

# Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)

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## Need for ZBNF

- Ensuring food security and producing more with less resources.
- For building the resilience of smallholder farmers for creating a food-secure future.
- ZBNF is the right solution to fight climate change and create resilient food systems.
- Fighting drought is one of the main objectives of ZBNF.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN advocates environmentally-friendly farming methods that can take us to a more sustainable future.
- Importance for chemical free food consumption is growing rapidly.
- Chemical farming has made food a poison and also has reduced the yield by making lands barren.
- Farmers' welfare and sustainable practices are vital for a sustainable and productive economy.
- ZBNF constitutes an effective strategy for achieving SDGs targets.

# ZBNF in India

- ZBNF is a set of farming methods, and also a grassroots peasant movement.
- It has attained wide success in southern India, especially the state of Karnataka where it first evolved.
- Farmers in Andhra Pradesh have practised ZBNF and have witnessed good results.
- Himachal Pradesh Government has launched ZBNF project which aims to increase agriculture produce and the income of farmers by the year 2022.

## Features of ZBNF

- It is a farming practice that believes in natural growth of crops without adding any chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- The four wheels of ZBNF are Bijamrita, Jiwamrita, Mulching and Waaphasa.
- Bijamrita is a natural way of seed treatment using local cow urine and cow dung.
- Jiwamrita is made using water, local cow dung, local cow urine, jaggery, dal flour and soil.
- Waaphasa is the aeration in the soil.
- ZBNF is different from organic farming.
- Intercropping is an important feature of ZBNF.
- Practising composting on the farm itself, so that soil organic matter increases.
- Storing water in the farm ponds for use in adverse conditions.
- Insects and pests are managed using neem leaves, neem pulp and green chillies.
- Establishing farmers' federations and self-help groups, and placing farmers at the forefront of knowledge creation and dissemination.

