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Ever since the world came into being, millions of species of plants and trees have been growing all over the planet. These flora got their sustenance from the soil and from the moisture present in the soil due to natural rainfall and other sources like rivers. The cycle of the seeds germinating and sprouting and growing into full blown plants or trees has been a perpetual happening. Every Mighty Oak had sprung from an acorn. Nature had set the stage for this never ending activity that has left us in wonder from time immemorial. The existing system just went on like clock-work and everything seemed to be in perfect place. The leaves shed by the plants and trees got naturally converted to manure which was again recycled and used up by the source itself. An incredible sort of cannibalism that worked rather well. All that these natural wonders needed was water through which they could get the required nutrition that was inherent in the soil.

Enter man with his superior intelligence (or so we all think) which applied itself night and day to devise ways and means to make alterations to the system to reap better benefits. The idea was to put in as little effort as possible and to produce as much as possible, notwithstanding the collateral damage that would definitely take place. Who cares anyway, when short term goal is the only goal?

Man then started applying his concentrated efforts and resources into extensive research and found out how and what kinds of nutrients are being used up by the plants to sustain themselves. Armed with the information thus gathered he went on to spend a lot of time, energy and resources to produce these nutrients in his factories in order to create a short cut to the process that had perfected itself naturally over a period of time. Thus began the systematic destruction of the system under the guise of hi-tech farming methods. The chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides that were mass produced started being marketed using sophisticated techniques with the aid of clever advertising. Initially the reports appeared to be very encouraging with bumper harvests being reported from almost every corner of the country. The output was several times the input and it looked like the diseases pests, if any could be kept at bay. It all seemed so easy and the whole world started rejoicing, thinking that agricultural production would exceed demand and everyone was going to be well fed.

The effort going into this would be minimal and the benefits far-reaching. Congratulating ourselves at the feats that were being accomplished we kept at it, little realizing that the toxins were sinking into the soil slowly to have a grave and lasting effect. With the passage of time soil started losing its natural characteristics and the ability to recoup and be ready for the next crop. Fertility levels started going down and dependence on artificial fertilizers and pesticides was increasing steadily. In the meanwhile the toxins that had permeated into the soil ultimately found their way into the produce and finally to the end users themselves. Though this did not have an immediate effect, the damage was done and started showing up in various forms. Now, is there a way out? Can we ever go back to the natural methods and yet reap the benefits? The answer is a definite yes, however what took a long time effort to be done will take an equally long time and effort and the indomitable will that we possess. It has been reported that it requires close to 3 to 5 years for the soil to regain its natural traits, provided only organic manure is used and time tested techniques are deployed. Details of organic methods of farming can be viewed in programs aired by any of the service providers like

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