Limitations with organic farming

What is the issue?

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Organic farming, which is increasingly being promoted in recent days, has many limitations for it to be taken on a large scale.

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What are the challenges?

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- **Manure** - Huge quantities of manure would be needed to replace the chemical fertilisers.
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- Notably, tribal farmers do not own plots large enough to keep cattle.
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- It is also not possible to free the landscape for enough quantities of the dung of free-range cattle to supply crops the nutrients they need.
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- **Impact of green revolution** - The practices employed as a result of Green Revolution have delved deeper into the agricultural system.
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- Certainly, it has now become harder for true traditional farming because the country's agricultural system is engulfed in high-input agriculture.
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- However, it is felt that traditional farming would thrive, if subsidies offered for high-input agriculture is graded down.
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- This can probably help the small scale farmers to be self-contained with the traditional, non-chemical agriculture.
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- **Consumers** - Organic produce in the markets along with the non-organic produce make their prices highly unaffordable for many.
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- E.g. Organic produce with higher prices from Sikkim, certainly faces competition with low priced non-organic produce from nearby West Bengal.
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- It is thus still uncertain if customers are willing to spend more, for organic farming to be taken on a large scale.
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What lies before the policy makers?

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- The varied efforts and campaigns for organic farming may not all sustain it, unless it is consistently remunerative for the farmers.
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- The whole discussion on organic farming should take into consideration, apart from agriculture, the business and livelihood aspects as well.
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Source: Financial Express

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