The Farm as Organism: The Foundational Idea of Organic Agriculture


Summary

The term 'organic farming' was coined by Lord Northbourne in his canonical work "Look to the Land", published in London (1940). Northbourne introduced the concept of the farm as organism, contrasted organic with chemical farming, and introduced many of the concepts that continue to preoccupy discussions and practice of organic agriculture.

Organic farming is a method of crop and livestock production that involves much more than choosing not to use pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics and growth hormones. Organic production is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem, including soil organisms, plants, livestock and people. The principal goal of organic production is to develop enterprises that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment. The general principles of organic production, from the Canadian Organic Standar Organic farming also promotes greater biodiversity on farms, as the lack of poison allows species other than those being cultivated to inhabit the farms. Groups such as IFOAM are active supporters of the organic movement throughout the world. They readily state their goals and are taking their idea to the world. "Agriculture is one of humankind's most basic activities because all people need to nourish themselves daily. History, culture and community values are embedded in agriculture. [1] - J. Paull, 2006, The Farm as Organism: The Foundational Idea of Organic Agriculture. [2] - J. Paull, 2007, China's Organic Revolution. Template:Organic gardening.