



Sikkim's 100% Organic Farming: A 100% Failure on FoodSecurity

While Sikkim is often lauded in various forums for practicing 100% organic farming, what seems eroded from public focus is the acute food insecurity in the state.

Yes, Sikkim is an acute food-deficit state, relying on daily supplies from the plains of West Bengal (primarily Siliguri) for most of its staple food grains and vegetables.



The Mallaguri Regulated Market in Siliguri is a major wholesale hub that supplies fruits and vegetables daily to Sikkim.

As the road infrastructure in Sikkim does not allow movement of heavy vehicles, only small trucks with a capacity of **2-3 tons** carry goods from the Mallaguri market. On an average, **40-50 small trucks** ply to Sikkim from here.



**Minitrucks
from Sikkim at
the Siliguri
(West Bengal)
Regulated
Market**

The rice production in Sikkim has declined **60%** in over the last 10 years. Sikkim requires over **1,20,000 tons** of rice every year. It produces only around **8,000 tons**. Hence, the balance shortfall comes from other states.



Foodgrains production in Sikkim (tons)			
Crop	2014-15	2024-25	Decline
Rice	20100	8000	60%
Wheat	400	130	68%
Maize	68900	53000	23%
Finger Millet	3600	2000	44%
Barely	500	320	36%
Pulses	5800	5000	14%
Total	99300	68450	31%

Source: Indiatat (Accessed on 2nd June 2026)

In fact, Sikkim outsources a significant portion of its basic food security.

There would be huge food shortage and starvation in Sikkim if grains and vegetables do not come from Siliguri in West Bengal.

In Sikkim, the 100% organic state, people eat largely the food grains, vegetables and fruits grown outside Sikkim - using chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Sikkim's 100% organic farming is a heavily idealized concept. It looks good only in theory. In practice, it fails to feed the people of Sikkim - a mere 7 lakh.

The 100% organic model pursued in Sikkim is an expensive experiment, unaffordable and unsustainable from the point of food security. A small country, **Sri Lanka that attempted to go 100% organic quickly reversed the policy following food shortage, price rise and social unrest in the year 2021.**

If the whole of India follows the Sikkim model, food security will become one of the most critical issues for India's 1.42 billion people.



India was under 100% organic until **1960s** when famines and food shortages were common. Thus, **India had to heavily depend on food grain imports to feed its countrymen, just 30% of its current population.**

It is pertinent to note that **no country, no state in the world follows 100% organic farming. Globally, less than 3% of the cultivated area is under organic farming today.**

All these facts and data drive home one message clearly:

Organic farming is and will continue to be a small and niche segment.

In 2007, the former Director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said it plainly: *"You cannot feed six billion people today, and nine billion in 2050, without the judicious use of chemical fertilisers [inputs]."*



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