



Integrated farming system for strengthening rural livelihood in disadvantaged areas of Bidar district

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Abstract : In recent years, food security, livelihood security as well as natural resources conservation and protection have emerged as major issue worldwide. Developing countries are struggling to deal with these issues. So the main objective of this study was to strengthen the livelihood security through integrated farming system under NAIP-3 Bidar. Hence, research on integrated farming system (IFS) was conducted for 240 selected participants by introducing inputs such as improved variety seeds of redgram (BSMR-736), Bengalgram (JG-11), backyard poultry (Giriraja Chicks), azolla cultivation, vermicompost units, horticultural and forestry seedlings and grafts etc. The research was conducted by an ICAR sponsored project on livelihood security through resource and entrepreneurship management in Bidar district” with the team of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bidar, The project area included 24 selected villages of 4 clusters viz., Aurad, Bhalki, Basavakalyan and Humnabad in Bidar district of Karnataka state, The different intervention components of IFS were evaluated by calculating benefit cost ratio (BCR). The results of the study indicated that among the various components intervened, production of worms for vermicompost recorded highest BCR (1:24) followed by increase in milk yield due to feeding azolla (1:14). This was followed by backyard poultry (Giriraja Chicks) (1:13.3), redgram.BSMR-736 (1:5.5), vermicompost production (1:4.57) and Bengalgram.BG-11 showed the lowest BCR. The employment generation was 215 man days per year.

Key Words : Livelihood security, Integrated farming system

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INTRODUCTION

Integrated farming system is a commonly and broadly used term to explain a more integrated approach to farming system as compared to existing monoculture approaches. Integrated farming system seems to be the best possible solution to the continuous increase of demand for food production. Stability of income and improvement of nutrition for the small and marginal farmers with limited resources. Interacting of different agriculturally related enterprises with crop activity as base, will provide ways to recycle produces. Waste materials of one component as input through another linked component to bring improvement in soil health and reduce the cost of production of the products, which will finally raise the total income of the farm

Components of integration in a farming system are

parkland systems, trees on bunds, wind breaks, horticulture system, block plantations, crops with green leaf manure species, integrated based systems (dairy, poultry apiary and fisheries).

Agriculture being an important occupation for the rural poor in Bidar district and provides employment only for two seasons. Hence, there exists problem of unemployment for the farmers especially the poor and the landless. The district has potential for dairy units. The well distributed rainfall and lateritic soils provide ample opportunity for the integrated farming system, forestry horticulture and livestock components. This would provide avenues for various livelihood options such as dairy, food processing, forest products processing and handicrafts. There is a tremendous scope for enhancing biomass production which provides raw materials and energy for agro-based micro-enterprises, such

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