

Certificate course on
Organic Agricultural Management



Objectives:

The certificate course aims at sensitizing the need and generating knowledge and skill on various organic farming practices, so as to equip the learners carrying out organic agricultural production and management.

Justification

The health of individuals and communities cannot be separated from the health of ecosystems; healthy soils produce healthy crops that foster the health of animals and people. Health is the wholeness and integrity of living systems. It is not simply the absence of illness, but t h e maintenance of physical, mental, social and ecological well-being. Immunity, resilience and regeneration are key characteristics of health.

The role of organic agriculture, whether in farming, processing, distribution, or consumption, is to sustain and enhance the health of ecosystems and organisms from the smallest in the soil to human beings. In particular, organic agriculture is intended to produce high quality, nutritious food that contributes to preventive health care and well-being.



Organic farming is helpful in creating integrated, humane, environmentally and economically sustainable agriculture production systems. The maximum reliance is placed on locally or farm-derived renewable resources and the management of self-regulating ecological and biological processes and interactions to provide the acceptable levels of the crop, livestock and human nutrition, protection from the pests and diseases, and an appropriate return to the human and other resources employed.

It is high time to sensitize and generate knowledge about organic farming practices, especially in the context of the present organic agricultural policy of the Government of Kerala. In this backdrop, a certificate course on organic Agricultural Management is proposed to be started.

Details of the proposed programme

Duration : 6 months
 Total Credits : 18
 Location : Centre for E-learning,
 Kerala Agricultural University
 College of Horticulture
 Vellanikkara, Thrissur-680 656



Major areas of teaching:

No	Module	Hours	Credit
a	Concept of organic farming	12	1+0
b	Organic plant nutrient management	48	2+1
c	Organic plant protection	36	1+1
d	Organic crop production practices	48	2+1
e	Organic certification	36	1+1
f	Entrepreneurship Development	12	1+0
g	Case study & project report	48	0+2
h	Major project work	96	0+4
Total		336	8+10=18

Selection process : On-line registration and Online screening
Eligibility for admission : Candidate should have a minimum qualification of pass in VHSE (Agriculture & allied subjects)/ pass in +2

Implementing team:

Institutional Head : Associate Dean, College of Horticulture
Supervising Head : Director, Centre for E-learning
Course Director : Institutional Co-ordinator
(Extension)
Centre for E-learning

Principal Faculty:

1. From Dept. of Soil Science (specialized in Organic Agriculture)
2. From Dept. of Agronomy (specialized in Organic Agriculture)

Collaborating Centres /Units:

1. Department of Agronomy, College of Horticulture
2. Department of Soil Science, College of Horticulture
3. Department of Entomology, College of Horticulture
4. Department of Plant Pathology, College of Horticulture
5. Department of Microbiology, College of Horticulture
6. Department of Plantation crops & Spices, College of Horticulture
7. Department of Olericulture, College of Horticulture
8. Department of Pomology, College of Horticulture
9. Department of Agrl. Economics, College of Horticulture
10. Scheme on BCCP, College of Horticulture
11. State Biocontrol Lab, Mannuthy

Course fee: Rs.6,000/- per student



Mode of delivery

Theory : Blend of online tutorials, class room sessions and non-compulsory contact classes.

Practical : Illustrated online labs and non-compulsory hands on practical sessions.

Note : All the course materials dispatched and exams conducted are online and in English

Participants should have a valid E-Mail ID

Scheme of Evaluation:

The performance of the student will be evaluated through internal assessment. The internal assessment will be through online mid-term examination, assignments, project works and a written final examination.

Theory paper (Maximum – 100 & Minimum for pass – 40 Marks)

Midterm	Final exam	Total
20 Marks	80 Marks	100 Marks

Practical paper (Maximum – 100 & Minimum for pass – 40 Marks)

Assignment	Project	Total
30 Marks	70 Marks	100 Marks

Score card

< 40 % = Failed
40 – 59 = Second class
60 – 79 = First Class
80 and above = First class with distinction

Absence from Examination

A student who could not attend the online midterm examination will get two more chances to write the exam at monthly intervals. A student has to complete the midterm examination before appearing the final examination. Those who miss/fail in the final examination will get two supplementary chances within the maximum period of one year.