



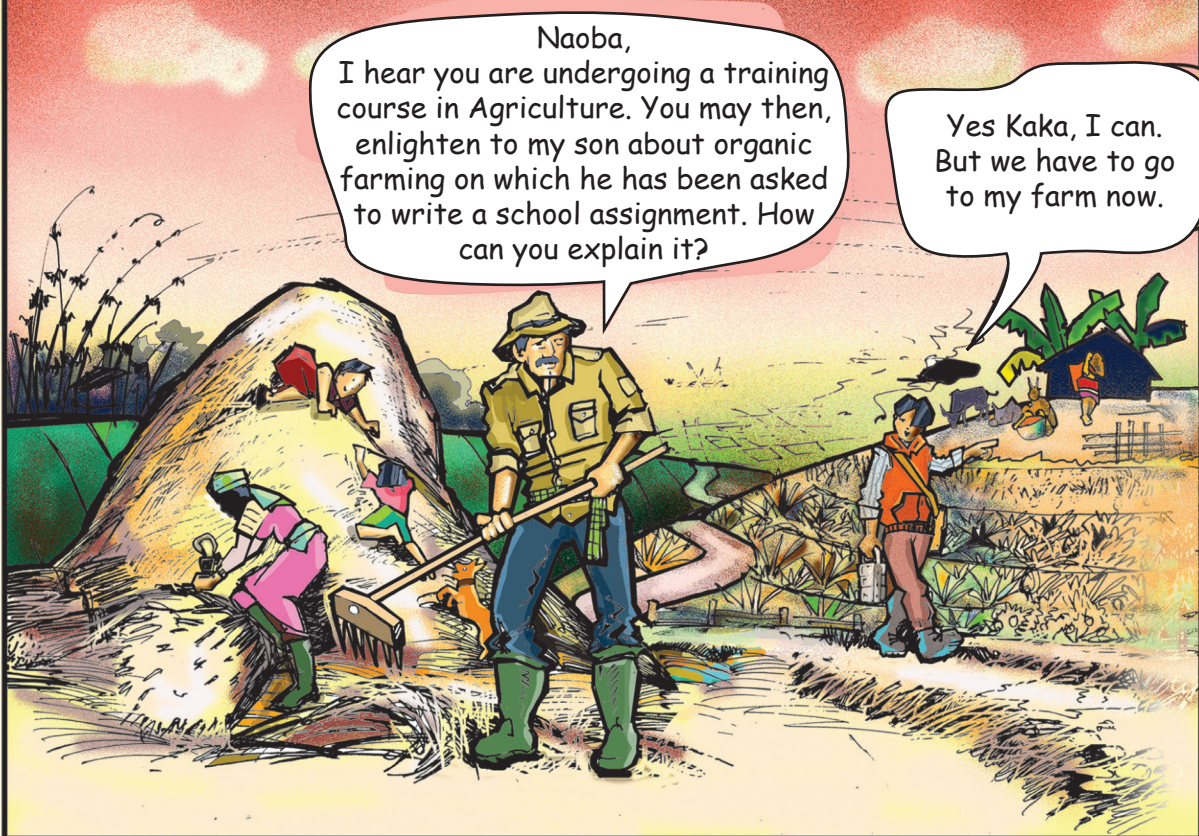
AN ILLUSTRATIVE GUIDE ON

Organic Farming & Mission Organic Value Chain Development for NE Region (MOVCDNER)



Manipur Organic Mission Agency
Department of Horticulture & Soil Conservation &
Department of Agriculture
Sanjenthong, Manipur – 795001

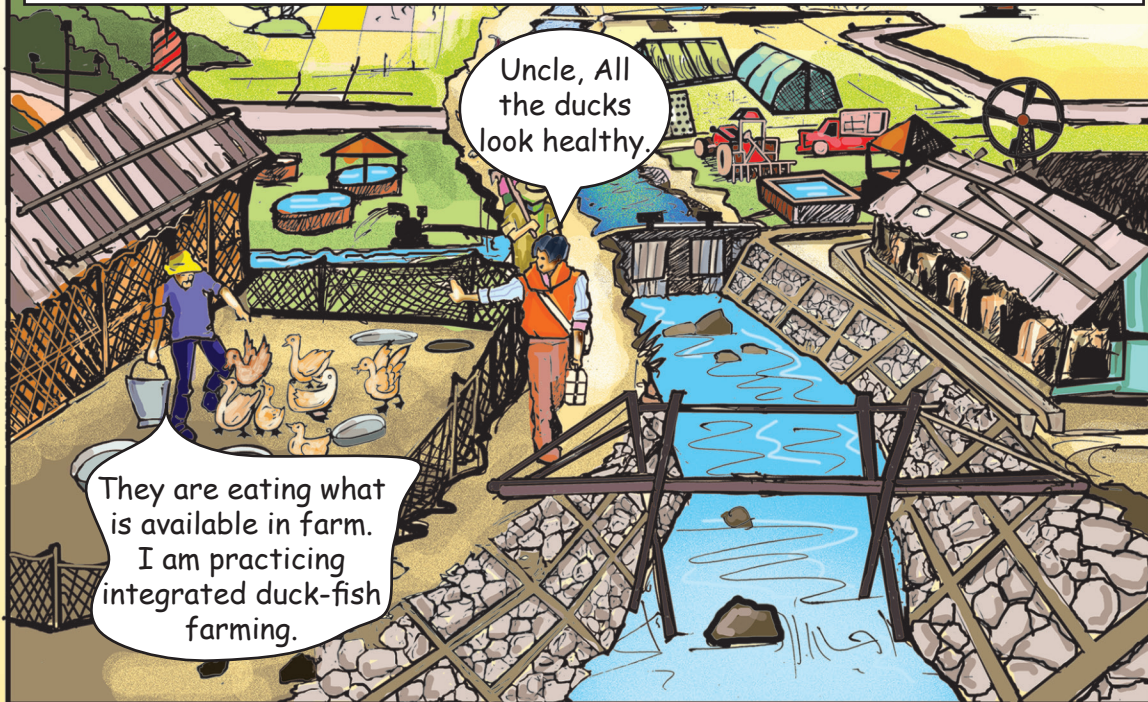
As Naoba walks down a lane in a paddy field, he meets a farmer couple with their children, Sanatomba and Langlen.



Naoba,
I hear you are undergoing a training course in Agriculture. You may then enlighten to my son about organic farming on which he has been asked to write a school assignment. How can you explain it?

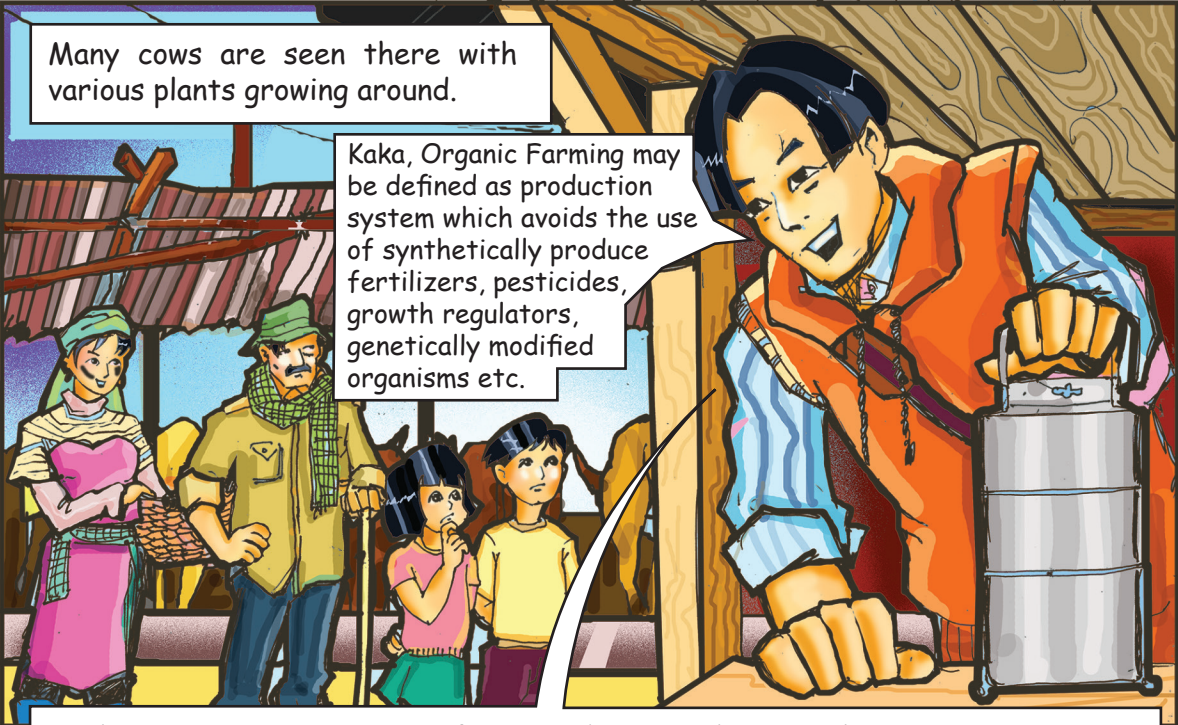
Yes Kaka, I can.
But we have to go to my farm now.

All four of them come to the cowshed of Naoba's farm. Many cows are seen there with various plants growing around. Hens and ducks are also seen (loitering about).



Uncle, All the ducks look healthy.

They are eating what is available in farm.
I am practicing integrated duck-fish farming.



Many cows are seen there with various plants growing around.

Kaka, Organic Farming may be defined as production system which avoids the use of synthetically produce fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators, genetically modified organisms etc.

It relies upon crop rotations, use of crop residues, animal manures, legumes, green manures, off farm organic wastes, biofertilizers to supply plant nutrients while maintaining soil productivity and aspects of biological control to control insect, weeds and other pests.



I don't understand. Can you explain it again?

The aims of organic farming is to improve and maintain soil fertility with minimal use of chemical inputs,

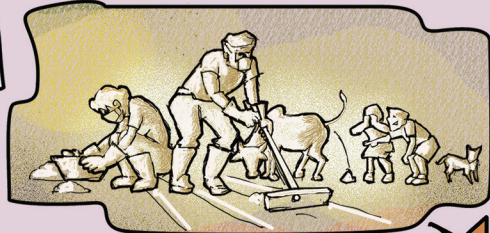
using local resources and produce crop with a high nutritional value.



Brother Noaba, I can't get the idea.



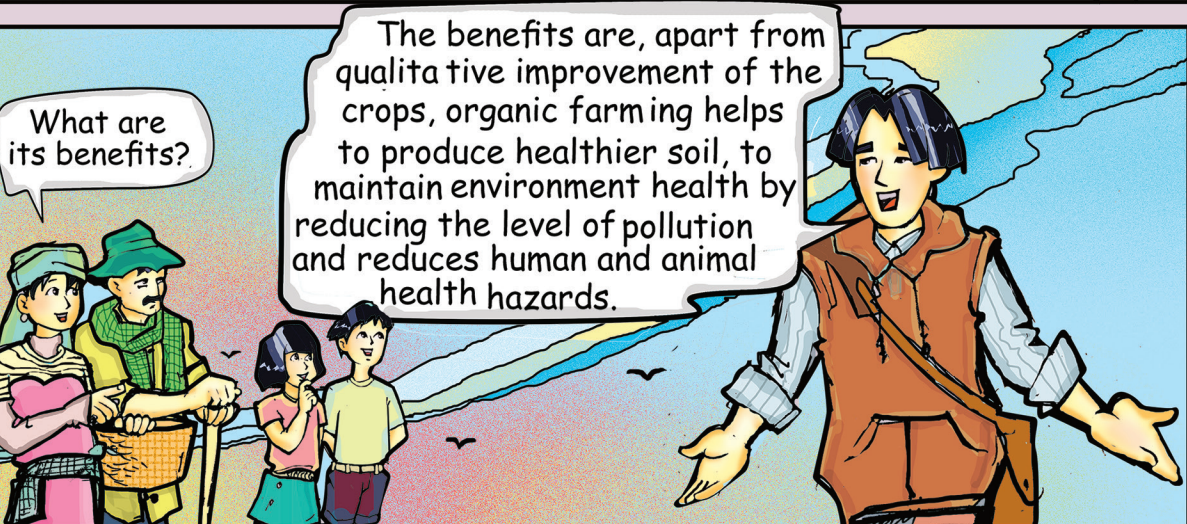
Briefly, available local resources in farm such as cow dung are used as manure and crop residues are used in making compost.



Organic farming aims to recycle and reuse farm by-products such that there is minimum waste.



In addition, by practising mulching, crop rotation or inter cropping with leguminous plant, the soils are revitalized.



What are its benefits?

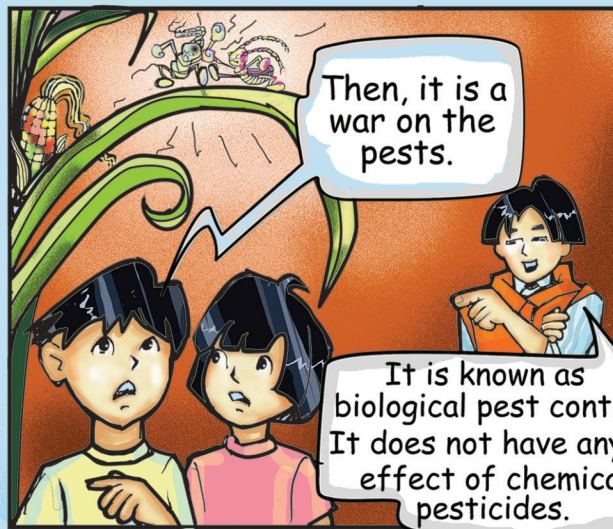
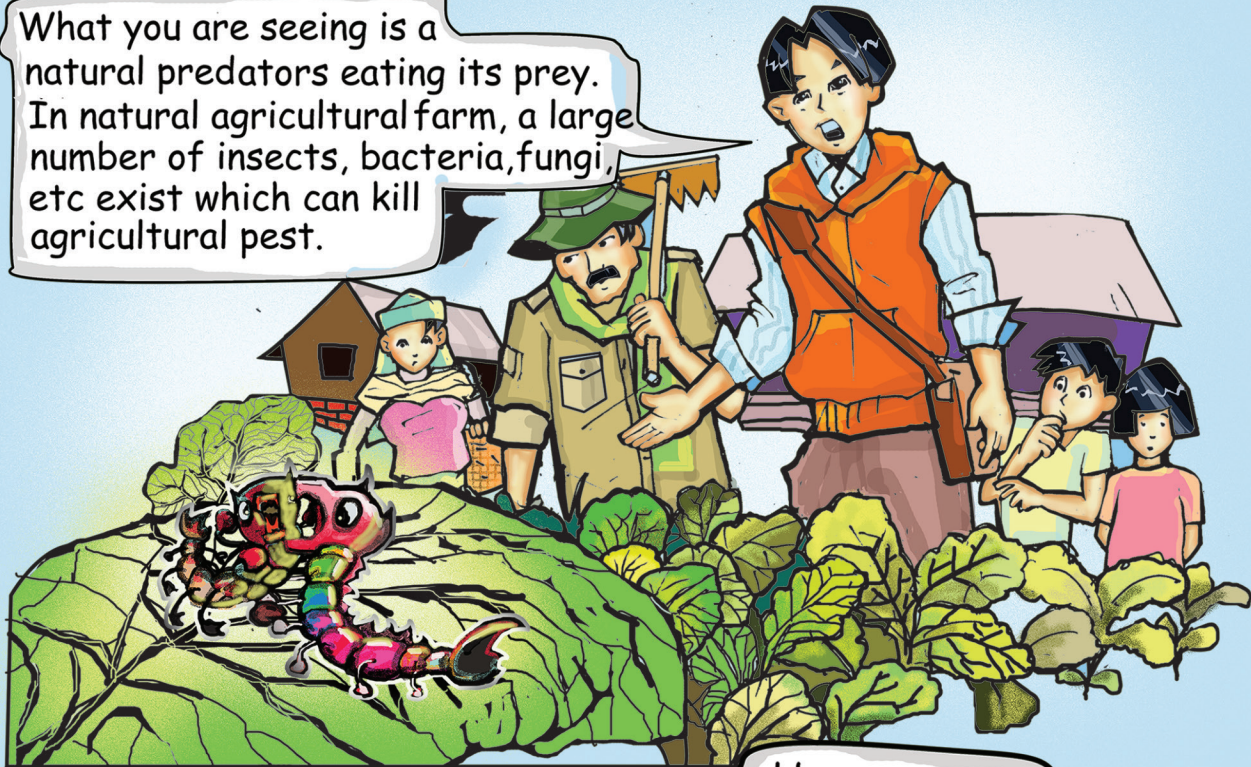
The benefits are, apart from qualitative improvement of the crops, organic farming helps to produce healthier soil, to maintain environment health by reducing the level of pollution and reduces human and animal health hazards.



What about diseases and pests?

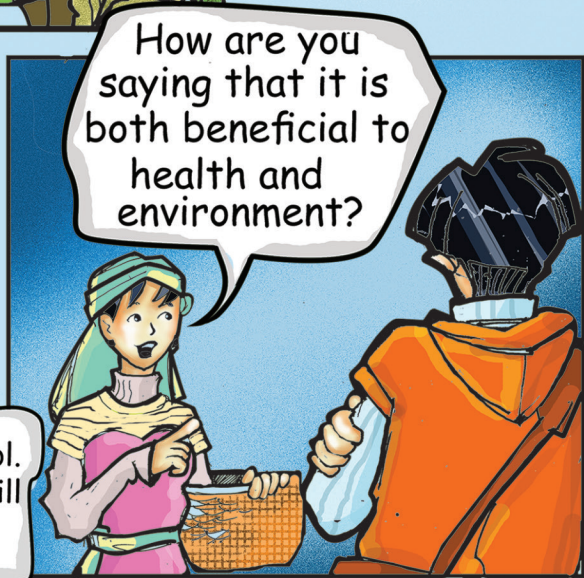
Naoba enters into a vegetable farm with them. Various kind of vegetables are seen growing in and around. On the vegetable leaves, one can see pests eating one another.

What you are seeing is a natural predators eating its prey. In natural agricultural farm, a large number of insects, bacteria, fungi, etc exist which can kill agricultural pest.




Then, it is a war on the pests.

It is known as biological pest control. It does not have any ill effect of chemical pesticides.



How are you saying that it is both beneficial to health and environment?



They are seen standing beside a stream running down a river.

The residues of the chemical fertilizers or pesticides used in the field run down to the lakes,

rivers and ponds causing indirect effect of health hazards and pollute the environment gradually.

What will happen if chemical fertilizers & pesticides are kept on using?

If we go on using chemical fertilizers or pesticides, it will result in soil degradation, environmental pollution and various diseases in humans. Pesticides are known to cause cancer, nerve damage and other ailments.

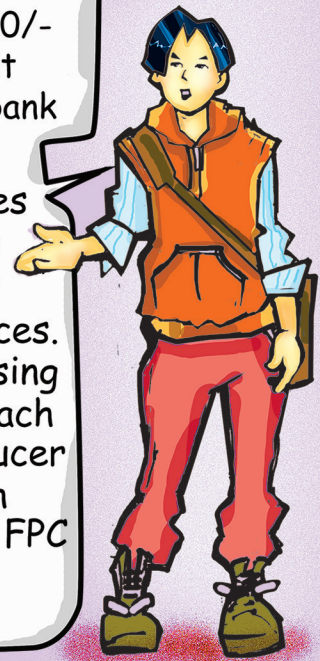
A sustainable agriculture is possible only when we don't depend on chemical fertilizers & pesticides. Organic farming is one of such sustainable agricultural practices which can address both health and environmental issues.

Okay now, what kind of assistance can we get from the Government side?

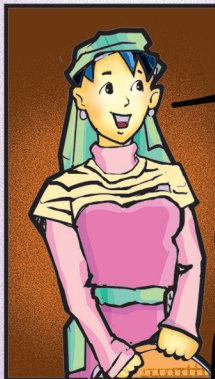


Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Government of India, has been extending financial assistances to farmers practising organic farming. Quality planting materials and seeds are distributed to the registered farmer under the scheme. Every registered farmer will be paid a grant of Rs.7500/- for two years through Direct Benefit Transfer to their individual farmer bank account.

This will provide the necessary resources to the farmers for proper transition to organic farming for higher productivity and better quality of the organic produces. Farmer Interested Group (FIG) comprising of 20-25 farmers each in cluster approach can be formed. Already 15 Farmer Producer Company consisting of several FIGs with around 500 farmers has also be set up. FPC as a company shall be run by farmers themselves as Board of Director.

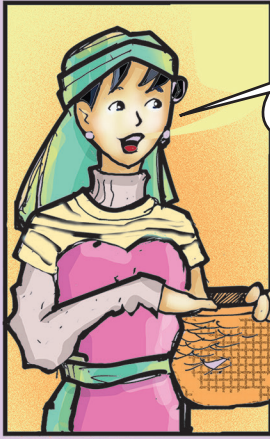


What further activities can we take up?



A subsidy upto 75% is provided to FPC in the construction of farm infrastructure/ post harvesting units like processing unit, collection centre, cold room, pack house etc. and a subsidy upto 50% is given to entrepreneurs on the same.





What about marketing of the organic produces?

The produce of the organic farming can be sold at a higher rate than normal or conventional farming due to higher consumer demand. Target of MOMA is a value chain approach where farmers will be assisted in production, processing and marketing.



MOMA also links farmers with buyers from outside while also exploring avenues for export. Organic certification provided to the farmer groups authenticates their organic production.

Well now, Naoba, you please work out the assignment with my son while I along with your aunty and some farmers will go to MOMA office for their advice.



They disperse.