

# **Farmers' attitude and perception towards organic farming in Solukhumbu, Nepal**

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The main intention of this study is to analyze the farmers' attitude and perception of organic farming in the Solukhumbu district of Nepal. Data were collected from the farmers and households, and government officials. We need to have the data from these different actors as it influences on the perspective of people on organic farming. This can be a deciding factor if they will practice organic farming in coming years or keep on continuing their organic way of farming or not. The research was done with a survey paper which was to be marked by the households and farmers. Also, a set of structured interviews was done with the government officials. We need to have questions related in different ways which can be the factor for influencing what the farmers think about organic farming. Some includes market knowledge level, farming skill, their experience, etc. which helps us to guess if they can manage the farms or not.

The farmers have a sound knowledge about the organic awareness; however, the government believes that more awareness program is needed. From the survey, it is understood that it was more important for the consumers to have organic awareness before the farmers having organic awareness. This is needed for the market demand from the consumers. However, most consumer are willing to buy agro-products which look shiny, big and does not have a premium price like organic products.

The other important factor is the role of the government. If there are good schemes and support provided by then government, then there is more chance that the farmers will have a more positive perspective about organic farming. From the survey it was found that the local government provided high quality seeds, farming equipment's, subsidies, training, consultation services, and others. However, from the research it was found that there were problems during the implementation phase from the government's side. Due to lack of roadway transportation, especially in the mountain part of Solukhumbu district (Khumbu region), the farmers have been practicing traditional farming without the use of chemicals since before. The people in hilly region (Solu) believes that it is much easier with

conventional farming and also the production is high, so they have an interest in conventional farming too. All these various factors are important to know for our research as this will help us to know if the farmers' will practice organic farming in the coming years or not.

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