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Organic Agriculture in Sudan: Status and Prospects

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Abstract

Sudan, honored by a wide range of natural resources diversity, can be a leading country in organic agriculture. Through its long history of thousands of years of agriculture, as evidenced in drawings on pyramids and temples of ancient times showing animal drawn agricultural implements. Organic agriculture defined as a system that concentrates on low-cost technology, local resources and traditional knowledge will certainly fit in many parts of the country. It is the most common agricultural practice. Traditionally the agricultural production is organic even in large scale rainfed areas.

In 2001 Sudan organic farming was carried out by the Arab Authority for Agricultural Development to produce food commodities free of agricultural pollutants, mainly for export. The certified organic lands area in Sudan is estimated at 200,000 hectare and 650 farms, accommodating different crops such as tropical fruits, groundnuts, but also cotton, herbs/spices, etc. Sudan has 56324 ha of organically managed land of which 55324 ha is fully converted to organic.

The dominant form of agriculture is the traditional farming, where in the rani-fed sector organic fertilizers or agrochemicals are no used.

Tokar and Gash delta , River Nile and Northern states are the most promising areas for organic agriculture. Gezira and other large irrigated schemes use crop rotation and uses agrochemicals but still below hazardous level.

In terms of the importance of agriculture for environmental, health and food policies awareness raising is needed. Also training is needed for capacity building and research needs.

This paper will highlight the status of organic agriculture in Sudan and the potential and opportunities.

Keywords: Sudan, organic agriculture, rainfed