**RESTRICTION TO NUTRIENT USE IN ORGANIC FARMING:**

1. Sufficient quantities of biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin produced on organic farms shall form the basis of the nutrient management programme to increase or at least maintain its fertility and the biological activity within it.
2. Fertilization management should minimize nutrient losses. Accumulation of heavy metals and other pollutants shall be prevented.
3. Desired pH levels shall be maintained in the soil by the producer.
4. The certification programme shall set limitations to the total amount of biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin brought onto the farm unit, taking into account local conditions and the specific nature of the crops.
5. The certification programme shall set procedures which prevent animal runs from becoming over manuring where there is a risk of pollution.
6. Manures containing human excreta (faeces and urine) shall not be permitted to prevent transmission of pests, parasites and infectious agents.
7. Mineral fertilizers shall be applied in their natural composition and shall not be rendered more soluble by chemical treatment. The certification programme may grant exceptions.
8. The certification programme shall lay down restrictions for the use of inputs such as mineral potassium, magnesium fertilizers, trace elements, manures and fertilizers with a relatively high heavy metal content and/or other unwanted substances, e.g. basic slag, rock phosphate and sewage sludge.

**MARKETING AND EXPORT POTENTIAL OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS IN INDIA:**

Organic food exports from India are increasing with more farmers shifting to organic farming. With the domestic consumption being low, the prime market for Indian organic food industry lies in the US and Europe. India has now become a leading supplier of organic herbs, organic spices, organic basmati rice, etc. According to research, exports amount to 53% of the organic food produced in India.

Exports are driving organic food production in India:

1. The increasing demand for organic food products in the developed countries and the extensive support by the Indian government coupled with its focus on agri-exports are the drivers for the Indian organic food industry.
2. Organic food products in India are priced about 20-30% higher than non-organic food products, this is a very high premium for most of the Indian population .The domestic market is not sufficient to consume the entire organic food produced in the country. As a result, export of organic food is the prime aim of organic farmers as well as the government.
3. The Indian government is committed towards encouraging organic food production. It allocated Rs. 100 crore during the Tenth Five Year Plan for promoting sustainable agriculture in India.
4. APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority) coordinates the export of organic food (and other food products) in India.
5. Organic standards have been developed taking into consideration international organic production standards such as CODEX (its collection of internationally adopted food standards, guidelines, codes of practice and other recommendations) and IFOAM(international federation of organic agriculture movements), Indian organic food products are being accepted in the US and European markets. APEDA also provides a list of organic food exporters in India.
6. Organic food production costs are higher in the developed countries as organic farming is labour intensive and labour is costly in these countries. However, in a country like India, where labour is abundant and is relatively cheap, organic farming is seen as a good cost effective solution to the increasing costs involved in chemical farming.

Organic food products exported from India include the following:

Organic Cereals: Wheat, rice, maize or corn

Organic Pulses: Red gram, black gram

Organic Fruits: Banana, mango, orange, pineapple, cashew nut, walnut

Organic Oil Seeds and Oils: Soybean, sunflower, mustard, groundnut, castor

Organic Vegetables: Brinjal, garlic, potato, tomato, onion

Organic Herbs and Spices: Chili, peppermint, cardamom, turmeric, black pepper, white pepper, amla, tamarind, ginger, clove, cinnamon,

Others: Jaggery, sugar, tea, coffee, cotton, textiles.