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Constraints in various integrated farming systems

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted at Puduchatram block from Namakkal Taluk and Namagiripet block from Rasipuram Taluk of Salem district as adequate number of diversified farms were available in these blocks. The most important constraint reported to have been faced by 86.19 per cent of the respondents was lack of co-coordinated extension services The second important constraint faced by 80.95 per cent of the respondents was lack of demonstration on integrated farming system. There were eight constraints on dairy farming. They were, in their order of importance, non-availability of planting material (95.83%), lack of knowledge on fodder crop cultivation (93.33%), inadequate veterinary service (91.67%). There were seven constraints reported by the respondents. Of these fluctuation in the price of cocoons, lack of knowledge on identification of disease symptom, lack of training on silkworm reeling could be considered as the most important constraints as they were reported by more than 75.00 per cent of the respondents. Establising model farms, high lighting the benefits of integrated farming system in one or two locations in each Panchayat union will enable the farmers of that locality to gain first hand knowledge about various aspects of integrated farming system.

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INTRODUCTION

The agricultural production can be increased by increasing agricultural production and productivity per unit area per unit time .The modern agriculture emphaseis two or more dimensions *viz.*, time and space concept. Income through arable farming alone is insufficient for bulk of the marginal farmers. Activities such as dairying, poultry, fish culture, sericulture, biogas production, edible mushroom cultivation, agro-forestry, agri-horticulture etc. assume critical importance in supplementing their farm income. It fits well with farm level infrastructure and ensures fuller utilization of by products. Datta and Kumar (1988) stated that sericulture being a labour intensive industry, economics of sericulture is dependent on a labour cost and this reduces the profitability of a sericulture farmer who is dependent on the additional labourer.

Integration of various enterprises in a farm ensures recycling of farm residues, optimum use of available resources, increase in employment opportunities, minimization of risks and uncertainties and above all to increase the farm income. Nagarm (1989) opined that for small holder farms in developing countries, growing of food and forage together on the same land have not been much practiced probably because of lacking of knowledge in suitable species and proper method of cultivation to fit forage into farming systems. The farmers have become aware about integrated farming systems fairly and widely about each and every component. They have faced several constraints. The present study was formulated with the objectives of identify the problems faced by the integrated farming system farmers in various enterprises.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted at Salem District where animal husbandry, poultry and sericulture activities are predominant in addition to crop production. Puduchatram block from Namakkal Taluk and Namagiripet block from Rasipuram Taluk of Salem district were specifically selected as adequate number of diversified farms were available in these taluks. Five villages from each block were randomly selected for the study by using simple random sampling method. A proportionate random sampling procedure was followed for selecting the farm for the study. A sample of 30 farm households each of crop alone, crop+dairy, crop +sericulture, crop + poultry, crop + sericulture + poultry, crop + sericulture + poultry + dairy, crop + dairy + sericulture + poultry and crop + poultry + sericulture integrated farming systems were selected for giving proportionate allocation to the available integrated farms in 10 villages