Organic agriculture and aspects of food security

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Organic Sri Lanka – International Stakeholder Discussion on Building Sustainable Supply Chain for Organic Inputs in Sri Lanka
Online, 22.6.2021
100% food competing feed reduction
50% less food waste and loss

Muller et al. 2017
Food System in Sri Lanka – further aspects

• Small feed areas and feed imports
• Post harvest losses: about 30%
• Strong dependence on fertilizer imports (in particular P)
• Overall, rather low level of nutrient recycling
• Climate change impacts
Organic: opportunities

Soils; adaptive capacity
environmental performance

Waste and losses
Closed nutrient cycles
circular food systems
nutrient sources/supply

Organic: opportunities
Soils; adaptive capacity
environmental performance

Waste and losses
Organic: challenges

- Yields and nutrient supply
  - Not much room for reduction of feed crop areas
- Potential import dependence – price volatility
- More fruits, vegetables – healthy diets
  - Plant protection
  - Losses
- Irrigation
Conclusions

• High shares of organic agriculture are possible
• but a good risk management strategy is key (prices of imports, climate impacts, etc.)
Conclusions

• Plan for an extended transformation period
  • goals – requirements to reach those – steps needed to meet the requirements
  • establish risk management institutions

• building the knowledge base and extension services

• testing new approaches (agroforestry, etc.)
• learning by doing (what works where)
• developing locally adapted solutions

• involving all value chain actors (storage, processing, etc.)
• changing the policy landscape (subsidies, etc.)