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His Excellency Hon. Gotabaya Rajapaksa
President of Sri Lanka
Presidential Secretariat
Galle Face, Colombo 1,
Sri Lanka

June 7th, 2021

Your Excellency,

We, the Young Organics-Global Network (YOGN), representing the global youth in organic agriculture, express our sincere respect and gratitude to your esteemed government in making such a momentous decision for the transition into organic agriculture.

We, together with the young people in Sri Lanka, heartily applaud your decision and pledge our full support in your endeavors.

We believe that we as the future generation are responsible to ensure a food secured future and for the preservation of the biodiversity and sustainability of Mother Earth. As such, the **role of the youth** must be recognized and valued by the decision-makers in our communities and governments.

We urge your esteemed government to **engage youth as equal partners, or at least, support their ability to lead**. This will lead to more ownership in the discussions within Sri Lanka for the transformation to organic agriculture. Actively involving young people and giving opportunities on programs impacting youth is more effective as opposed to others working on their behalf. This is also a shift away from working with young people as beneficiaries, to engaging youth as partners, and supporting them to be leaders in social and political discussions and processes.

We humbly call upon your esteemed government:

- to restore the pride of our organic farmers – our superheroes! - the artisans, doctors and stewards of our health and the planet. They are not just the producers of our food but the protectors of human health and our Mother Earth.



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- To include organic agriculture in the curricula of primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education which will enhance understanding of organic farming and the need to eat healthier and nutritious food. As stated in the President's Gazette, we need to improve the education of young people in order to inculcate an environmental knowledge
- To attract the young people to organic farming through the provision of incentives such as free land, training opportunities, as also mentioned in the President's Gazette
- To create organic demonstration farms to train young farmers in organic farming practices to increase understanding of organic farming practices, innovations, etc. to enhance productivity
- To assist young farmers to gain more opportunities for market access

We, Young Organics Global Network, believe in the transformation of the current food systems into a system which is more sustainable and organic, which prioritizes the well-being of the ecosystems and the health of life on Earth. We also recognise agricultural practices that respect all forms of life based on the Principles of Organic Agriculture - as the truly sustainable solution to create a more sustainable and carbon-neutral future.

We, Young Organics Global Network, pledge full support of Sri Lanka transitioning into a more sustainable organic agriculture.

Yours Respectfully,

Julia Lernord

Co-Chairperson

Li Feng

Co-Chairperson