

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN KERALA, SOUTH INDIA: AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY-MAKING PROCESS IN THE POST-GREEN REVOLUTION ERA

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In 2002, the state government of Kerala, India, launched an organic agriculture policy initiative with the document *Jaivakeralam: The Context and Need for a “Sustainable Agricultural Development Policy” for the State of Kerala*, a policy statement promoting organic agriculture as a sustainable alternative for Kerala in the post-Green Revolution era. During the beginning of the organic agriculture movement in the 1960s and 1970s in Europe and Japan, organic farming represented antimodern agriculture. The movement explored not only environmentally friendly farming, but also alternative, face-to-face local markets. Organic farming in Kerala, however, is export-oriented and pro-market. This paper explores how the antimodern aspects of the organic agriculture movement were transformed into a pro-market “alternative,” investigates the policy process that made organic agriculture a priority in Kerala., and illuminates the stresses and negotiation of agricultural policy making in contemporary India.

Keywords: Kerala, Organic agriculture, Policy-making process