ISSN Print: 2664-844X
ISSN Online: 2664-8458
NAAS Rating: 4.97
IJAFS 2025; 7(7): 213-217
www.agriculturaljournals.com
Received: 02-06-2025
Accepted: 04-07-2025

Kayalvizhi S
Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu, India

Midhun Kumar R
Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Ragul S
Assistant Professor, Hindusthan Institute college of engineering and Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Arulsia A
Research Scholar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Corresponding Author:
Kayalvizhi S
Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu, India

Perception and challenges of organic farming practise among farmers in Southern Karnataka

Kayalvizhi S, Midhun Kumar R, Ragul S and Arulsia A

DOI: https://www.doi.org/10.33545/2664844X.2025.v7.i7c.515

Abstract
Organic farming offers an eco-friendly, sustainable alternative to conventional agriculture by reducing chemical inputs and enhancing soil fertility and biodiversity. This study examines the factors influencing the adoption of organic farming, the challenges faced, and the perceptions of farmers in Karnataka's Bangalore region. A survey of 150 farmers from Mandya, Mysore, and Chamarajanagar districts was conducted during 2023-2024 using structured questionnaires covering demographics, education, landholding size, crops grown, years of experience, production costs, market demand, and extension services. Results showed that 70% of organic farmers were aged 26-40 years, with most having school-level education and practicing organic farming on medium to large holdings, mainly cultivating vegetables and grains. While over half the farmers reported receiving premium prices for organic produce, high production costs and certification difficulties remained significant barriers. The majority relied on State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras for technical support, whereas NGO involvement was minimal. Key motivators for adopting organic practices included reduced pesticide residue, reliable extension support, and consistent market demand. Additional factors such as storage facilities, supportive policies, and soil health benefits also played a role. However, fluctuating demand, high input costs, and lack of awareness continue to limit wider adoption. The study underscores the need for better technical training, streamlined certification processes, and supportive policies to expand organic farming sustainably.

Keywords: Organic farming, sustainable agriculture, farmer perception, certification barriers

Introduction
Organic farming is an important approach to sustainable agriculture that focuses on eco-friendly methods, minimizing chemical usage, and enhancing soil fertility and biodiversity. It serves as a healthier and safer alternative to conventional farming systems that rely heavily on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In recent years, organic farming has gained popularity in various parts of the world due to increasing consumer awareness of food safety, environmental conservation, and sustainable farming practices. Globally, organic farming is practiced in 187 countries, covering around 43.7 million hectares of land managed by approximately 2.3 million farmers [1]. Oceania holds the largest share of organic farmland, followed by Europe and Latin America. Countries like Australia, Argentina, and the United States lead in the area under organic cultivation, while India, Ethiopia, and Mexico have the highest number of organic producers [2]. In India, organic agriculture has deep traditional roots, especially in tribal and hilly regions where farmers have long practiced farming without agro-chemicals. However, the advent of the Green Revolution in the 1960s shifted Indian agriculture towards chemical-intensive methods. Now moving back to organic farming due to growing concerns over soil degradation, health hazards from chemical residues, and environmental impact. The increasing demand for organic products in both domestic and international markets has also motivated farmers to adopt organic practices for better economic returns. In the Bangalore region of South Karnataka, organic farming is slowly gaining acceptance [3]. Farmers here are showing interest in organic cultivation, but their perceptions, field experiences, and the challenges they face—such as lack of technical knowledge, difficulty in certification, and inadequate access to subsidies—affect its adoption [4]. Moreover, organic farming requires a change in mindset, dedicated efforts, and proper utilization of available government schemes and support services. Organic farming avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms, instead

relying on natural inputs like compost, green manure, crop rotation, and biological pest control. It aims to maintain ecological balance and promote long-term agricultural sustainability [5]. Though commonly practiced in low-input farming regions due to economic reasons, organic agriculture is now expanding in developed countries in response to consumer demand for healthy and environmentally safe food products [6]. Thus, organic farming stands as a promising alternative to conventional agriculture, with potential benefits for farmers, consumers, and the environment alike. The objectives of this study are to identify the factors that influence farmers to adopt organic farming, to examine the various challenges and constraints faced by them in practicing organic farming, and to understand their perception towards future farming practices.

Material and Method

Survey: A random survey was carried out in the districts of Mandya, Mysore, and Chamarajanagar of Karnataka to study the farming profile, influencing factors, and perceptions of organic farmers, selecting 150 respondents from a diverse population through random sampling, which included both organic and conventional farmers during 2023-2024 [7].

Data Collection

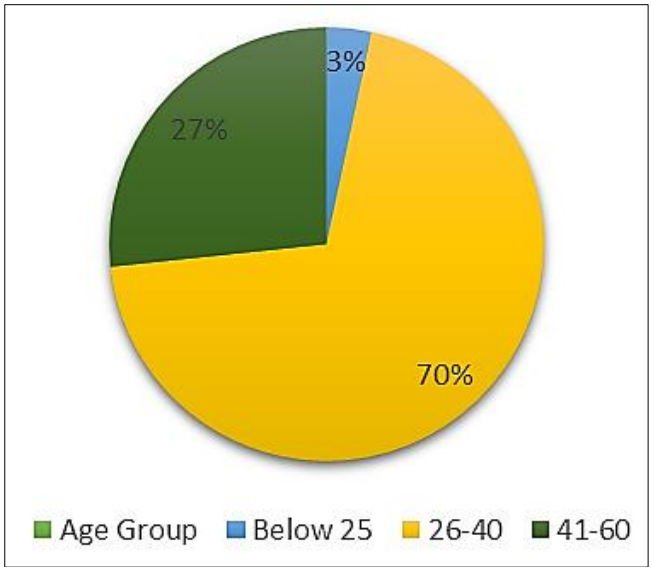
Data were gathered using a structured questionnaire—specially designed for farmers and dealers—comprising both multiple-choice questions and open-ended queries, aimed at collecting information on farmers' age, educational Qualification, cultivation area, types of crops grown, years of organic farming experience, factors influencing adoption among educated and illiterate farmers, product cost of organic produce, Cost of production participation in extension activities, demand for organic products in the market, and the certification costs faced by farmers and Factor influencing organic farming. The data collection process was directly supervised by the investigator Crop Advisor to ensure accuracy [8].

Statistical analysis: The collected data were analyzed using One-Way ANOVA to identify significant differences among groups on key variables, Garrett's Ranking Method to rank the major factors influencing production costs, extension activity involvement, market demand with all findings subsequently tabulated and interpreted to understand the prevailing trends and influencing factors among the selected farmer groups [9].

Result and discussion

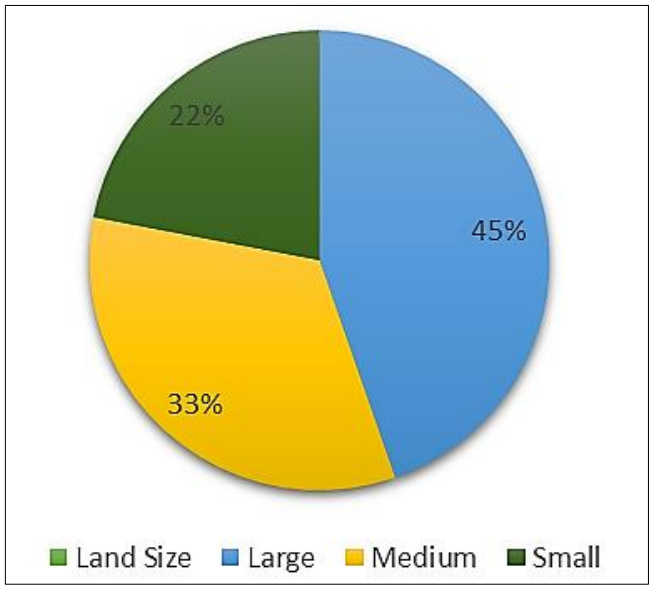
Organic farmer Age: The age group analysis of organic farmers showed that most of them 70% were between 26 and 40 years old, meaning they are in their prime working age. Farmers aged 41 to 60 made up 27%, indicating a good share of middle-aged farmers in organic farming.

However, only 3% were below 25 years, showing very low participation from younger people. This suggests that organic farming is mainly taken up by young and middle-aged farmers, with little interest from the younger generation.



Cultivation area of organic farming

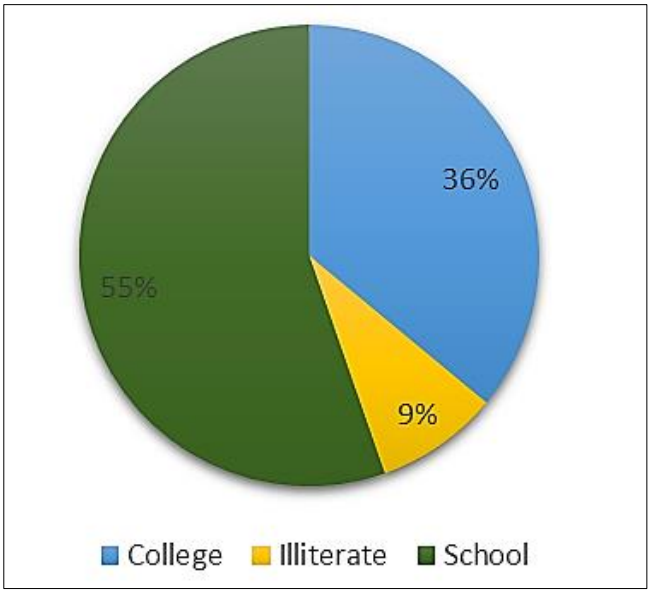
The analysis of land size distribution among organic farmers showed that the majority of 45%, practiced organic farming on large-sized holdings, indicated the higher adoption of organic practices among farmers with larger land areas. This was followed by 33% of farmers who cultivated organic crops on medium-sized farms, and in remaining 22% were small landholders engaged in organic farming. These results suggest that although organic farming is practiced across all land sizes, it is more commonly adopted by farmers with medium to large holdings, highlighting a potential link between landholding size and the capacity to implement organic farming practices**.**



Educational Qualification using organic farming in Bangalore

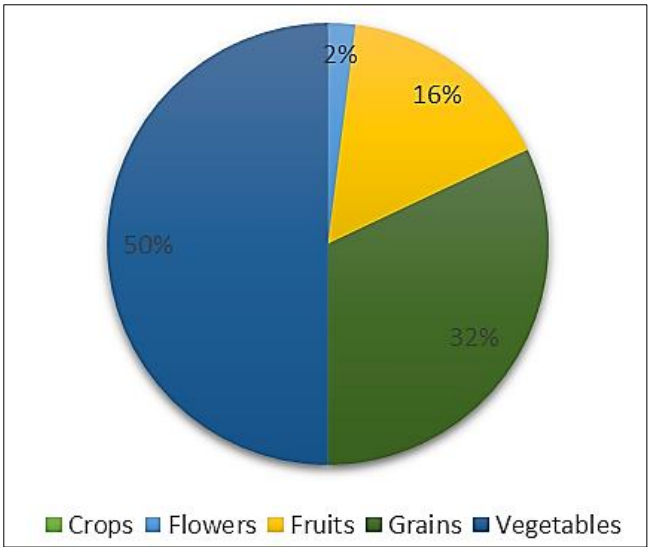
The educational qualification analysis of organic farmers showed that the majority, 55%, had completed school-level education, suggesting that basic education plays a significant role in adopting organic farming practices.

This was followed by 36% of farmers who had pursued college education, indicating a considerable participation of well-educated individuals in organic farming. On the other hand, only 9% of the farmers were illiterate, highlighting that organic farming adoption is relatively low among those with no formal education. This pattern reflects the importance of educational background in understanding and implementing organic farming methods.



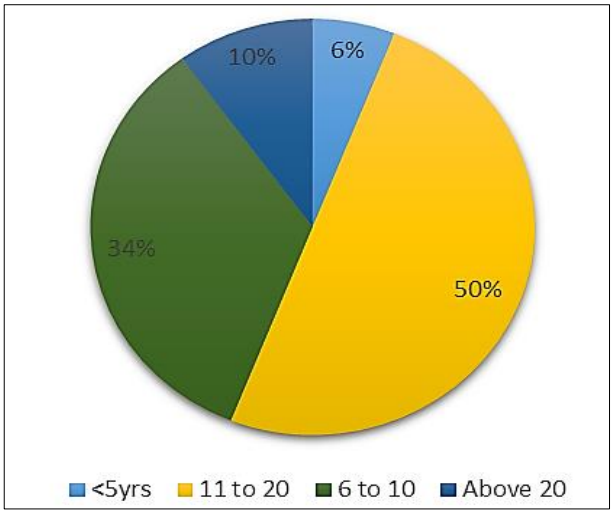
Crop cultivation under organic farming in Bangalore zone

The cropping pattern analysis of organic farmers in the Bangalore zone revealed that vegetables were the most commonly cultivated crop under organic farming, accounting for 50% of the total respondents. This was followed by grains, which made up 32%, reflecting their significance in organic cultivation. Fruits were grown by 16% of the farmers, indicating a moderate level of interest, while flowers were the least cultivated, with only 2% of the farmers engaged in organic floriculture. These results indicate that organic farming in the region is primarily focused on vegetables and grains, with relatively lesser emphasis on fruit and flower cultivation.



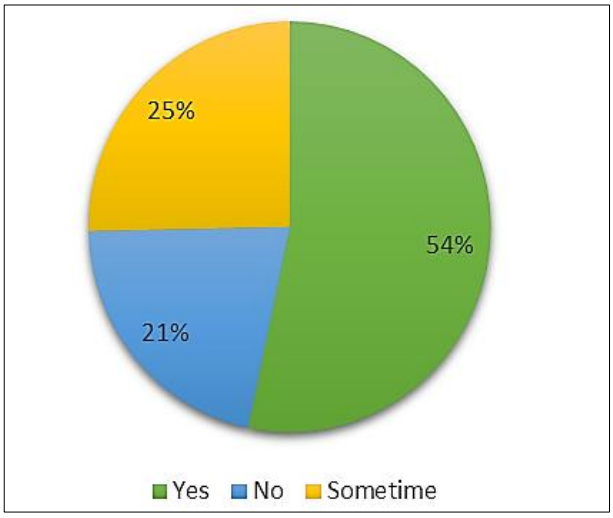
Farmer experience under organic farming

The analysis of organic farmers' years of experience revealed that 50% of the respondents had been practicing organic farming for 11 to 20 years, making this the most common experience group. This was followed by 34% of farmers with 6 to 10 years of experience, showing a significant number of moderately experienced farmers in the field. Only 10% of the farmers had more than 20 years of experience, while the smallest group, 6%, consisted of those with less than 5 years of organic farming experience. These findings indicate that the majority of organic farmers in the Bangalore zone have over six years of experience, reflecting sustained engagement in organic farming practices.

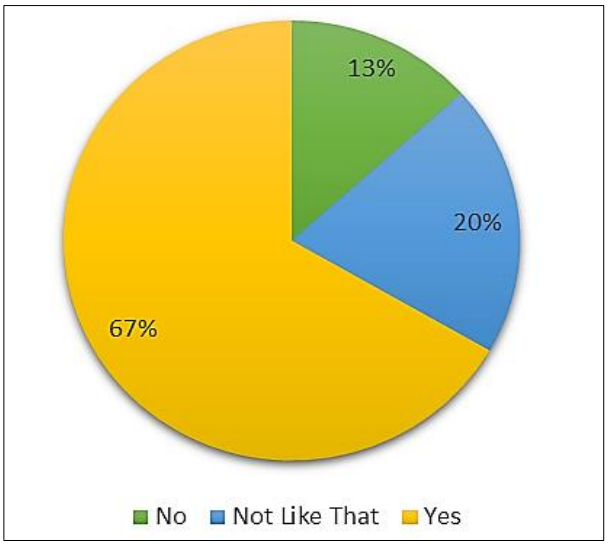


Product cost for organic produce

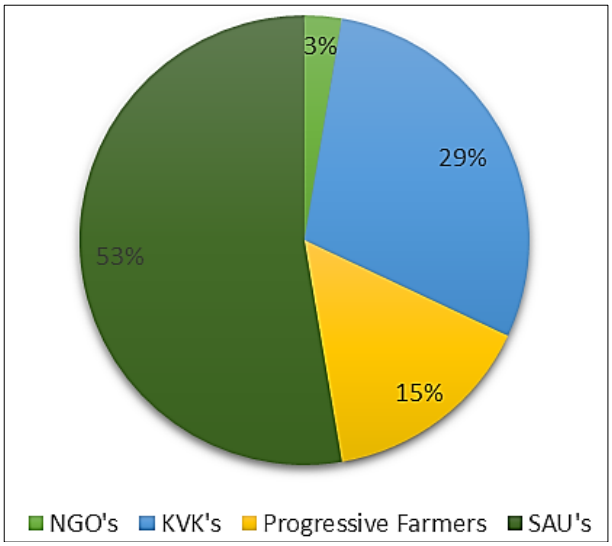
The survey on whether farmers receive premium prices for their organic produce revealed that 54% of the respondents confirmed they receive premium prices, suggesting that over half of the organic farmers benefit from better market returns. Meanwhile, 25% of the farmers stated they receive premium prices sometimes, indicating fluctuating market conditions or inconsistent demand. On the other hand, 21% reported that they do not receive premium prices, highlighting a section of farmers facing market challenges despite practicing organic farming. This result reflects a mixed scenario, with a majority benefiting but a significant proportion still struggling to secure better prices for their organic products.



Cost of production: The analysis of farmers' opinions on the cost of organic production showed that 67% believed the cost of production is high, highlighting a major concern among organic farmers regarding input and maintenance expenses. In contrast, 20% of the respondents felt that the cost is not particularly high, indicating varied experiences based on scale or management practices. Meanwhile, 13% of farmers stated that the cost is not a significant factor, suggesting that a small proportion of farmers manage to control production costs effectively. This outcome reflects that most farmers perceive organic farming as a high-cost venture.

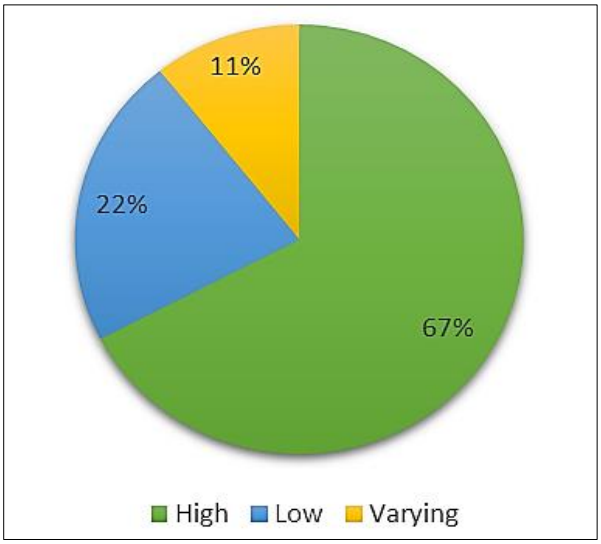


Outcomes of Extension activities The analysis of extension activities supporting organic farming revealed that 53% of the farmers received guidance from State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), making them the primary source of extension support. 29% of the farmers depended on Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technical assistance and training, while 15% were influenced by progressive farmers, reflecting the role of peer learning in organic farming adoption. In contrast, only 3% of farmers reported receiving support from NGOs, indicating a minimal contribution from non-governmental organizations in promoting organic farming practices in the region. This pattern highlights the critical role of formal agricultural institutions in providing extension services for organic farming.



Product demand of organic farming

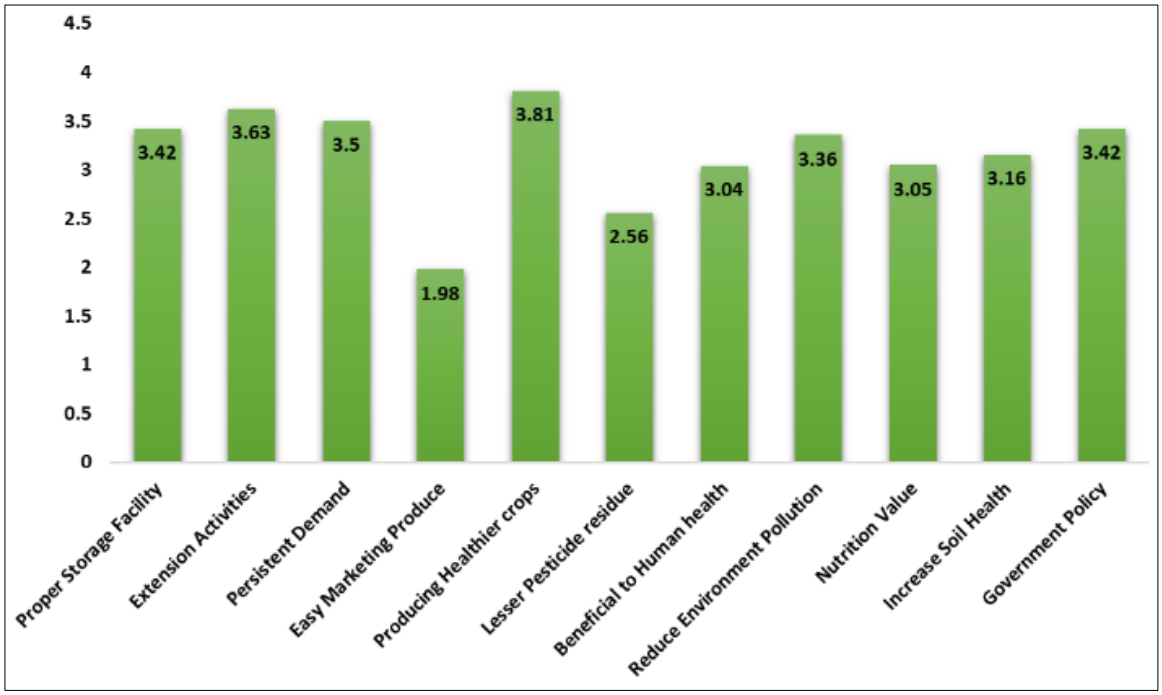
The survey on market demand for organic products showed that 67% of the farmers perceived the demand as high, indicating strong consumer interest in organic produce. In contrast, 22% of the respondents felt that the demand was low, reflecting certain market limitations or regional differences. Additionally, 11% believed that the demand was varying, suggesting fluctuations depending on market trends, seasons, or product types. This result highlights that while the overall perception of organic product demand is positive, a section of farmers still experience inconsistency in market opportunities.



Factor influencing organic farming

The analysis of factors influencing organic farming revealed that the lesser pesticide residue factor received the highest score of 3.81, indicating that farmers consider residue-free produce as the most compelling reason for adopting organic farming. This was closely followed by extension activities (3.63) and persistent market demand (3.5), showing the importance of technical support and consistent demand in promoting organic practices. Factors such as proper storage facilities (3.42), government policy (3.42), nutritional value (3.36), and increase in soil health (3.16) also ranked high, reflecting their significant influence. Meanwhile, factors like

reducing environmental pollution (3.04) and beneficial to human health (2.56) were moderately rated. The lowest-rated factor was producing healthier crops (1.98), suggesting it was perceived as less critical compared to other factors. Overall, the findings highlight that residue reduction, institutional support, market demand, and favorable policies are the key driving forces behind the adoption of organic farming among farmers.



Conclusion

The study on organic farming in the Bangalore zone concludes that organic farming is predominantly practiced by farmers aged 26-40 years, mainly those with school-level education, and is commonly adopted on medium to large landholdings. The majority of farmers have more than six years of experience, focusing mainly on vegetable and grain cultivation. While over half of the farmers receive premium prices for their organic produce, many still face challenges due to high production costs and inconsistent market demand. The findings also emphasize that State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) play a crucial role in providing extension support, with lesser pesticide residue, technical guidance, and market demand emerging as key factors influencing adoption. Despite concerns over production costs, the overall perception of organic farming remains positive, supported by strong demand, institutional backing, and farmers' motivation to produce safer, residue-free food.

References

1. Gamage A, Gangahagedara R, Gamage J, Jayasinghe N, Kodikara N, Suraweera P, *et al*. Role of organic farming for achieving sustainability in agriculture. Farming System. 2023;1(1):100005.
2. Gurung R, Choubey M. Integrating farmer producer organisations in Sikkim organic mission: Opportunities, challenges and policy measures. South Asian Journal of Social Studies and Economics. 2021;9(1):39-49.
3. Bengtsson J, Ahnström J, Weibull AC. The effects of organic agriculture on biodiversity and abundance: a meta-analysis. Journal of Applied Ecology. 2005;42(2):261-269.
4. Reddy AA, Melts I, Mohan G, Rani CR, Pawar V, Singh V, *et al*. Economic impact of organic agriculture: evidence from a Pan-India survey. Sustainability. 2022;14(22):15057.
5. Thakur N, Kaur S, Kaur T, Tomar P, Devi R, Thakur S, *et al*. Organic agriculture for agro-environmental sustainability. In: Trends of Applied Microbiology for Sustainable Economy. Academic Press; 2022. p. 699-735.
6. Mie A, Andersen HR, Gunnarsson S, Kahl J, Kesse-Guyot E, Rembiałkowska E, *et al*. Human health implications of organic food and organic agriculture: a comprehensive review. Environmental Health. 2017;16(1):111.
7. Ramesh P, Panwar NR, Singh AB, Ramana S, Yadav SK, Shrivastava R, *et al*. Status of organic farming in India. Current Science. 2010;98(9):1190-1194.
8. Babar N. Present status and prospects of organic farming in India. European Academic Research. 2015;3(4):4271.
9. Amarnath JS, Sridhar V. An economic analysis of organic farming in Tamil Nadu, India. Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Economics. 2012;35:33-51.