

The Future of Natural Farming in India

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Natural farming has emerged as a vital solution to the growing environmental and health concerns posed by conventional agricultural practices. Unlike chemical-driven farming, natural methods rely on ecological processes and biodiversity to sustain soil health and crop productivity. The movement gained traction in India, thanks to initiatives like Subhash Palekar's Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) and government-supported programs that encourage sustainable farming techniques.

Natural farming emphasizes practices such as seed treatment using cow urine and dung, mulching to maintain soil moisture, and intercropping for pest control. These methods not only reduce the cost of production but also help in

maintaining the ecological balance by avoiding synthetic inputs. Recent studies highlight that natural farming improves soil fertility, boosts biodiversity, and reduces water consumption.

While challenges such as initial lower yields and lack of awareness persist, the long-term benefits make it a promising alternative. With government policies supporting organic certification and international demand for chemical-free produce rising, India stands at the forefront of an agricultural revolution driven by natural farming.