

INTEGRATED FARMING IN KERALA- CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES*

BY

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Economics, P.M Government College, Chalakudy, Potta, P.O Kerala, 680722Email id siniyhajoy@gmail.com**Abstract**

The present research article unfurls the constraints and challenges of the Integrated Farming in Kerala. Integrated Farming is a type of mixed farming system that combines crop and livestock enterprises in a supplementary or complementary manner. The analysis of the study was based on the research findings extracted from 390 farmers from six agro-ecological zones of Kerala. The Six agro-ecological zones selected were High Ranges, Malayoram, Northern Midlands, Onattukara, Riverbank Alluvium and Southern Midlands. The state of Kerala has 13 agro-ecological zones. Food crops instituted in farming were basically plants that possessed different volatile cues depending on their physiological condition and stages of growth. In an economic process, like farming, these volatility had to be adopted accordingly so that, the owner or organizer got maximum profit with minimum cost. Farmers, over the years of knowledge and experience filtered out the best model that suited their Socio-economic and environmental conditions. The important constraints encountered by farmers were of production and marketing constraints. Other constraints were adverse climatic conditions, lack of credit availability, labour shortage, lack of proper markets for the sale of harvested crop and lack of government support.

Key words: Integrated Farming, Agro-Ecological Zones, Marketing Constraints, Production Constraints and Adverse Climatic Conditions.

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1.1 Introduction

Integrated farming was practiced in India and in the state of Kerala from time immemorial. It gained a distinct gestulation from 1968 onwards as integrated farming was commenced to practise under the auspices of the Integrated Farming Systems Research Station (IFSRS) located at Nedumcaud in the district of Thiruvananthapuram, which was established in 1955. The station has an area of 7.65 hectares of which 7.25 hectares is double cropped wet land and 0.4 hectare garden land. The centre, formerly known as the Model Agronomic Research Station and was established in 1955. New schemes and projects were started from 1968 onwards under the All India Co-ordinated Agronomic Research Project (AICARP) of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (hereafter, ICAR). From October, 1983 onwards, the station was upgraded as the headquarters (HQ) of the AICARP in Kerala. Lead