



## Strategy 1

### ENSURE SEED SOVEREIGNTY OF THE FARMERS AND THE STATE

- 1.1 Establish seed villages
  - 1.1 (a) Begin programmes for the production of seeds, seedlings, planting materials and, traditional animal breeds at the Panchayat level / Extension Circle level, so as to become self-sufficient in the availability of good quality local seeds, both indigenous and breeder seeds developed by the CARI and other Institutions of agricultural research.
  - 1.1 (b) Begin at the farmers' group levels, seed banks and seed cooperatives to produce, store, share and supply good quality seeds.
  - 1.1 (c) Promote farmers who can produce good quality seeds and develop participatory seed production programmes along with the CARI and other institutions of agricultural research.
  - 1.1(d) Develop storage facilities/protection measures using traditional methods
- 1.2 Production of quality seeds and planting materials to cater the needs of Island farmers.
- 1.3 Declare and ensure GM free villages and Islands
- 1.4 Establish a mechanism to regulate the prices of seeds
- 1.5 Ensure supply of locally suitable seeds in each agricultural zone



## Strategy 2

### PHASE OUT IMPLEMENTATION OF ORGANIC FARMING POLICY

- 2.1 Conduct an initial assessment of the status of present farming system in the UT along with the assessment of total agricultural assets and consumption of agricultural inputs in each farm holdings
- 2.2 Develop a clear road map to convert 100% of the total cultivable area, focusing on potential crops and areas, to organic, and achieve total conversion and declaring the UT as Organic Islands.
- 2.3 Develop a clear plan of action with budgets for incorporation into the planning process for phasing in organic farming in the U.T.



## Strategy 3

### COMPACT AREA GROUP APPROACH IN ORGANIC FARMING

- 3.1 Encourage the formation of Organic farmers groups, clubs, SHG's FIGs, CIGs and cooperatives for the purpose of cultivation, input production, seed / seedlings / planting materials production, certification and marketing.



## Strategy 4

### IMPROVE SOIL QUALITY AND ENSURE WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

- 4.1 Ensure organic farming approach in all the watershed development areas and extend support including capacity building and financial assistance for soil and water conservation measures through ongoing watershed development programmes / NREGA.
- 4.2 Integrate the various institutions presently involved in watershed management and introduce organic farming as a key component.
- 4.3 Adopt appropriate agronomic practices suitable to the agro-ecological conditions as well as the topographical conditions at the micro watershed level and, discourage/restrict inappropriate crops and cropping practices.
- 4.4 CARI and other research institutions should develop suitable crop combinations and locally suitable technology, through participatory research with farmers.
- 4.5 Encourage landowners and part-time farmers to utilize their lands for organic farming, if left unutilized, failing which Local Self Government Institution should take action to ensure the same.
- 4.6 Formulate legislative measures to rejuvenate and protect traditional water resources including fresh water lakes, ponds, wells and ensure rainwater conservation, especially in dark zones and recharging of existing bore wells, open wells and ponds, and other conservation measures so as to improve ground water table and conserve top soil and restriction of bore wells
- 4.7 Establish testing facilities for soil, water, micronutrients and microorganisms at least at the block and introduce the system of providing Soil Health Cards.

- 4.8 Promote bio fencing and thus help ensure soil and water conservation and, availability of green manure and green leaf manure
- 4.9 Conduct training programmes for resource persons at the Local Self Government Institution level on soil and water conservation measures



## Strategy 5

### **PROMOTE A MIXED FARMING APPROACH FOR LIVELIHOOD SECURITY AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY**

- 5.1 Make crop-livestock integrated farming as part of organic farming, with women centred ownership and management in the farmer households and groups.
- 5.2 Develop Bee-keeping, mushroom, fisheries and similar enterprises as part of the mixed farming programme.
- 5.3 Promote decentralized production of livestock feed from locally available resources, excluding spurious ingredients such as growth promoters and hormones.
- 5.4 Document and popularise traditional knowledge related to animal health care.
- 5.5 Develop linkages between organic farmers and livestock growing farmers for exchange of manure for fodder.
- 5.6 Encourage mixed cropping of trees and medicinal plants through organic farming.



## Strategy 6

### **CONSERVE AND IMPROVE AGRO-BIODIVERSITY AND UNDOMESTICATED BIODIVERSITY**

- 6.1 Document agro-biodiversity and related traditional knowledge and practice, both cultivated and un-cultivated, in each Panchayat.
- 6.2 Encourage the establishment of model agro-biodiversity conservation farms.
- 6.3 Develop programmes for farmers to collect, purify and multiply traditional seeds.
- 6.4 Encourage protection of traditional agricultural systems



## Strategy 7

### A STATE-WIDE INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN ON ORGANIC FARMING IN THE FORM OF A POPULAR MOVEMENT: “MORGAN”

- 7.1 Organise Organic Mela's in all districts.
- 7.2 Begin state-wide awareness programmes for the promotion of organic farming focusing on the advantages of organic produce and harmful effects of chemical-based farming.
- 7.3 Produce handouts, publications of case-studies and best practices, video films, posters and other awareness materials to reach out to all sections, especially women.
- 7.4 Organize workshops, seminars and exchange programmes for consumers, teachers, traders, farmers, government and semi-government officials in the related area.
- 7.5 Ensure the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Food Adulteration Act, 1954, and rules 1955, and bring suitable legislations to notify and enable Agriculture Officers, Veterinary Doctors and similar professionals as Inspectors under the Act and also establish quality and adulteration testing facilities at district level.
- 7.6 Encourage setting up of organic kitchen gardens in urban and rural households.



## Strategy 8

### ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY ORGANIC MANURE TO THE FARMERS

- 8.1 Encourage, with adequate support, the availability of biomass in the organic farm itself, through programmes such as crop rotation, tree crops, cover crops, leguminous crops, green manure and green leaf manure.
- 8.2 Provide support for cow, buffalo, duck, fish, poultry and goat, preferably traditional breeds, to organic farmers / groups to ensure integrated farming and the availability of farmyard manure and urine.
- 8.3 Encourage the production of various types of compost in the farm itself, including vermi-composting and biogas slurry.

- 8.4 Formulate special programmes for increasing the biomass and organic manures, especially in rain-fed cultivation areas where soil depletion is high, so as to drought proof the farm.
- 8.5 Encourage indigenous species of earthworms and effective microorganisms in composting
- 8.6 Establish a decentralized system to produce organic manure from biodegradable organic waste segregated at source.



## Strategy 9

### ENSURE FARM INPUTS FOR ORGANIC FARMING

- 9.1 Implement programmes for the production of seeds, seedlings and other planting materials, manure, plant protection materials at the farm / local Self Government Institution level itself.
- 9.2 Encourage Farmers Associations/Clubs/Cooperatives/Companies of farmers, SHG's/Youth groups at the local level to produce need based farm inputs.
- 9.3 Link organic municipal solid waste segregated at source, especially from markets, hostels and other institutions to farms through such means as simple and cost-effective decentralised composting, biogasification and vermi-composting and thus ensure organic matter recycling.
- 9.4 Conduct training programmes for local resource persons for producing good quality input, quality testing and for such related aspects at the Local Self Government Institution level.
- 9.5 Formulate legislative measures to empower the Local Self Government Institutions for ensuring quality of inputs, including necessary rules, guidelines, standards, monitoring and testing procedures and establishment of laboratories
- 9.6 Establish special financial assistance schemes, and/or link existing support schemes to groups to start production facilities for farm inputs.
- 9.7 Develop local linkages for low cost input materials to farmers and ensure markets for good quality input materials at reasonable price

## Strategy 10

### **CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FARMERS, IMPLEMENTING OFFICERS, AGENCIES, AND LOCAL SELF- GOVERNMENT MEMBERS**

- 10.1 Conduct orientation, training and exposure visit programmes.
- 10.2 Group of 10 -12 unemployed youth in each Panchayat (50% women) would be designated as "Kisan bandhu", trained in all facets of organic farm management supported through Local Self Government Institution programmes to assist farmers in organic farming.
- 10.3 Develop the existing, Agriculture Sub-depot, farms, plantation and other units of the Department of Agriculture into Organic Farming Resource Centres

## Strategy 11

### **DEVELOP MODEL SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC FARMS IN THE STATE.**

- 11.1 Every Local Self Government Institution would develop model organic farms in select farmers' fields.
- 11.2 Research Stations in each agro-ecological zones under the CARI/KVK and other agricultural institutions should be converted to organic management systems, and thus become a field study centre for students, farmers and peoples' representatives

## Strategy 12

### **ENSURE AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE TRIBAL THROUGH SPECIAL TRIBAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES.**

- 12.1 Ensure adequate nutritional food availability for tribals, whose traditional agriculture has been degraded.
- 12.2 Develop specific programmes for the rejuvenation of their traditional agriculture and knowledge protection.
- 12.3 Ensure sustainable collection of minor forest produce and facilitate the fair marketing of these produce through organic outlets.
- 12.4 Formulate specific schemes to provide tribal children with their traditional food at least once in a day.

- 12.5 Develop village level seed banks of their traditional crops and medicinal plants.
- 12.6 Integrate watershed programmes, NREG etc in the rejuvenation of tribal agriculture.

## Strategy 13

### **ESTABLISH PRODUCER COMPANIES PROMOTED BY ORGANIC FARMERS**

- 13.1 Facilitate establishment of Organic Farmer Producer Companies or similar concerns as an organic farmers promoted enterprise with share investment by the organic farmers and the LSGs

## Strategy 14

### **ESTABLISH STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

- 14.1 Establish separate and decentralized storage facilities for organic farm produce to ensure its organic integrity and help farmers in certification processes.
- 14.2 Provide separate local transportation facilities for organic produce to nearby domestic markets

## Strategy 15

### **PROMOTE FARM LEVEL PROCESSING, VALUE ADDITION AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF ORGANIC FARM PRODUCE IN FOOD INDUSTRY**

- 15.1 Encourage farm processing by farmers groups, SHGs and Farmer Producer Companies for value addition.
- 15.2 Ensure value addition but it does not compromise organic produce quality by facilitating testing and evaluation of processes with help from CARI and other research institutions.
- 15.3 Encourage organic food-based industry in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to procure and use organic produce in their products.
- 15.4 Set up food industries at manageable decentralised levels in the State with special incentive packages.

## Strategy 16

### DEVELOP DIVERSE CHANNELS FOR MARKETING OF ORGANIC PRODUCE

- 16.1 Set up separate markets / facilities for organic produce through the existing channels of marketing of Agriculture products such as the ANCOFED, EHL, TDCS, ANIIDCO and People's Market.
- 16.2 Encourage direct marketing / linkages by farmers groups with end user institutions such as schools, hostels, hotels, hospitals, Ayurveda centres, SHG's making food products and food-based industries in the UT.
- 16.3 Encourage institutions such as schools, hostels, hospitals and government institutions to procure local organic produce following rules and specific guidelines.
- 16.4 Encourage existing vegetable, fruits and grocery vendors to promote organic products
- 16.5 Facilitate the establishment of organic farm produce outlets in all the districts, with the help of Governmental and Non governmental organizations
- 16.6 Ensure that the Tourism industry through the Responsible Tourism Initiative, source organic produce from local producers as much as possible for their hotels and resorts.

## Strategy 17

### DEVELOP A SIMPLE CERTIFICATION PROCESS IN THE STATE FOR ALL ORGANIC FARMERS

- 17.1 Encourage through specific scheme the implementation of an internal control system for organic farmer group.
- 17.2 Encourage the Participatory Guarantee System of Certification for small and marginal farmers to supply to the domestic market.
- 17.4 The State will develop an Organic Certification and logo and **“Andaman Organic”** and **“Nicobar Organic”** shall be developed as brand names





## Strategy 18

### PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR PROMOTING ORGANIC FARMING

- 18.1 Provide interest-free loans to organic farmers, especially small and marginal farmers. Credits linked to banks shall be subsidized through Central / State Governments.
- 18.2 Set in place production linked incentive system supports
- 18.3 Promote revolving funds system.
- 18.4 Provide assistance during conversion period; two years for annual crops and three years for perennials
- 18.5 Provide special educational concessions and health services to children of small and marginal organic farmers
- 18.5 Introduce a UT led insurance scheme for small and marginal organic farmers



## Strategy 19

### ENCOURAGE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

- 19.1 Assistance in terms of expertise and finances should be given for use of biogas plants, solar energy and wind energy units wherever feasible to reduce dependence on external energy sources.
- 19.2 Develop appropriate small farm machinery for reducing energy, cost and drudgery



## Strategy 20

### INTRODUCE ORGANIC FARMING IN EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

- 20.1 Introduce organic farming in educational institutions through academic inputs. A specific campaign shall be started among students to ensure that they take organically grown food.
- 20.2 Set up a system in all schools in A&N Islands to have organic vegetable and fruit gardens as well as paddy, in potential regions, as part of inculcating among the children the love for organic

- farming and biodiversity conservation and, perpetuation in their households. Necessary support schemes may be formulated and implemented through the Local Self Government Institutions
- 20.3 Encourage schools to have seed banks and seed farms in the premises, wherever feasible, to produce and supply good quality seeds for the use in their nearby regions.
- 20.4 Promote children-farmer interfaces in each school, which shall include visits to organic farms.
- 20.5 Encourage schools to link with organic farmers for supply of rice, vegetables, fruits, pulses, milk, egg and honey as part of the noon-meal and nutritional supplement programmes. The ICDS can also be encouraged to supply organic food processed and prepared through SHG's for the Anganwadi's.



## Strategy21

### REORIENT RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

- 21.1 The CARI would set up a special multi-institutional special task force to re-orient the Research, Education and Extension systems to support the Organic Farming Policy and the transition of the UT's agriculture to organic farming.
- 21.2 The CARI shall develop package of practices and model demonstration farms for organic farming in different agro-ecological zones.
- 21.3 Introduce as part of the course curriculum, both at under and post graduate levels, interactions with leading organic farmers, groups and NGO's promoting organic farming in the UT.
- 21.4 Develop participatory research programmes with organic farmers on all aspects of organic farming.
- 21.5 Research and inventories so as to recognize and document existing practices of organic farmers.
- 21.6 Identify and screen native livestock/fish breeds which are locally adaptable and resistant to parasites and diseases.
- 21.7 Develop herbal remedies for control of diseases and pests of livestock/ crops/ fish.
- 21.8 To institutionalise the above, an Organic Farming Research Institute (OFRI) may be set up



## Strategy 22

### PHASE OUT CHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS FROM THE FARMING SECTOR

- 22.1 Ensure phased restriction / ban of sale and use of chemical agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and weedicides parallel to the implementation of the organic farming policy in the region.
- 22.2 Through necessary legislation stop the sale and use of the highly toxic Class-1a and 1b pesticides as a preliminary step.
- 22.3 Declare and maintain ecologically sensitive areas with rich biodiversity and natural resource base (e.g. water bodies), as Chemical Pesticide and Fertilizer-Free Zones.
- 22.4 Regulate the sale and use of pesticide through necessary legislations, enforcing a prescription based system ensuring that pesticides are sold only on a case-to-case basis after obtaining prescription from the Agriculture Officer.
- 22.5 Strictly prohibit the sale of pesticides to children, pregnant women and non-farmers
- 22.6 Generate a database on the non-agricultural use of pesticides (e.g.: household, storage, food processing, construction) and regulate its sale and use.
- 22.7 Review and regulate promotional activities and advertisements of pesticides as per the FAO Code of Conduct and Guidelines for Pesticide Use.
- 22.8 Conduct Periodical analysis of water, soil, milk and crops at the district level where pesticides continue to be used and the data made public.



## Strategy 23

### INTEGRATE OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- 23.1 Integrate the various government departments and their schemes in a harmonious manner duly considering organic farming principles and local situations. Major departments are Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Fisheries, Local Bodies, Revenue, Industries, Tribal, Khadi and Village Industries; Board Financial Institutions, State Co-op

Department; ICAR institutions in the UT; Commodity Boards ANIIDCO, ANCOFED, TDCS, AFL and other milk marketing societies; Farmers' Organisations, Societies, Self Help Groups ; Organic Farming Associations and, NGOs promoting organic farming

## Strategy 24

### ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP FOR PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FARMING

- 24.1 Set up a Three-tier system for implementation of the Organic Farming Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.
- 24.2 Set-up an **Organic Farming Board of Andaman & Nicobar Islands** with the primary goal of promoting organic farming and facilitating an effective, smooth and time-bound transition of the State's agriculture from the conventional chemical intensive farming to the sustainable organic farming. Structure of the **OFBANI** is in annexure 1.
- 24.3 The Board would act as an umbrella model integrating agency for organic farming and related programmes of the various departments. It would also be an agency to liaison with national and international bodies in this matter, and would also access / generate funds/ grants and support for implementation of the strategies.