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PRACTICE OF ORGANIC FARMING AND USE OF BIO-PESTICIDES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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ABSTRACT

The world population is rising rapidly and consumers are increasingly concerned about the environment, their health, food safety, and protecting water supplies. Now, more than ever, our world needs effective, environmentally smart agricultural technologies that are safe for people and protect our natural resources. Organic farming is one of the several approaches found to meet the objectives of sustainable agriculture to avoid the ill effects of chemical farming. Organic farming uses various methods to enhance or maintain soil fertility, such as crop rotation, tillage and cultivation practices, and natural products. Organic farmers use animal and crop wastes, botanical, biological pest controls that are biodegradable. Organic farmers also use specific methods to minimize air, soil, and water pollution. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), sustainable agriculture is the successful management of resources to satisfy the changing human needs while maintaining or enhancing the quality of environment and conserving natural resources. Bio-pesticides are revolutionizing farming practices around the world, improving productivity for organic crops, making conventional harvests safer, reducing the environmental impact of agriculture and ensuring that consumers are not ingesting chemicals on their food. Bio-pesticides are derived from natural substances and micro-organisms such as bacteria and plant extracts. Bio-pesticides play a critical role in ensuring optimal soil health as the foundation for sustainable agriculture and food and production.

KEY WORDS: Organic farming, bio-pesticides, sustainable agriculture.

1. INTRODUCTION

Organic growers have available a large array of bio-pesticides that may be applied for the management of plant diseases. This paper will tell about bio-pesticides and provide general information on their potential benefits and limitations. While information discussed is applicable to both organic and conventional crop production. Many biologically-based products are currently available, and these products are often referred to as "bio-rationals" or "bio-pesticides". A bio-pesticide is defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a pesticide derived from natural materials (1). Bio-pesticides are playing an increasingly critical role in helping all of the key drivers of sustainable, environmentally responsible food production. It is more important to apply bio-pesticides to the specific targets for which they have been shown to be most effective