

Preface

Organic agriculture has emerged as a sustainable farming system which has great impact on socioeconomic status of small farmers in rural areas, particularly of developing countries. This system of farming enhances soil and ecosystem health by avoiding the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and recycles farm waste, making the system self-sustainable. With increasing health awareness, current increasing interest in organic agriculture is favored for health as well as environmental and food quality concerns. Currently, the land under organic farming is ~40 m ha with a market value of ~US\$65 billion. Australia, China, and India are increasingly growing farming under organic. I am pleased to present a timely compilation on “Organic Farming for Sustainable Agriculture” under the series on “Sustainable Development and Biodiversity” after a very successful first book on *Sustainable Horticultural Systems: Issues, Technology and Innovation* (2014).

“Organic Farming for Sustainable Agriculture” book is contributed by authors from the entire gamut of agricultural disciplines who are distributed throughout the globe, particularly developing countries, which is the region impacted the most by climate change and excessive use of chemical farming. Organic farming practices are resilient and becoming increasingly important due to pressing needs to protect the air, soils, and water; to improve socioeconomic conditions of farmers, farm workers, and rural communities; and to provide healthy, safe, and nutritious horticultural products to a rapidly increasing world population.

This book gathers review articles that analyze current organic agriculture practices, principles, knowledge, and proposed solutions. This book is the most up-to-date and comprehensive review of our knowledge on the use of innovative technologies and issues in organic farming systems with case studies from various regions of the world. It contains fifteen reviews on the production, practices, urban agriculture and integrated pest management, breeding for organic farming, safety issues, organic meat, organic certification, and health and nutrition.

The book is designed to cater to the needs of undergraduates and postgraduates studying organic agriculture, horticulture, sustainable crop production, crop protection, agricultural sciences, integrated pest management, and plant sciences.

Research scientists in such fields as horticulture, vegetables, agriculture, and crop protection will also find this book as a useful compilation of review articles. Libraries in all universities and research establishments where agricultural and horticultural sciences are studied and taught should have multiple copies of this valuable book on their shelves.

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