



Organic Farming Association of India

Organic 8th National Convention

From 28th to 30th December 2023
UC College, Aluva, Ernakulam, Kerala



Host Organisation:
Kerala Jaiva Karshaka Samithi
(State Chapter of OFAI)



Organic Farmers 8th National Convention

Introduction

Organic Farming Association of India was set up by the senior most members of India's organic farming fraternity in the year 2002. The association was primarily set up to promote organic farming, lobby with government agencies and departments to pay more attention to sustainable agriculture, and assist farmers using chemicals and pesticides to convert successfully to organic farming methods. OFAI today remains the only membership-based national association of organic farmers (genuine default organic farmers, rain-fed natural farmers, tribal farmers, non-certified, certified organic farmers), organic farming promoters and green stores.

We organize our biennial organic convention after every two years in different states. The convention provides a platform for organic farmers from all over India to share, learn and grow. Renowned scientists, policy makers, seed savers, innovators come together to bring the developments in organic farming to a common platform - the ultimate goal being growth of our farmers while also replenishing our natural resources.

This year 2023 is getting planned in Ernakulum, Kerala with the active leadership from the Host State Organisation, Kerala Jaiva Karshaka Samithi, the Kerala chapter of the national association OFAI. In this regard, we request you to kindly participate and support us in the Organic Farmers National Convention 2023, 8th in series of the popular biennial conventions and become a witness to the grassroots reality of authentic organic movement taking place in our country. Your collaboration and support would lead organic movement on a higher benchmark.

It is proposed to be held at U C College, Aluva, Ernakulam, Kerala on 28th, 29th and 30th December 2023

KP Illiyas
President

Prem Singh
Secretary

Shamika Mone
Treasurer

Highlights

- **2000** registered delegates from **28** states + Union territories

- **20000+** Daily visitors
- **6000** Seed Varieties
- **200** Seed Keepers
- **200** Organic Farmers and Entrepreneurs

- Seed Biodiversity Festival
- **Farmers Market**
- Food Diversity Festival
- Organic Cotton Festival and Alternative Fashion Show

• Agri-preneur Start-up Camp

- Women and Youth programs
- Organic Model Plots
- Innovation Arena: Farm Demonstrations

- **Cultural programs And Art festival**

- Farmers Presentations
- Fisheries and Livestock Diversity
- Open seminars and parallel sessions

- Farmer Awards and honoring pioneer farmer leaders
- **Book releases**
- **Zero waste event**



Seed Biodiversity Festival

Traditional seeds are self-derived by the farmers through long-term selection by understanding each and every quality, and access to such diverse traditional seeds is critical for the success in organic farming. Local farming communities have preserved and reused their diverse indigenous seed varieties – cereals like rice, wheat, millets, lentils like pulses and beans, vegetables, spices, tubers, oil seeds and fruits like banana, jackfruits, mangoes, etc. over generations together. This festival will bring together such seed savers, organic farmers and farmer breeders from all over the country with the common motto of promoting our traditional varieties for nutritious and productive crops.



Farmers Market

This space will allow consumers to know and procure authentic organic produce directly from farmers as well as interact with them. It opens up marketing opportunities for all the organic farmers with various value additions and many with entrepreneurial skills.



Food Diversity Festival

Traditional recipes have existed in remotest corners with localized and basic resources available to our grandparents and yet they have been able to create some unique dishes that exist till today in our kitchen. The goal of this Food festival is to reconnect the lost consumers with the healthy food traditions. It will offer a huge variety of exclusive delicious organic food with cuisine from different states of India.



Organic Cotton Festival and Alternative Fashion Show

An exhibition cum Fashion show, featuring organic and desi cotton clothing dyed using natural materials in collaboration with designers, to create clothing which is easily accessible and wearable in everyday life. Variety of programs including a show, interactive displays to aware the consumers on the importance and benefits of desi cotton and natural dyes and show the value chain of cotton from farmer to consumer, bringing slow and sustainable clothing into the mainstream and spreading awareness.



Innovation Arena: Farm Demonstrations

Innovative techniques on water conservation, soil conservations, organic compost preparations, organic pest repellents, rainfed irrigation techniques, soil microbes etc will be demonstrated by different groups.



Organic Model Plots

Special plots will be prepared with the practical help of farmers, showing how crops can be grown using organic techniques. Delegates will have exposure visits to these Organic Model plots.



Agri-preneur Start-up Camp

The program is designed for guiding and motivating young entrepreneurs that amplify their ideas into successful models through inputs and training in organic processing, packing, branding, certification and marketing.



Women and Youth Programs

Women farmers are involved in all activities from seed keeping, weeding, harvesting, post harvesting, value addition and cooking, from farm to plate, but are hardly recognized as woman farmers, even in the 21st century. A Special chapter on Woman Farmers would be initiated under the Organic Farmers Association of India.



Open Seminars and Parallel Sessions

Seminars with prominent leaders, Scientists and Experts on various topics like Soil, Seeds, Policies, Organic Farming Principles, Standards and Certification, Urban gardening, Multi-layer farming, Community Supported Agriculture and more will be held as parallel sessions three days of the Convention.



Farmers Presentations

Often different stakeholders present in conferences, but farmers hardly get opportunities to present their on farm work in conferences. Hence, the Association started Farmers track since 2017 with a special focus on sharing Farmer's knowledge, experiences and practices on ground from seeds to harvests under organic principles across array of diverse crops and cropping systems.



Fisheries and Livestock Diversity

A small exhibition will be held to showcase different breeds of cows, buffaloes, goats and sheep in organic agriculture (live and poster demonstrations) This will also include local breeds of chicken and fish farming that is an integral part of the Organic farming practices. Additionally there will be displays of value added products using cow dung, cow urine, cow milk etc that is redesigned into various useful products.



Cultural Programs and Art Festival

Every morning, afternoon, evening of the convention will be unique and celebratory, with special kinds of folk songs and dance, fusion music, rap music and cultural programs related to organic farming and food. The venue and other local public places nearby would be decorated with art works and installations by professional artists with different kind of bio-degradable materials.



Executive Office Bearers:

KP Illiyas, President

K P Illias, is an Organic Farmer growing traditional rice varieties and vegetables in Shoranur, Kerala. He got interested in the organic farming and had an urge to contribute to the anti-pesticide movement. He served as the youngest secretary of Kerala Jaiva Karshaka Samithi for three years. Since 2018, he serves as the President of the Organic Farming Association of India. He also acts as a Consultant for Organic Farming to NGOs and other agencies.



Prem Singh, Secretary

Prem Singh is an Organic Farmer from Banda in Uttar Pradesh growing different crops and fruit trees along with animal husbandry. His technique of 'Avartansheel Kheti', or 'periodic proportionate farming' has helped many farmers in the region to fight climatic distress. He also runs the 'Humane Agrarian Centre', an open university for young farmers to teach the principles of sustainable agriculture. Since 2023, he serves as the Secretary of the Organic Farming Association of India.



Shamika Mone, Treasurer

Shamika Mone is a researcher turned organic farmer from Pune, Maharashtra. She does organic farming on 4 Acres leased farm land where she grows traditional rice varieties and vegetables. Her documented book, "A Source Book on India's Organic Seeds" serves to increase the accessibility and availability of these indigenous organic seeds for the organic farmers. Shamika was now elected as the new Chairperson (President) of INOFO – Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations and World Board member of IFOAM Organics International. Since 2018, She is now the elected Treasurer and the Managing Committee member.





The Organic Farming Association of India

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