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Residue Free Farming: A Game Changer in Recent Scenario

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INTRODUCTION

In past few years, there has been an ideal shift in consumer preferences. Consumers are becoming increasingly wellness oriented and alert of the food they consume. In this trend, residue-free and organic farming, are gaining attention of the consumers.

Residue-free farming techniques ensure the protection and growth improvement of seedlings and plants by using bio-fertilizers and biocides. Farmers cannot afford to engage in or adopt practices with high investment or complex procedures. Residue-free farming is blends of tech-based methods that increase output reduce wastage and, which can definitely improve farm earnings. Post-harvest leftovers can be used to produce eco-friendly manure.

If synthetic pesticides are used, they are applied at predetermined intervals so that the residue is not present in maximum quantities, conforming to the (MRL) Maximum Residue Level.

Organic farming is a system that begins to consider potential environmental and social impacts by eliminating the use of synthetic inputs, such as synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, veterinary drugs, genetically modified seeds and breeds, preservatives, additives and irradiation.

Residue-free farming eliminates the disadvantages of organic farming techniques. Residue-free farming should be opted over organic farming for the following reasons:

CONSUMPTION FACTOR

There are no clear findings to suggest that organic produce offers a rich nutritional value when compared to fruits and vegetables grown using other techniques. Residue-free farming practices have been successful in overcoming this downside by rich in nutrients and known for its antioxidant properties. Residue-free fruits contain natural sugars that are not produced artificially through the use of chemicals. It is healthier and short of any side effects.

Despite the obvious benefits, farmers in India do not fully opted residue-free farming.

PRODUCTION FACTOR

The yield of organic farming is so low that adopting only these techniques will be insufficient to meet the demands of a huge population. Residue-free techniques are economical, and they do not hamper production factor. It includes modern practices like poly-houses, bio-fertilizer management, and rainwater harvesting grafting. The Centre has launched the All India Network Project on Pesticide Residues (AINP-PR) to combat pesticide contamination in several food commodities.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR

Chemical fertilizers and pesticides are detrimental for consumers as well as degrade the quality of the surrounding environment. For instance, they lead to soil degradation, water pollution and loss of aquatic life, among others. Residue-free practices as the name suggests, it leaves no harmful traces behind. FSSAI has introduced a list of crop contaminants and their acceptable levels and according to regulation, the certified levels of mentioned elements cannot be breached during production.

TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS:

India also caters to international fresh food demand apart from its domestic consumption. However, Indian goods face rejection because they fail to fall under MRLs. For example, the EU refused consignments of table grapes of India as they failed to fall under their strict MRL. In 2020, chilies, basmati rice and sesame seeds faced issues on the international front. Developed countries encourage and promote residue-free crops.

CONCLUSION

To improve legacy methods residue-free farming combines traditional practices with cutting-edge solutions. In recent years the subcontinent's focus on residue-free and clean produce has seen a dramatic increase. Residue-free primarily aims to restore soil health, rebuilding its fertility through natural solutions. In this scenario, residue-free farming has emerged as a game-changer as it combines quality with bumper quantity.

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