

Q What is ZBNF? what are its advantages & shortcomings?

Ritul

(250 words)

Zero Budget Natural Farming is an environment-friendly, chemical-free agriculture, derived from traditional Indian Agricultural practices.

It was promoted in mid. 1990s by agriculturist Subhas Palekar, as an alternative to green revolution and aimed to reduce the production cost.

It has 4 main pillars:-

- ① Bija mata - natural seed treatment (neem leaves, tobacco)
- ② Jiwamata - natural fertilizer (cow dung & urine)
- ③ Mulching - no deep intensive irrigation.
- ④ Wappasa - making soil moisture rich.

Benefits of ~~NB~~ ZBNF

The rising cost of inputs in farming has been one of the main reason of farmers indebtedness and suicide. As per NSSO, 70% of agricultural household spend more than they earn and more than half of farmers are indebt.

- It can reduce the cost of production and thus also making farming zero budget exercise ✓

- With the increasing use of fertilisers, pesticides, the soils condition is deteriorating, ZBNF provides an environment-friendly alternative with the use of organic fertilisers

- It will also help to tackle the increasing cases of eutrophication in India, and also help to maintain the biological balance and conserve biodiversity. ✓

- ZBNF promotes soil aeration, minimal watering and making the soil moisture rich ~~with~~ along with air molecules present. It discourages the deep intensive irrigation which ~~destroys~~ the top-layer of soil

- ZBNF works for all kind of crops and in all agro-climate zones. ✓

Disadvantages of ZBNF |

- Though it increases the fertility and soil health, but after some times the produce started to decrease.
eg Sikkim - there have been decline in the yield of organic farming.
- Though environment-friendly, it has failed to boost the farmers' income. With low productivity farmers are not able to gain much benefit.
- It advocates the use of Indian breed cows, which in the recent times decreasing at a drastic rate.

Zero Budget Natural Farming, provides a healthy alternative for the chemical intensive farming. With the recent wave to adopt organic, India has huge potential to lead that wave with use of ZBNF.

Excellent!