

INTEGRATED FARMING IN KERALA-AN EVALUATION

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Abstract

The present research article unfurls the research findings of the work on economics of Integrated farming in Kerala. The findings were extracted from the primary survey conducted in six agro-ecological zones of Kerala namely, Onattukara, Southern-midlands, Northern-midlands, Malayoram, Riverbank alluvium and High ranges. The important findings state that the integrated farmers in Kerala gain considerable amount of income and that the losses in other systems of farming are compensated from integrated farming. The farmers were generally categorized into three based on stratified random sampling, the stratum being the size of land holdings and they were small, medium and large. The category of 'medium farmers' were found to be more advantageous than other categories of farmers. The size of landholdings in the state of Kerala compared to other states in India are less. With the limited availability of land and high density of population in Kerala, the system of integrated farming has empirically proved the best system of agricultural practice in Kerala. Though the system of integrated farming has gained momentum in Kerala, it has not become popular among the farming community of Kerala. The agricultural offices of all fourteen districts have to make initiative for such a venture.

Keywords - Integrated farming, sources of water, methods of irrigation, size of land, agro-ecological zones, primary occupation and income

Introduction

Kerala depends on the neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for food items like vegetables, fruits, rice, and different varieties of meat. Even flowers and inland fish come from these states for the utilization of the daily consumption of the people of Kerala.