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Md. Jahidul Amin^{1,*}

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PROSPECTS AND BARRIERS TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN BANGLADESH: A LITERATURE-BASED ANALYSIS

Md. Jahidul Amin^{1,*}

¹ Faculty member, Department of Agriculture, Rabindra Maitree University, Kushtia, Bangladesh.

*Corresponding author: jahidulamin1963@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Organic farming presents a sustainable alternative to conventional agriculture by emphasizing ecological balance, biodiversity conservation, and minimal use of synthetic inputs. In Bangladesh, where agriculture plays a critical role in the economy and employs over one-third of the population, the adoption of organic practices holds significant potential. This paper explores the opportunities and challenges of organic farming in the Bangladeshi context through a comprehensive review of existing literature, government reports, and international data sources. Bangladesh's diverse agroecological zones, traditional farming knowledge, increasing demand for chemical-free products provide a strong foundation for organic agriculture. Moreover, there is growing interest in organic exports, particularly in high-value crops like tea, spices, and fruits. However, several challenges hinder the expansion of organic farming, including the absence of a national organic policy, limited farmer awareness, lack of certification infrastructure, poor market access, and inadequate availability of organic inputs. The findings highlight the need for coordinated policy support, farmer training programs, certification and labeling mechanisms, and market development strategies. With proper intervention, organic farming can contribute to food security, environmental sustainability, and rural livelihoods. The paper concludes with policy recommendations to promote a structured and inclusive transition toward organic agriculture in Bangladesh.



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