



## Natural Farming: Emerging Farming System

**Vijay\*, Gaurav Singh,  
Pankaj Kumar, Vinod  
Kumar**

Maharana Pratap Horticultural  
University, Karnal



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\*Corresponding Author

**Vijay\***

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### INTRODUCTION

Rice-wheat system is considered as backbone of our country. To meet the foodgrain demand, the dependence has increased on quick-to-get chemical farming results. This approach has resulted in continuous deterioration of health in humans, animals, soil and environment. Natural farming is a new emerging farming system where farming is done by adopting microorganisms based farming and no chemical input is used in this system. Besides being a non chemical approach, the quality and yield aspects are getting encouraging response from farmers.

The double edged sword of green revolution has quenched our thirst to become a food secured country but with the passage of time the ill effects of this necessary evil have gained attention. With the passage of time fertilizer responsive cereal crops and traditional rice-wheat system have become a neck knot for the country that seems appropriate functionally for fulfilment of the central pool which safeguards us in the times of uncertainty as well depicted in the recent corona related lockdowns and times of restrictions. Green revolution is the culmination and result of a series of necessities some of which were actually the necessary ones and other's which we felt are necessary but they might not have been. Now after we as a country have tried and tested our capabilities regarding food security, the think tanks feel comfortable morally and practically in thrusting the agricultural diversification ideology with "Horticulture" as central theme. With the deteriorating health of soil, plants, animals, humans and "Earth" this neck knot needs to be either eased or replaced. Growing of scented and non-scented rice varieties might need a review as we need to understand the cost we are paying with every grain exported to other countries also exports the precious and time sensitive commodity "water" required to grow it.

Speculations are that 1 Kg of rice needs 3000 to 5000 liters of water to grow. Another area of concern is the continuously deteriorating soil health due to indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides. A deep rooted experienced farmer can easily estimate soil health status by the color of soil and crop. But the neglected and naked eye invisible microbial population is the ultimate sufferer of this brute chemical force. With the emergence of “Horticulture” as a diversification asset combined with “Natural Farming-The farming of microbes” we might be able to push the countries GDP on a new and unexpected track. Natural farming is cow based farming system in which microbes rich natural inputs are used instead of chemicals. Natural farming not only reduces per farmer or per acer or per crop expense but also expected to exponentially help in reducing the huge fertilizer import and subsidybills. Natural farming or the farming of microorganisms might be the first chapter in the next most promising “Era of Microbes”. Natural farming exploits the unappreciated and underutilized labor force i.e. microorganisms in a sustainable way while promising at par or even better yield potentials and ultimately

enhancing the cost benefit ratio in the favor of the “Farmers”. New chapter that is ready to get lime light in this yet to be realized era of microbes is the concept of “Carbon Credit”. With the age long era of industrialization and efforts of governments to curb the emission of carbon in the environment carbon credit concept has started to lay its roots. The farmer’s adding carbon via practices like Natural Farming can be awarded carbon credit certificates which in turn can be bought by industries emitting carbon in harmful ways, thereby compensating some damage to environment. With the passage of time, proper government aided exchanges and brokers can tap into this unexploited carbon credit market and provide additional income to the backbone of *Krishi Pradhan* India.

### CONCLUSION

Natural farming can be considered as a promising alternate to the existing chemical farming system adopted by majority of farmers. This system not only provides chemical free food but also provides opportunities for cost reduction and for enhancing farmer’s income.