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Dr. Ram Gopal is currently serving as Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy) at the Directorate of Extension, Acharya Narendra Deua University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya — 224229 (Uttar Pradesh). He obtained his B.Sc. in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry from Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, in 1998. He completed his M.Sc. in Agronomy from Acharya Narendra Deua University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya, in 2001, and earned his Ph.D. in Agronomy from CSAUA&T, Kanpur, in 2005. Dr. Gopal has published more than 20 research papers in national and international journals, along with 3 book chapters and over 100 popular articles. He has received multiple accolades, including two Young Scientist Awards, the Scientist of the Year Award in 2015, and the Outstanding Achievements Award (ECOASPECT-2016). He expresses his heartfelt gratitude and sincere regards to his parents, family members, and wife, whose unwavering support and encouragement have been instrumental in every achievement he has made. He remains deeply indebted to them.



Dr. Radhika Damuluri specializes in antimicrobial textiles, UV protective textiles, natural dyes, green synthesis of nanoparticles, nano textile finishes, traditional textiles, costumes and embroideries of India, fashion designing, apparel designing, textile designing, and historic textiles and costumes.

Research and Academic Interests:

Her broader academic interests include technical textiles, functional clothing, recycling of agri-biomass, gender-friendly agricultural technologies, sustainable and eco-friendly interventions, organic and natural farming, and the application of nanotechnology in agriculture.

Academic and Professional Profile:

Dr. Radhika Damuluri has been actively engaged in teaching and training students for over 15 years. Her passion for both teaching and research is reflected in her consistent academic contributions and her commitment to developing innovative technologies aimed at supporting farmers and farm women to improve their livelihoods.

She has significantly contributed to the development of textbooks for the Telangana Open School Society (TOSS) in both Telugu and English. Her research output includes 12 publications in national and international peer-reviewed journals, in addition to book chapters, popular articles, practical manuals, and an E-book.

Dr. Damuluri continues to work at the intersection of textiles, sustainable technologies, and agricultural innovation, aspiring to create impactful solutions for rural and farming communities.



Dr. Harishankar, Ph.D. (Ag.), is devoted to education and research activities in Agronomy. Dr. Harishankar is an Assistant Professor in Agronomy at the College of Agriculture and Research Station, Jashpur, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He holds a M.Sc. (Ag.) degree in Agronomy from Rajendra Agricultural University Samastipur, Pusa, Bihar, B.Sc. (Ag.) and Ph.D. (Ag.) degree in Agronomy from Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Raipur (C.G.). He has 1 year SRF, 1 year Farm Manager and 5 years Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy) experience. He has received 2 awards from several societies for her outstanding contribution to the relevant discipline. He has published several research papers, book chapters, popular articles and delivered lectures in different farmer's training and radio talks.



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PREFACE

As the world grapples with the challenges of feeding a growing population while safeguarding the environment, organic farming has emerged as a beacon of hope. This sustainable agricultural approach prioritizes the health of the soil, the well-being of animals, and the integrity of the food we consume. It is a philosophy that recognizes the intricate web of life and seeks to work in harmony with nature rather than against it.

"Fundamentals of Organic Farming" is a comprehensive guide designed to empower both aspiring and experienced farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to embrace this rewarding and responsible way of cultivating the land. Whether you are a small-scale farmer tending to a modest plot or a large-scale producer seeking to transition to organic methods, this book will serve as your trusted companion on the journey towards a more sustainable future.

Within these pages, you will find a wealth of information on the core principles and practices of organic farming. From building and maintaining healthy soil to managing pests and diseases without the use of synthetic chemicals, each chapter provides clear, practical guidance grounded in both traditional wisdom and cutting-edge research. You will learn about the importance of biodiversity, the art of composting, and the techniques for successful crop rotation and cover cropping.

But organic farming is about more than just growing food; it is a holistic approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of all living things. This book explores the vital role of animals in organic systems, from the benefits of livestock integration to the humane treatment and care of farm animals. It also delves into the social and economic dimensions of organic agriculture, highlighting the importance of fair labor practices, community engagement, and the creation of vibrant local food systems.

At its heart, organic farming is about stewardship – the responsibility we have to nurture and protect the land for future generations. By embracing the principles and practices outlined in this book, you can become a part of the solution, contributing to a more sustainable, just, and abundant world. So let us roll up our sleeves, get our hands in the soil, and together, cultivate a brighter tomorrow.

Happy reading and happy gardening!

Authors.....□

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