THE END OF PLENTY

The Race To Feed A Crowded World

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Chapter Capture No.12

Organic Agriculture: Feeding the Rich or Enriching the Poor

Derived from living matter……

Organic Agriculture are means of producing, farming, and managing food and food manufacturing which savor and enhance our agro-eco health, biological health, and soil biology in preservation of the environment.



All around the world there is fear of constant hunger as we watch various organized bodies feed millions day to day who live in lands of drought, economically challenged governments, poor soil and corrupted systems. There are too those who have fled to new country's and sit impoverished inside

the hope their faded dream of living life outside of fear would bring. This is the plight of the world 360 view we live in along with the reality of climate change, 3rd world dissension, catastrophic flooding and bank fed global financial crisis amongst other issues. Here is where in truth people from all walks of life face the burden inside of the fear that we are heading toward the “End of Plenty”.

Author Joel K. Bourne Jr. takes over 400 pages in his book to broaden our knowledge in respect to food and the global energy, global change(s), dynamics of economy’s, discuss research both historical and present day, an a host of other interest which have and are influencing our food supply as our populations grow, economics shift, and climate change impacts the dynamics of farming worldwide.

The nature of food and how it’s grown is primed to supply crops a plenty which secure and promote good health while preserving and nurturing the very lands they’re planted in. As soil became the focus of most farmers around our world, so did the natural balance or imbalance the relationship between crop and land held. Research has found that crops are enriched through the soil, creatures that dwell in the earth, the transport of elements in the wind and the chemical exchanges that take place naturally.

We as consumers have silently entrusted our health interest to the knowledge, wisdom, and ethics of each farmer both U.S. and abroad. As researchers were challenged with discovering the origin of many human (conditions) disease(s) and maintaining our health and development relative to food uptake, they began to focus upon the nutritional impact and influence land and soil have upon environmental chemistry and environmental health relative to the tri-fold of land, plants and crop yield.

Self-suggestion, studies, and biological research gave insight to how negatively our ingesting the host of chemicals utilized in farming affected our health. Plausibly these pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics, and hormones among other, held the potential to alter our natural biological construct and result in cancer, muscle breakdown and development issues, blood disorders among other health conditions. Dually, farmers were noting the harm done to the planet and animals as well. This lead to a desire to sale and grow foods without chemical fertilizers, pesticides, GMO’s, hormones, antibiotics, or CAFO’s structure.

Hence, the uptake onto ‘organic farming’ began as it has been found to be healthier for us though not proven statistically nor scientifically.

Because of the non-formal approach ‘organics’ require, it would take some time to systematically develop effective farming methods and teach it to other farmers found globally. And, the cost of such food, featured as specialty items, would be more expensive than that retailed at a lesser value and grown using traditional farming mechanism for both plant and animal food production. The result was organic farmed and manufactured foods sold at a price which those well-educated, well-heeled,

and financially capable could afford. Poor people were left to continue eating cheap calories and less healthy from food convenience stores and fast food chains alike.

Our author uses media's depiction of an agronomist opinion of organic(s) through his use of the 2012 Chipotle commercial debut during the Grammy Award Ceremony playing host to millions of watchers. Yet, he has failed to suggest the specific frame of time upon which brand management reigned in on the publics subconsciente sense. It was prime time and a much more special event citing the death of singer Whitney Houston the previous day. The line-up of featured performing artist such as, Adele's 6 gramophone wins, Jennifer Hudson in tribute, and Chris Brown dancing and singing, was enough to capture the attention of more viewers than those who watch Michael Jackson and his Thriller performance. What a good time-frame and opportunity it was to call attention to a newer restaurant Chipotle chain, farming, and the ensuing change onto organic farming. A tool for convincing the public organic outcomes are healthier product choices of the food chain and quality items for food manufacturing. And, it was the opportunist time to generate higher sales and corporate interest. Typical? Smart! The answer depends upon the class of cliental attracted to localized fast food service.

Commercial Features:

This advertisement commercial features a Claymation pig farmer building barns around pigs and then pumping them full of green goo and pills as we listen to Willie Nelson's presentation of Coldplay's "The Scientist" song. Then in honor of Chipotle he destroys them and we know he is going back to the beginning as this second time around he sets the pigs free, the sun grows and it ends with happy healthy pig meat being loaded onto Chipotle trucks.

In the end, the sign on our screens read, "Cultivate a better World" we are certain that it quietly referenced the pre-existing $28 billion dollars worth of Organic Industry as it had been in evolving since the 1990's.

This specific and familiar media tactic uses this sense of celebrity to promote health and healthy food options amongst those who can attest and afford the items in hope of organic farming gaining further momentum while calling attention to the farming paradigm shift for the general populace around the world. Its health, healthcare cost, economics, and the need for expanse.

Justifying the Expense of Organic(s)

29 pounds of antibiotics are said to be fed to confined livestock each year just to keep them healthy. In truth, it is said that the organic movement began just before the green revolution. Save the trees, fight chemical emissions, and clean water initiatives remain in active status. Though these public

feuds are new, the suggestion of “organic farming” is not. Pioneers of this organic means of farming food and animals are found as far back as the 1800’s under the tutelage of *Lady Eve Balfour the niece of British Prime Minister Lord Balfour.*

Bourne presents historical relativity in reflection of *Professor William A. Albrecht, mycologist Norman Borlaug Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner, plant pathologist Masanobu Fukuoka and Sir Albert Howard* whom have all contributed to the evolution of organic farming matters. Sir Albert Howard spent time as the agricultural development officer for the Crown in India during early twentieth century. It is he who gathered use of ‘compost’ and manure crops and crop waste for the Indore Process and he too who began writing using his words to convey his ridicule of others works within the pages of “The Waste Products of Agriculture: Their Utilization as Humus.” As he was thence formally chastised for his opinion and opposition to their methods of farming, his public response further supported the organic farming techniques he used and spread globally as the organic movement began.

Jerome Irving Cohen was another such pioneer having changed his name to *Rodale* through its use he purchased farm land in Pennsylvania and built a publishing empire. He authored books and magazines such as “Organic Farming and Gardening” in 1942 followed by “Prevention” magazine in 1950. Inside his articles he advocated for exercise, vitamin supplements, and organic food(s). Mr. Rodale’s son purchased more land and established the Rodale Institute, a test farm for research on organic farming systems in later years. The schools initial study evolved into a long-term project of The Rodale Farming System against conventional farming using the same crops on the same soils in the same climatic conditions. The study found that farmers who integrated their crops and used organic or sustainable agriculture practices yielded improved approximately 80%. Organic farmers perform better on rain fed fields as the compost soils absorb water best. Plows release 50 to 70% of the original carbon stored in soils into the atmosphere whereas, crop rotation is the preserver of soil enrichment and replenishment (hairy vetch) legume (nitrogen). Here lies the true climate saving aspect of organic agriculture.

The institute still exist in the hills of Pennsylvania countryside and supports the community in business and as it’s farmed food feeds their weekly fresh food box distribution service. For an annual fee, each week a package is prepared for it’s program members at home use.

Population Growth and Food Consumption

Our text shares that indicators of our growing populations rise onto 9 billion by 2050 suggest that we need to double our food production. For this initially suggest conventional farming is satisfactory, however, it does not minimize the potential of organics providing the same level of crop outcome.

Expense is a challenge for those earning $50,000 or less as we've watched the cost of organic items rise especially after Covid-19 pandemic. Europe is asking it's varied food vendors to clearly resist inflation for it's community. Localized food co-ops are now competing with mega grocery chains such as Whole Foods, Stroud's, and Trader Joes stores such as Walmart and Costco struggle to bring aboard discounted organic food items. Modernizing programs such as SNAP and other(state) food cards can now be utilized at organic retailer food store, urban farmer markets, community supported food resources was a welcomed cooperative shift. Yet, we must also acknowledge that access is not the determinant of each individual programs affordable allotment. The rates of monthly EBT or SNAP funds is based on variables which adjust to value(s) that strain food budgets, causes selective purchasing, and generates financial challenge between cash and card combined spending.

Research for this book recommends that incorporating organic or agro ecological practices farmers reap both financially and environmentally. Conservation Agriculture and SRI methods seem to be the best means toward increasing food production in the future.



What Is The SRI System?

SRI: system of rich intensification is a means of cultivating rice with minimal use of water in alternating weed and dry farming conditions. This along with less methane production and emissions from rice paddies as discovered in use of a simple hoe to aerate and weed soil, by *Father de Laulanie'* a student of peasant agriculture. He later shifted to use of compost as fertilizer subsidies where fazed out by Madagascar government. His methods used half the water amount then conventional rice paddies.

He and his friends established an agriculture school, *Tefy Saina*, for boys in Malagasy. The name means "to improve the mind." It would save half the water, seeds and electricity use. The fight for enthusiasm to implement this systems amongst rice cultivators was lost in tradition. Similar opinions

arose from country farmers in places such as India and Italy. However, as profits from the green revolution dwindled behind the cost of diesel and fertilizer, the returns were less. Upon adaptation of the SRI methods one farmer reduced his cost, used 1/3rd of fertilizer recommended and boosted his yield hence income.

India Farmers

SRI was shunned by global interest with the exception of Punjab (India) who adapted it's use along with funding from the World Wildlife Fund. Indian farmers using organic approach yields were 20% higher than conventional farmers in full us of SRI and their green revolution methods. Low chemical fertilizer, green manure crops of sesbania which are plowed under before planting, flood irrigation, and controlled weeds and herbicides, resulted in a harvest 22.4 tons of rice per hectare. Hence, SRI gained momentum for a greater yield of crop(s). Also, under use of the same soil as compost is believed to provide fungi in soil which promote root growth and turn off and on rice plant genes. It also supports Symbiosis from the uptake of micronutrients to enzymes that regulate metabolism.

There exist one problem in the observation of some farmers held out as it was noted that a greater amount of force is necessary to pull and plant from a rice paddy in use of the SRI method.

Chapter Recap:

In the beginning, Mr. Bourne disclosed that his intention is to explain how organic agriculture is feeding the rich or enriching the poor. I too wanted to gather reasoning behind his thought and reconcile it against the farming commercial which showcased during the 2012 Grammy's. That, however, is not my concluding frame of thought. I believe his insight is grounded in recognizing the knowledge of these organic farmers and the thence strides to enable the poor to purchase healthier choice food items through an extension of resources is a sense of enrichment. All while, the more expensive this industry becomes, the more accessible, the more expensive, and more agency promotes the 'must have' food items of organic farmers, the more the rich are fed over and over again financially. Change is good as goat's milk, almond milk, oat milk……! However, if we neglect ourselves and fail to recognize what can cause biological harm and detract monetarily from our lives via income and health insurance rates, then we are at fault for not investing in ourselves and our futures.