal, NCOF annual reports, FiBL Statistics (European and Global Organic Farming Statistics), and The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend (2023, 2024). The data has analyzed using statistical tools such as compound annual growth rate (CAGR), percentage, standard deviation (SD), mean, and coefficient of variation (CV). This study has analyzed the growth rate of an organic farming region, as well as the cultivated and harvested areas and the number of producers worldwide.
The study used the following statistical methods:

Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR): The study calculated CAGR using the following formula:

$$CAGR = \left[\frac{V_{final}}{V_{begin}} \right]^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1$$

Where:
V (final) = end value
V (begin) = initial value
n = number of years

$$Coefficient \ \ of \ \ Variation \ \ (CV): \frac{SD}{Mean} \times 100$$

$$Mean \ \ (\overline{X}): \ \sum \frac{X}{N}$$

Objectives

This study focuses on organic agricultural land and the associated number of producers in India and other economies. Its objective is to provide insights into the significance of organic farming in promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Conceptual Framework of the Study

A production method that maintains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people is known as organic agriculture. Instead of using harmful inputs, it relies on biological processes, biodiversity, and cycles tailored to the local environment. India is one of the countries with the greatest agricultural growth rates, and nowadays, there is an apparent spike in the focus on organic agricultural products. Globally, consumers are growing more aware of their health and nutrition. Nowadays, people prioritize their health and take precautions to maintain it. Health consciousness and the public's willingness to pay for the more expensive products are the main factors influencing the demand for organic food among consumers (Yadav et al., 2013). Organic farmers and food producers do not use antibiotics in their operations, and their products are processed naturally without the use of chemicals that have no adverse effects on human health. Compared to developing economies, consumers' purchasing habits and level of health consciousness in developed economies are significantly higher. Government policies in Europe seek to promote organic farming through consumer education, research, and marketing funds, among other measures. India has cultivated crops for almost 4,000 years, and organic farming is a very old technique. As stated in Arthashastra, farmers throughout the Vedic era had a basic understanding of soil fertility, plant protection, seed selection, planting seasons, and the sustainability of crops in various regions (Sofia et al., 2006).

Results and Analysis

According to the most recent IFOAM and FiBL survey (The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trends 2024), almost 96.4 million hectares are currently managed organically by more than 4.5 million producers worldwide. According to the 2024 survey, this represents 2.0% of the total agricultural land in these countries. Oceania (53.2 million hectares, or 55% of the world's organic agricultural land) and Europe (18.5 million hectares, or 19%) have the largest land areas utilized for organic agriculture. The market has extended thrice from 17.9 billion US dollars (2000) in the last 10 years. This paper analyzes the total organic area and total no. of producers at the world level, with special emphasis on India.

World Scenario of Organic Agriculture

The latest FiBL survey (The World of Organic Agriculture 2024) from 188 nations found that organic cropland and retail sales continue to increase and have achieved new records. In 2022, the world's total organic agricultural land is 96.4 million hectares, an increase of 20.3 million hectares (26.6 percent) from 76.4 million hectares in 2021, with significant expansion observed in many countries. Australia, India, and Greece saw the biggest boost in absolute terms. Asia and Africa were progressively included in the organic farming movement. IFOAM was instrumental in advancing organic farming as a sustainable and ecologically beneficial practice. It was established in France in 1972. IFOAM is involved in lots of organic farming-related activities and has over 600 member organizations spread across roughly 120 countries, including India. Among these are the members' knowledge and idea sharing, the movement's representation in governmental administrations and policy-making, the creation of production, processing, and trading standards, the management of research projects, and the planning of international conferences and seminars. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations also assisted its member nations in implementing organic farming practices.

Table 1. World Distribution of Organic Agricultural Land (including in-conversion areas) and Organic Producers by Region

Region	Organic Agriculture Land (in ha)	In Percentage	Numbers Of Producers	In Percentage
Oceania	53194639	55.0	24466	0.54
Europe	18450355	19.0	480135	10.70
Latin America	9537387	10.0	270217	6.00
Asia	8830990	9.2	2728678	60.60
Northern America	3627818	3.8	23948	0.53
Africa	2735006	2.8	975334	21.70

Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend 2024, FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International.

Table 1 and Figure 1 show the total organic agricultural land distribution, including in conversion areas and total organic producers worldwide. With 53.2 million hectares, Oceania possessed the largest area dedicated to organic farming, followed by Europe with 18.5 million and Latin America with 9.5 million. Oceania contains over half (55%) of the world's organic agricultural land, representing a 47.8% rise from 2021 (35.9 million hectares). Europe, which has seen a relatively steady increase in organic land over the years, accounted for more than 19% of the world's total organic agricultural land, with Latin America coming in second with about 10%.

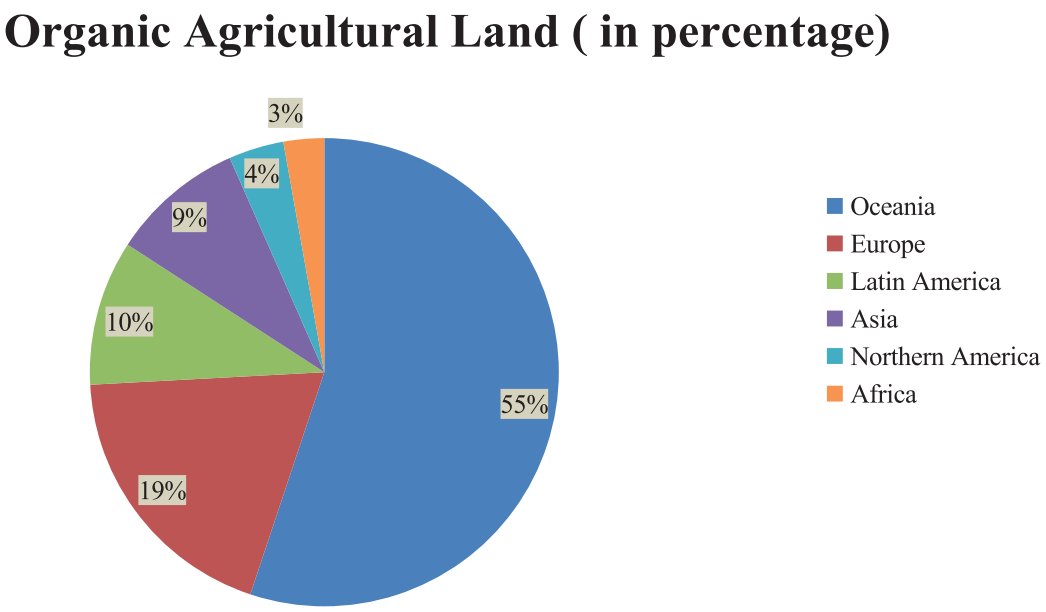


Figure 1. Distribution of Organic Agricultural Land (including in-conversion areas) by Region
Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend 2024, FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International.

Table 1 and Figure 2 also indicate that the number of organic growers worldwide reached 4.5 million in 2022. Compared to 2021, the number of producers increased by about 919,000, representing a 25.6 percent gain. Based on the data collected, nearly 93% of the producers were located in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Asia accounts for 61% of global organic producers, followed by Africa at 22%, Europe at 11%, and Latin America at 6%. Oceania and Northern America have approximately 0.5 percent of the world's organic producers, which is a very tiny number. One thing to note from the study is that Oceania has a large amount of organic agricultural area with very few farmers.

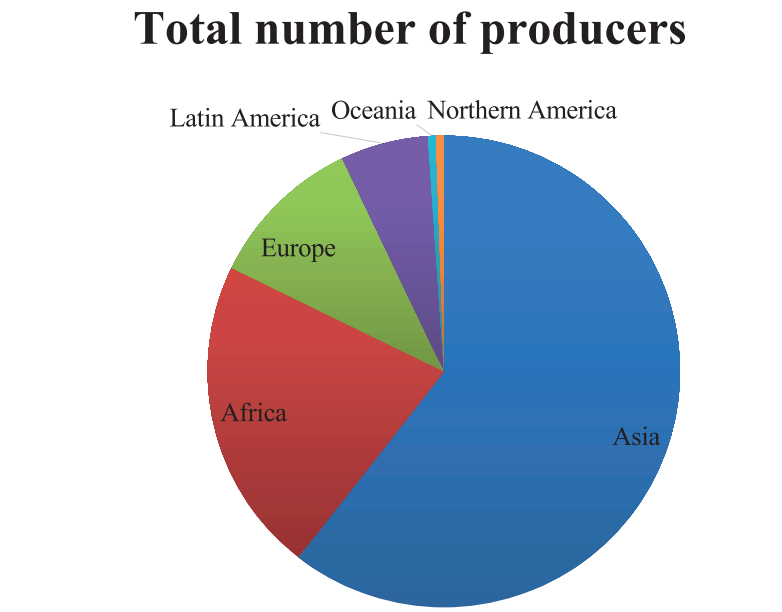


Figure 2. World: Distribution of Organic Producers by Region 2022
Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend 2024, FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International.

Top Ten Countries with the Largest Areas of Organic Agricultural Land and No. of Producers

Organic farming has been effectively implemented in several nations, accounting for 2% to 10% of the total cultivated acreages. In both advanced and developing nations, the market for organic products is expanding at a significant rate of twenty percent each year (Tomar et al., 2023).

Table 2. Top Ten Countries with the Largest Areas of Organic Agricultural Land and Largest No. of Producers 2022

Country	Total Organic Agricultural Land(in million ha)	Country	No. of Producers
Australia	53.02	India	2480859
India	4.73	Uganda	404246
Argentina	4.06	Thailand	121540
China	2.90	Ethiopia	121480
France	2.88	Congo D.R.	118203
Uruguay	2.74	Peru	107868
Spain	2.68	Italy	82593
Italy	2.35	Kenya	64156
USA	2.06	Madagascar	61974
Germany	1.86	Tanzania	61558

Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend 2024, FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International.

The countries with the largest organic agricultural land areas recorded in 2022 are given in Table 2 and Figure 3. This table indicates the countries with the greatest organic agricultural land were Australia (53.0 million hectares), followed by India (4.7 million hectares) and Argentina (4.1 million hectares). Australia leads the world in organic agricultural land, with 53.02 million hectares, up from 35.7 million hectares in 2021, representing an almost 49 percent growth. The 2022 figure represents almost 70% of all organic land globally, indicating the Australian sector's potential for long-term expansion. India ranks second with 4.73 million hectares of land, followed by Argentina (4.06 million hectares), China (2.90 million hectares), and France (2.88 million hectares), respectively.

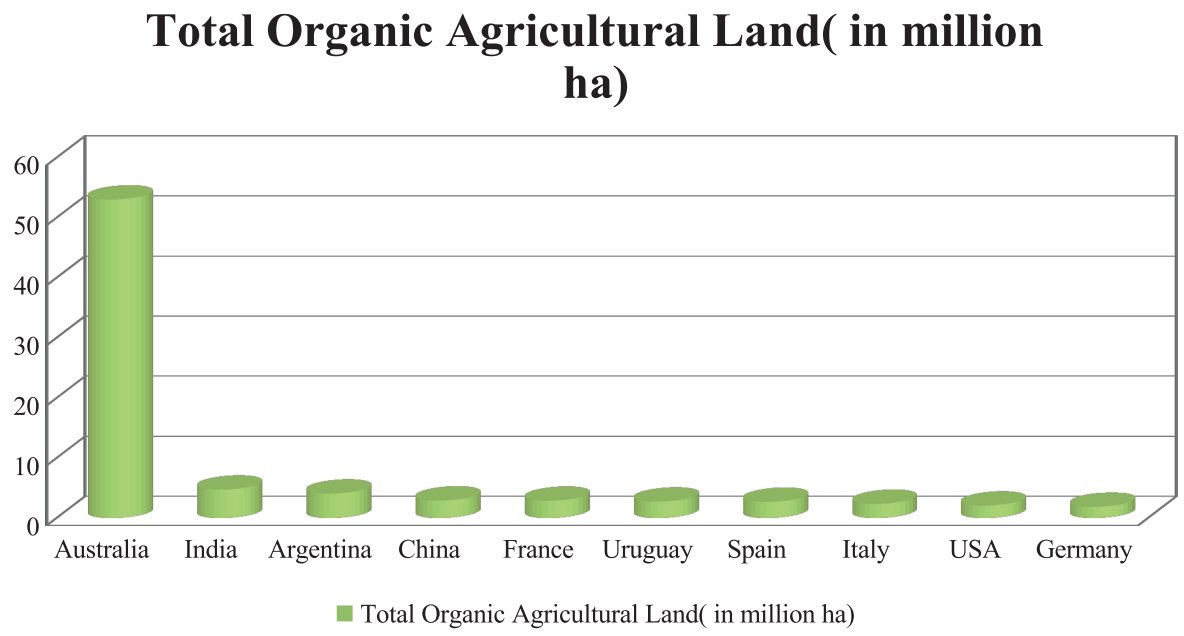


Figure 3. Top Ten Countries with the Largest Areas of Organic Agricultural Land 2022

Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend 2024, FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International.

Table 2 and Figure 4 reveal that India has the highest number of organic producers worldwide. India leads the world in terms of producers, with 2480859 farmers, followed by Uganda (404246), Thailand (121540), Ethiopia (121480), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (118203). This table also reveals that, although having the largest total organic agricultural area (53.02 million hectares), Australia did not place among the top ten countries in terms of producers.

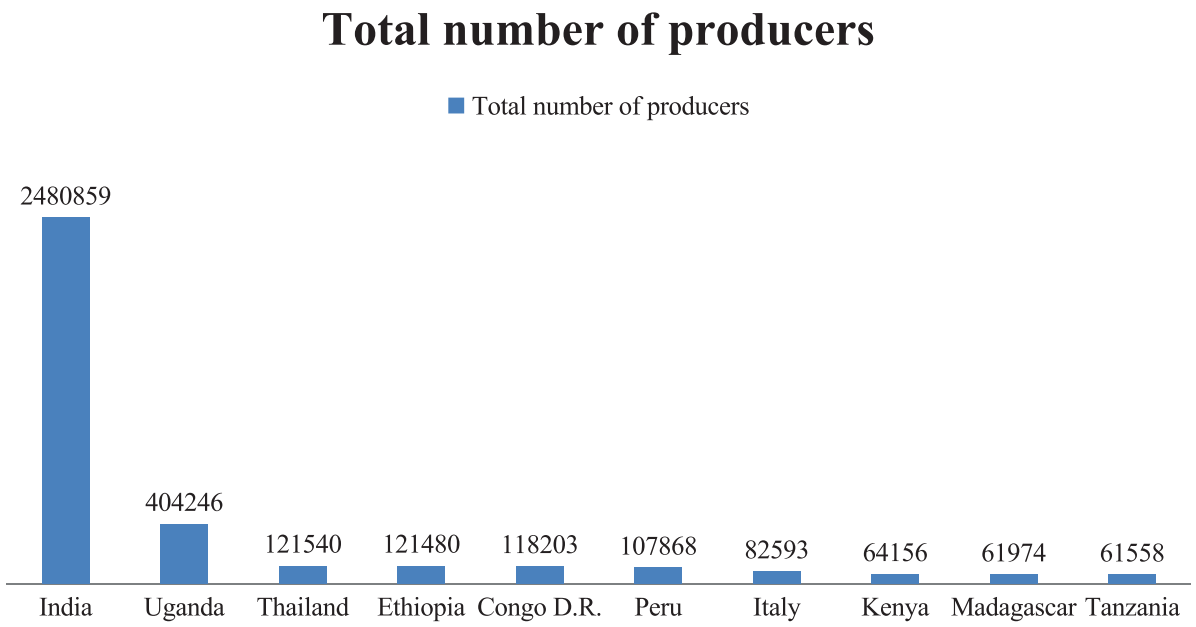


Figure 4. Top Ten Countries with the Largest No. of Producers 2022

Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend 2024, FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International.

Organic Farming in India

Asian countries account for 7% of global organic land, with China and India making considerable contributions. China came in second with almost 2900000 hectares, Thailand with over 241000 hectares, and the Philippines with approximately 229000 hectares. These four nations accounted for more than 91% of all organic cropland in Asia (Musa et al., 2015). India is one of the world's fastest-growing economies and has untapped potential for significant progress in organic agriculture. India, with 21 agroecological zones, has an advantage in agriculture due to its diverse climate and soil patterns, allowing for the production of a wide range of crops and increasing diversity in the organic market. India is already well regarded in the world market for the high quality of several of its products, such as tea, spices, specialty rice, and herbs; this gives it further credibility there (Gurung et al., 2013). Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) implemented the National Program for Organic Production (NPOP), which was developed with the approval of the National Steering Committee (NSC), NPOP's duties include handling documentation such as national standards, accreditation criteria for accrediting inspection and certification agencies, accreditation procedure, inspection and certification procedures (Bhattacharyya & Chakraborty, 2005). India's low labor costs, significant NGO support for organic farming, and government initiatives, such as a national regulatory framework and assistance schemes, make it a favourable location for organic agriculture.

Growth of organic farming agricultural area and producer in India during 2007-2022

Over 8.8 million hectares of agricultural land under the management of 2.7 million producers were found in Asia in 2022. India is among the nations where organic farming land and the number of producers

of organic goods are both rapidly growing. India stands out among the 188 countries that practice organic agriculture. Most of these producers were in India, where between 2021 and 2022, their numbers rose by one million, making a substantial contribution to the rise of organic farmers worldwide. Asia accounted for 9% of the world's organic agricultural land. Between 2021 and 2022, organic land in Asia rose by almost 2.3 million hectares, representing a 35.9 percent growth (FiBL & IFOAM (2024). India's total organic agriculture land grew at 77.83 percent from 2021 to 2022 – the country's biggest increase till now. However, from 2023 (5.39 million hectares) to 2024 (4.48 million hectares), India had a 16.8% decline.

Table 3. Total Organic Agricultural Land and Number of Organic Producers in India from 2007-2022

Year	No. of organic producers	Total Organic Agricultural Land (in ha)
2007	195741	1030311
2008	340000	1018470
2009	677257	1180000
2010	400551	780000
2011	547591	1084266
2012	600000	500000
2013	650000	510000
2014	650000	720000
2015	585200	1180000
2016	835000	1490000
2017	835000	1780000
2018	1149371	1938221
2019	1366226	2299222
2020	1599010	2657889
2021	1599010	2657889
2022	2480859	4726715
2023	-	5391793
2024	-	4475837
Mean	906926	1967812
CV	65.6%	75.9%
CAGR(%)	13.5%	12%

Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend (2009-2024), FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International and APEDA (2022-23, 2023-24).

Table 3 shows the total area from the last 18 years and the number of producers in India from the last 16 years. Table 3 and Figure 5 indicate the total area under organic farming for the last 18 years in India. India ranks second in the world in terms of cultivated land under organic certification, with a total area of 4.48 million hectares. The total organic production area in India has increased from 1.03 million hectares in 2007 to 4.48 million hectares in 2024 (FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International, 2024), with a 12% compound annual growth rate (CAGR). However, this annual growth rate is insufficient to satisfy the goal of sustainable agriculture, which is critical for achieving sustainable development. The Indian government has created a number of state-specific plans and incentives to encourage the use of organic agricultural methods. Organic farming in India has a bright future due to its consistent expansion and support.

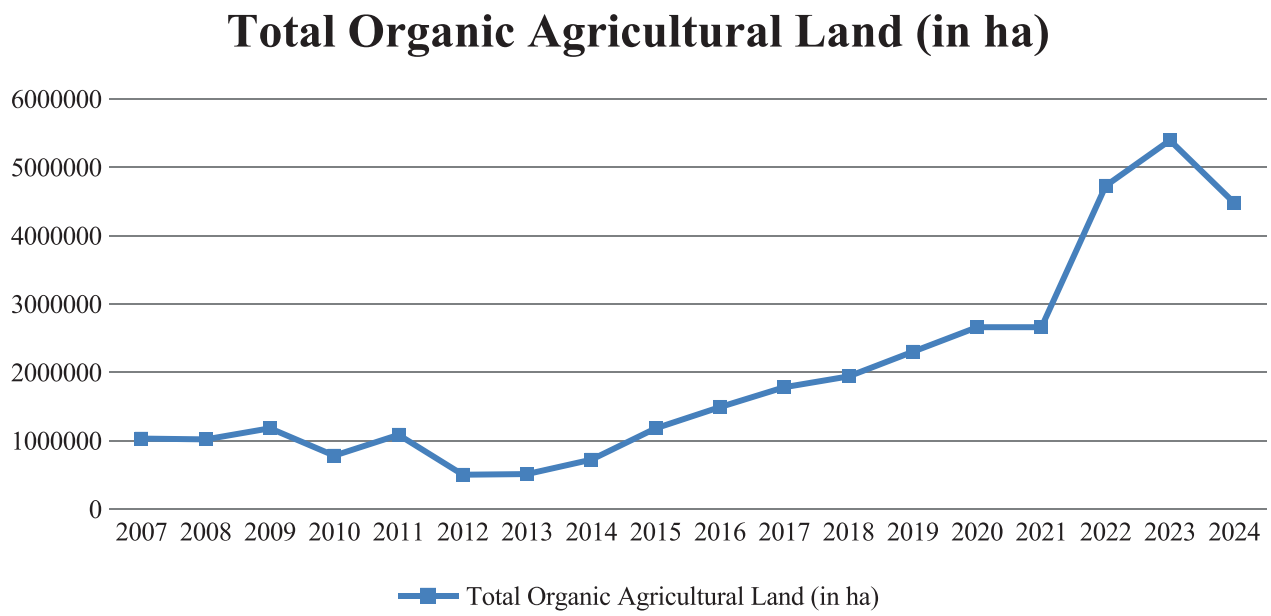


Figure 5. Trend of Total Organic Agricultural Land of India from 2007-2024

Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend (2009-2024), FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International and APEDA (2022-23, 2023-24).

Table 3 and Figure 6 also indicate the number of organic growers in India. The data show a significant increase in organic producers in India. In 2007, organic producers stood at 0.19 million, which grew to 2.4 million in 2022 with a 13.5% compound annual growth rate (CAGR). The rapid expansion of organic producers in India is attributed to the country's large population. India, the world's most populated country, is home to 85% of small and marginal farmers with land under 2 hectares. Organic farming is especially popular among small and marginal farmers due to its lower costs and increased profitability. These factors help farmers adopt organic farming faster (Agriculture Statistics at Glance, 2021).

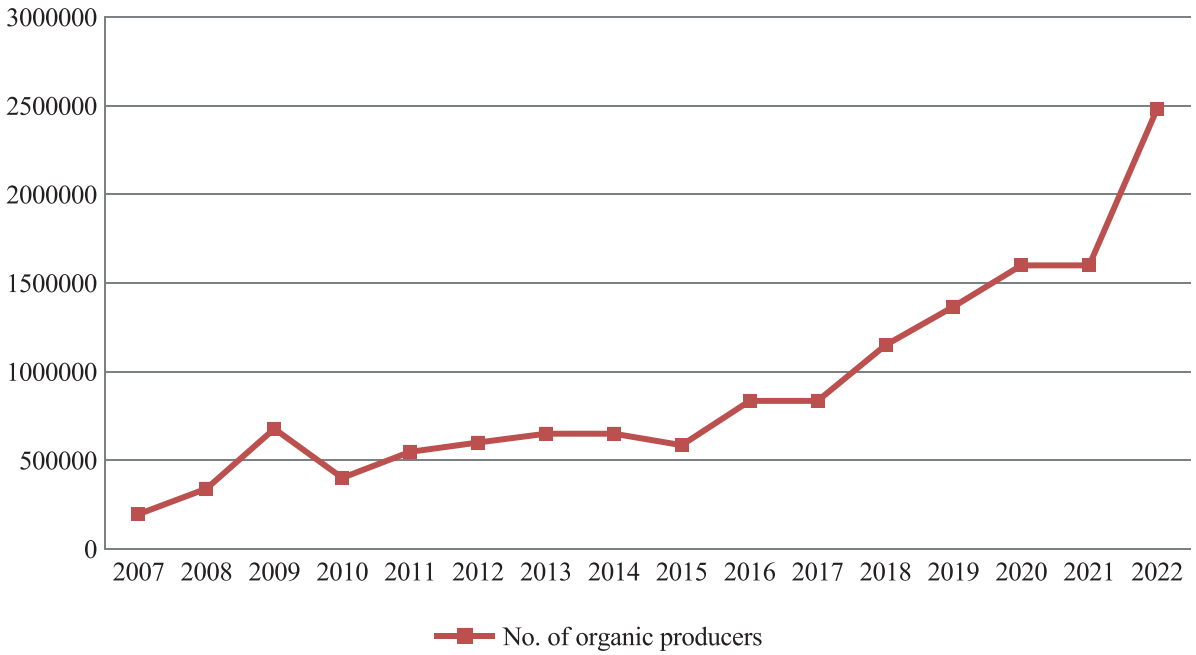


Figure 6. Trend of Total Number of Organic Producers in India from 2007-2022

Source: The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics and Emerging Trend (2009-2024), FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International.

Conclusion

Organic farming encompasses the economic and social aspects of agricultural production, both locally and globally. It promotes both sustainability and environmental sensitivity. Several regulations and standards were created to fulfill these two objectives. Though India has historically been an organic agricultural nation, the rise of modern scientific, input-intensive agriculture has driven it to the breaking point. However, as people's awareness of food safety and quality, system sustainability over the long term, and the only hope for rainfed, resource-poor farmers has grown, organic farming has emerged as an alternative farming system that not only addresses these issues but also guarantees a debt-free, profitable livelihood option. According to this research, with 53.2 million hectares, Oceania has the most significant area devoted to organic farming, whereas 61% of the world's top organic farmers are in Asia. This study reveals that Australia has the most organic agricultural area worldwide (53.0 million hectares), and India has the largest population of organic growers worldwide. In India, the results also show a fluctuating trend in area and number of organic producers from 2007 to 2024. The overall organic area and producers have increased at the rate respectively: 12 and 13.5 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR). This study examined the current condition of organic farming in India and its various elements. While organic farming is gaining popularity, it is still in its early stages of development. The present scenario of organic agriculture in India presents an opportunity for exploring untapped aspects of organic farming (Avinash & Batra, 2023).

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