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Editorial

Dear Readers...

Organic agriculture is also committed to the conservation of biodiversity within agricultural systems, both from a philosophical perspective and from the practical viewpoint of maintaining productivity. Biological pest control on organic farms, for example, relies on maintaining healthy populations of pest predators. Using a system of crop rotation, in time (over several years rotations) or in space (through intercropping or growing several crops in the same season in different fields), the build up of harmful pests and diseases can be reduced and biodiversity increased. One of the most important elements in conversion to organic systems has proved to be the time needed to restore a natural ecological balance with respect to pest-predator populations.

Over the past decade, long-term research projects have accumulated evidence organic systems are beneficial to biodiversity. Research by Oxford University found that the mean number of non-pest butterfly species on organic farms was twice that of similar non-organic farms. The Institute for Organic Agriculture at the University of Bonn found that average plant species also virtually doubled on organic farms, with some endangered species only being present in organic systems. We urge the organic and nature conservation movements to work much more closely and more intensively together. We ask our scientists, environmentalists, farmers, politicians, industry and international institutions to support and develop organic agriculture as the most ecologically-sound agricultural system. We conclude that organic agriculture is essential for conserving biodiversity and nature.

Conserve our Biodiversity for Food Security.

Naturally yours

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Vijikumar. S'.

Vijikumar. S