

**Research Note**

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## **Innovativeness, Self - Confidence and Trainings Undergone by the Organic Vegetable Farmers**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*A study was taken up among the organic farmers in the Coimbatore and Erode districts of Tamilnadu to assess the innovativeness, self-confidence and trainings undergone by them.*

**Keywords** : *Innovativeness, Self - confidence, Trainings undergone, Organic farming.*

Almost a century of development, organic agriculture is now being embraced by the mainstream and shows promising results commercially, socially and environmentally. While there is continuum of thought from earlier days to the present, the modern organic movement is radically different from its original form. It now has environmental sustainability at its core in addition to the founders concerns for healthy soil, healthy food and healthy people. The Indian state of Tamil Nadu also has taken to organic agriculture on a resonable scale. A study on the innovativeness and self-confidence of the organic famers would go a long very in formulating appropriate extension strategies.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study was conducted in Coimbatore and Erode districts of

Tamil Nadu. The objective of the study necessitates the selection of districts where organic vegetable crops are predominantly being cultivated. Based on the interaction with officials from Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department (TNOCD), Coimbatore and KVK, Erode, Erode district was selected where maximum number of organic farmers are found.

A sample size of 180 organic vegetable farmers was fixed for the study. Based on the interaction with officials and perusing documents from the Directorate of Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department in Coimbatore district and KVK, Gobichettipalayam, Erode, a sample of 90 organic vegetable farmers from each district comprising 180 organic farmers were selected using simple random sampling technique.

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## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Innovativeness Among the Organic Vegetable Farmers

The distribution of the farmers according to their level of innovativeness indicates that more than two-thirds (67.80%) of the respondents came under medium level of innovativeness, followed by low (22.20%) and high (10.00%) levels respectively.

The possible reason for the above result might be due to that because of the moderate level of information seeking behaviour, the respondents were aware about the new organic practices and also had the motivation to adopt them.

### Self-Confidence Among the Organic Vegetable Farmers

The distribution of the farmers according to their level of self confidence indicates that majority (81.10%) of the respondents possessed medium level followed by low (10.00%) and high (8.90%) levels of self confidence respectively.

The possible reason for the above result might be due to the reason that majority of the respondents attended training programmes regularly. This led to their good exposure regarding organic farming. This encouraged the farmers to gain self confidence in organic farming even though they were getting very less yield initially. This finding is in

accordance with the findings of Selvarani (2006).

### Trainings Undergone by the Organic Vegetable Farmers

The distribution of the farmers based on their trainings undergone is given in Table 1.

**Table 1.**  
**Distribution of Respondents Based on their Trainings Undergone**

(n=180)

Sl No.	Categories	Number	Percentage
1.	None	23	12.80
2.	One	3	1.60
3.	More than one	154	85.60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100.00</b>

From Table 1, it could be inferred that majority (85.60%) of the respondents had undergone more than one training. This finding is in accordance with the findings of Tamilselvi (2002).

From the data, it could be understood that most of the respondents had been exposed to training programmes. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) also plays a vital role in this, as a separate department i.e. Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture, is functioning in the university. NGOs also give training to the organic farmers in the region.

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