P-ISSN: 2618-0723
E-ISSN: 2618-0731

NAAS Rating: 5.04
www.extensionjournal.com

International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Volume 8; Issue 4; April 2025; Page No. 109-113

Received: 17-02-2025
Accepted: 21-03-2025

Indexed Journal
Peer Reviewed Journal

Adoption and challenges of sustainable farming practices in Agra, Uttar Pradesh

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DOI: https://www.doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2025.v8.i4b.1774

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Abstract

Feasible cultivating is fundamental for expanding farming result and diminishing natural harm. In Agra, Uttar Pradesh, this exploration looks at maintainable cultivating acknowledgment and issues. The examination looks at the execution of supportable cultivating rehearses like natural cultivating, water preservation, crop enhancement, and coordinated bother the board in the locale through field overviews, rancher meetings, and optional information examination. Restricted information, monetary limitations, government help, and resistance to change are financial, social, and infrastructural hindrances to the expansive reception of these works on, as per the examination. The concentrate additionally looks at how economical cultivating further develops soil ripeness, water the board, and pay solidness. That's what the information infer in spite of the fact that information on maintainable practices is extending, reception is deferred by various variables. Designated strategy measures, rancher training, and asset accessibility might help Agra Area accomplish manageable cultivating.

Keywords: Sustainable farming, adoption, challenges, Agra district, Uttar Pradesh, organic farming, water conservation, crop diversification, integrated pest management, socio-economic barriers

Introduction

Horticulture is pivotal to India's financial texture, particularly in country places like Agra Area in Uttar Pradesh, where the vast majority develop. Conventional cultivating techniques in this space have debased soil, water, and creation, making it important to change to additional economical strategies. Supportable cultivating advances creation, ecological insurance, and long haul productivity. This development underlines natural cultivating, water protection, crop assortment, and coordinated bug control [1].

Agra, a historic city in Uttar Pradesh situated on the banks of the Yamuna River, is widely known for the Taj Mahal and its rich Mughal heritage. Beyond its architectural grandeur, Agra also has a significant agricultural base that supports a large rural population. In recent years, the region has seen a gradual but important shift towards sustainable farming practices in response to growing environmental challenges such as soil degradation, declining groundwater levels, and the adverse impacts of climate change. Farmers in and around Agra have begun adopting organic farming techniques, replacing chemical fertilizers and pesticides with natural alternatives like vermicompost and cow dung manure. This shift is often supported by local NGOs and government schemes aimed at promoting ecological balance.

Water conservation has become a major focus, with many farmers implementing drip irrigation systems to reduce water usage. Rainwater harvesting initiatives are also gaining traction, especially in areas where water scarcity threatens agricultural productivity. Crop diversification is another key sustainable practice being encouraged; instead of relying solely on traditional crops like wheat and paddy, farmers are growing pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables, which not only replenish soil nutrients but also provide better income opportunities. Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which involves the use of natural pest predators, crop rotation, and neem-based pesticides, is helping to reduce chemical usage while maintaining crop health.

Agroforestry is being practiced in select areas, allowing farmers to grow trees alongside crops, thereby improving soil quality and supporting biodiversity. The adoption of solar-powered pumps for irrigation further reflects the move toward environmentally friendly farming. While these sustainable practices are promising, challenges remain, including limited awareness among small and marginal farmers, lack of access to organic markets, and poor infrastructure for storage and transport. However, with continued support from initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Agra holds great potential to become a model for sustainable agriculture in India, particularly in peri-urban regions where the balance between development and ecology is crucial.

Feasible horticulture has become more essential to address environmental change, populace development, and asset consumption. Economical farming has been postponed and

unevenly took on in Agra Locale regardless of rising mindfulness. Financial requirements, framework, innovation, and change obstruction forestall expansive reception of these procedures. This examination analyzes Agra Area ranchers' reception of reasonable rural strategies and related deterrents [2]. The venture attempts to comprehend these cycles to further develop strategy, schooling, and emotionally supportive networks to energize reasonable cultivating rehearses nearby, helping ranchers and the climate.

Sustainable farming practices in Agra district

Agra Region in Uttar Pradesh is for the most part agrarian, and cultivating is fundamental to its rustic individuals. Conventional farming strategies have exhausted water, impacted soil wellbeing, and reduced rural creation. To reestablish biological equilibrium, efficiency, and agrarian framework versatility in Agra, feasible cultivating techniques have been upheld. These strategies decrease ecological harm and guarantee farming maintainability [3].

Organic Farming

Natural cultivating is a developing supportable practice in Agra Region. It utilizes manure, compost, and bio-composts rather than synthetic substances. Natural cultivating increments soil fruitfulness, dispenses with substance deposits in food, lessens contamination, and lifts biodiversity. Agra ranchers are changing to natural cultivating as they understand its benefits for soil wellbeing and synthetic decrease.

Crop Diversification

Crop broadening incorporates developing many harvests rather than one. This decreases crop disappointment from bugs, illnesses, and climate. Agra ranchers are differentiating their yields by developing heartbeats, vegetables, and organic products close by wheat, rice, and sugarcane. This further develops family nourishment and gives ranchers more money. It likewise improves soil wellbeing by limiting monocropping strain.

Water Conservation and Efficient Irrigation

Agra is confronting water imperative due to groundwater overexploitation and lacking water system. Practical methodologies including water gathering, trickle water system, and sprinkler frameworks are upheld. These methodologies decline water squander, increment water effectiveness, and keep crops wet without draining water supplies. Mulching, which holds soil dampness, is likewise being taken on to save water and upgrade soil structure [4].

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Agra controls vermin and illnesses utilizing IPM, another economical farming practice. IPM utilizes gainful bugs, mechanical, social, and synthetic controls in a methodical way. It diminishes compound pesticide utilization, bringing down natural and wellbeing gambles. IPM advances bio-pesticides and irritation safe harvest types to keep crops sound and lift yields economically.

Agroforestry

Agra Region is embracing agroforestry, or establishing trees with crops. This approach fixes nitrogen, diminishes soil disintegration, and shades crops. Wood, natural products, and restorative plants from agroforestry trees give additional income. Ranchers might fabricate environment versatile farming scenes by including trees [5].

Benefits of sustainable farming

A. Environmental Benefits

- **Soil Health Improvement:** Crop revolution, natural cultivating, and diminished culturing support soil richness. These techniques support soil structure, natural matter, and microbial variety. Better soil air circulation, dampness maintenance, and supplement cycling make better soils that help more useful and tough yields.
- **Biodiversity Preservation:** Maintainable cultivating advances biodiversity by utilizing various harvests, protecting normal living spaces, and restricting substance inputs that debase biological systems. Agroforestry, intercropping, and natural pesticides give a reasonable environment fertilization, bother the executives, and biological system soundness by supporting the improvement of a variety of plants, creatures, and useful bugs [6].
- **Water Conservation:** Cultivating requires water, and dribble water system, water assortment, and soil preservation assist with protecting it. These techniques safeguard water assets for people in the future by using water all the more actually and diminishing waste. These techniques decrease overflow and substance manure and pesticide contamination, safeguarding water quality.
- **Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Agroecological cultivating and limiting manufactured composts and pesticides diminish ozone depleting substance discharges. Carbon sequestration and diminished culturing help relieve environmental change by catching carbon dioxide from the climate. Maintainable cultivating is critical to bringing down farming's carbon influence [7].

Economic Benefits

- **Cost Reduction:** Practical cultivating reduces input expenses enormously. Ranchers might set aside cash by utilizing natural composts, diminishing regular pesticides, and moderating water. Agroforestry and crop broadening support ranchers' pay and monetary soundness [8].
- **Increased Long-Term Productivity:** Supportable cultivating helps farming area creation. Supportable methods safeguard land richness for people in the future by expanding soil wellbeing, water productivity, and vermin control. Supportable cultivating advances recovery, which increments yields over the long run. Regular cultivating drains soil and water assets.
- **Market Access and Premium Prices:** Economical products are developing more famous due to their natural and wellbeing benefits. Accordingly, capably cultivated food varieties, especially natural ones, order more exorbitant costs. Ranchers might benefit from this pattern by making natural or eco-named merchandise, entering particular business sectors, and expanding

benefits.

- **Diversified Income Streams:** Reasonable farming techniques like agroforestry and coordinated domesticated animals crop frameworks enhance income. These methodologies permit ranchers to sell wood, natural products, vegetables, dairy, and different merchandise. Monetary variety increments monetary steadiness, especially even with moving rural costs or brutal climate [9].

Social Benefits

- **Improved Health and Food Security:** Economical cultivating focuses on without pesticide, quality nourishment for human wellbeing. Natural cultivating evades poisonous synthetics, giving clients more secure food choices. Economical farming might increment food security, particularly in places inclined to edit disappointment and brutal climate, by reinforcing rural frameworks' protection from environmental change and different burdens.
- **Rural Development and Community Well-being:** Practical cultivating settles and differentiates provincial economies, advancing country advancement. Practical cultivating expands ranchers' pay, which works on rustic schooling, medical services, and framework. Ranchers may likewise construct local area and versatility by utilizing helpful cultivating or information sharing organizations [10].
- **Empowerment of Farmers:** Ranchers oversee their agrarian frameworks by means of feasible cultivating. Natural cultivating and agroecology advance neighborhood information and diminish reliance on compound composts and corporate seeds. This might assist ranchers with turning out to be more independent, direction, and less helpless against market or store network changes.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Nearby rural customs and social information support numerous maintainable cultivating procedures. Networks might save their farming history and fabricate pride and association with the land by empowering these customs. Economical cultivating incorporates social, social, and otherworldly components of cultivating.

Resilience to Climate Change

- **Adaptation to Extreme Weather Events:** Maintainability techniques including water saving, soil wellbeing improvement, and harvest variety make rural frameworks more environment versatile. Economical cultivating assists ranchers with adjusting to changing environments by decreasing harvest aversion to dry season, floods, and temperature swings. These techniques can safeguard crops from climatic pressure, keeping farming frameworks reasonable in spite of variable climate [11].
- **Soil Carbon Sequestration:** Soil carbon sequestration mitigates environmental change in maintainable cultivating. Decreased culturing, cover trimming, and agroforestry store carbon in soil, bringing down CO2 emanations. Carbon sequestration further develops soil quality and creation while battling environmental change.

Challenges in adoption

1. **Financial Constraints:** Little ranchers stay away from accuracy horticulture because of high beginning uses.
2. **Lack of Awareness:** Numerous ranchers stay uninformed about economical cultivating rehearses and their advantages.
3. **Limited Infrastructure:** Deficient water system offices and capacity frameworks hinder the reception of present day strategies.
4. **Policy and Institutional Barriers:** Complex sponsorship frameworks and conflicting approaches frequently put ranchers down.
5. **Climate Vulnerabilities:** Flighty atmospheric conditions make it hard for ranchers to plan and execute feasible practices.

Government and NGO Initiatives

A. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

Water framework productivity and protection are the objectives of this undertaking. PMKSY advances water-saving innovation including trickle water frameworks and sprinkler frameworks. In water-scant regions like Agra, farmers ought to introduce water assortment and little water frameworks to further develop water utilization and productivity.

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

Under the Public Activity Plan on Environmental Change, NMSA upholds soil wellbeing the executives, natural cultivating, and water proficiency in horticulture. The venture supports these practices and advances synthetic decrease. It further develops soil wellbeing and ripeness, water utilization productivity, and environmental change opposition in horticultural frameworks [12].

Soil Health Management Program (SHM)

The SHM drive inside the Public Mission on Maintainable Agribusiness advances soil wellbeing rebuilding and reasonable soil the board. Ranchers get soil wellbeing cards with soil test-based treatment and the executives guidance. Practical cultivating requires natural composts, crop pivot, and pesticide minimization, which the program advances.

National Organic Farming Research Institute (NOFRI)

The Indian government made NOFRI to energize natural cultivating. This foundation shows ranchers treating the soil, vermiculture, and bio-pesticides. It gives exploration and specialized help to assist ranchers with moving to natural cultivating financially and economically.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

The RKVY upholds feasible cultivating techniques to work on agrarian turn of events. Natural cultivating, agroforestry, coordinated bother control, and water preservation are upheld. This adaptable supporting framework empowers state run administrations to alter projects to nearby necessities, assisting ranchers with embracing maintainable rural practices [13].

Green Revolution 2.0 and Climate Resilience

The public authority advances "Green Upheaval 2.0," which underscores protection farming, better harvest types, and

incorporated bother control. This task means to support rural result while handling soil corruption and water imperative.

SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association)
SEWA has prepared numerous country ladies in agrarian regions in natural cultivating, crop broadening, and water protection. SEWA enables country ladies to lead feasible cultivating projects and works on their monetary and social standing.

International Development Enterprises (IDE India)
IDE India advances asset proficient smallholder cultivating innovation. The NGO advances trickle water system, financial plan sprinklers, energy-proficient hardware, and soil assurance. These methodologies support horticultural result while saving water and limiting info costs.

WWF-India's Sustainable Agriculture Program
WWF-India advances harmless to the ecosystem cultivating. The gathering teaches ranchers on environment strong cultivating, natural confirmation, and biodiversity insurance. WWF-India works with nearby legislatures and individuals to integrate natural insurance into agribusiness [14].

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)-Supporting Risk Mitigation
Generally a taxpayer supported initiative, various NGOs help ranchers comprehend and get crop protection with the PMFBY. Ranchers are monetarily safeguarded against environment gambles, empowering them to take part in additional feasible farming methods unafraid of regular fiasco harms [15-16].

Case study: A successful sustainable farm in Agra
1. Farm Name: Green Sections of land, Agra Practices Carried out

- Natural cultivating methods.
- Utilization of sun oriented fueled water system.

2. Crop enhancement with heartbeats, grains, and cultivation crops. Influence

- Expanded yield by 25%.
- Decreased water use by 30%.
- Improved soil natural substance by 15% north of five years.

Table 1: Correlation of Customary versus Feasible Cultivating Practices

Parameter	Traditional Farming	Sustainable Farming
Input Cost	High	Moderate to Low
Soil Fertility	Degrades over time	Enhances over time
Water Usage	High	Efficient
Biodiversity Impact	Negative	Positive
Long-term Yield	Declines	Stable or Increases

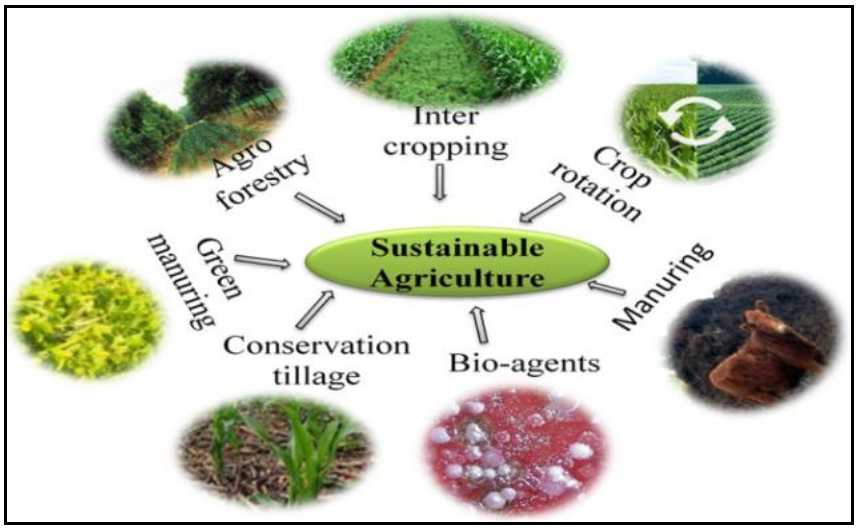

Fig 1: Outline of rural turn, trickle water system, and natural treating the soil.

Conclusion
Manageable cultivating procedures might further develop Agra Region and past's horticulture industry. Maintainable horticulture further develops soil wellbeing, water protection, crop expansion, and biodiversity by utilizing natural cultivating, water preservation, crop enhancement, and incorporated bug control. These methodologies save costs, support efficiency, and open premium business sectors while preserving the climate. Food security, rancher strengthening, and rustic improvement help cultural flexibility.
Agra battles to carry out practical cultivating on the grounds that to asset imperatives, absence of data, and change obstruction. To conquer these hindrances, government and NGO endeavors should work. Government drives that advance water protection, natural cultivating, and soil wellbeing the executives assist ranchers with taking on supportable techniques. NGOs give grassroots help, preparing, and supportable innovation.
All in all, manageable cultivating approaches can possibly work on horticultural maintainability in Agra Locale, yet they need supported government, NGO, and local area contribution. Feasible cultivating can work on agrarian efficiency, safeguard the climate, and guarantee ranchers' and networks' drawn out prosperity by eliminating obstructions to reception and giving assets, preparing, and strategy support.

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