

Income and employment generation by adopting different farming systems

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Accepted : March, 2009

ABSTRACT

The Ratnagiri district of Konkan region was selected for the study. Four tahsils having maximum area under the cultivation of rice and horticultural crops were selected purposively. Fifty farmers from five villages in each tahsil were selected by nth number method of random sampling, making a sample of 200 farmers. The findings of the study indicated that the production from crops was the main source of income, some farmers were found to combine dairy and poultry enterprises with crops production. Income and employment had increased by addition of these enterprises with crop production. Among the different farming systems identified in rice based and horti based farming system area, crops + dairy + poultry was most beneficial having total returns of Rs. 10,431.58 and 27,534.59, respectively, followed by crops + dairy (Rs. 9,379.20 and Rs. 26,423.96 each), crops + poultry (Rs. 6,866.91 and Rs. 24,470.18) and only crops (Rs. 5,814.53 and Rs. 23,359.55).

Key words : Farming system, Income generation and Employment generation

The importance of agriculture sector in the economy may be seen from the fact that it contributes nearly two-third of national income and offers employment to about 70 per cent of the working population. The pressure exerted by the ever increasing occupancy of land due to growing population had further reduced the per capita available land to 0.15 hectare. The income received from agriculture by the farmer is of seasonal nature and is not enough to maintain the farm family.

It is, therefore, essential that farmers should adopt different farming systems or subsidiary enterprises like dairying, poultry, goat keeping etc., along with crop production for the generation of income throughout the year. These subsidiary occupations have also potential to provide regular and continuous self-employment opportunity throughout the year. Hence, it was proposed to know the extent to which the income and employment can be generated by adopting different farming systems with the objectives to identify different farming systems in the study area, to study the income generation by adopting different farming systems and to study the employment generation by adopting different farming systems.

METHODOLOGY

The Ratnagiri district of Konkan region was purposively selected for the study, as it has more diversified

farming systems. Four tahsils having maximum area under the cultivation of rice and horticultural crops were selected purposively. Based on the area, two tahsils Khed and Sangameshwar were selected for rice based farming system and other two tahsils Ratnagiri and Lanja were selected for the horticulture based farming system. Fifty farmers from five villages in each tahsil were selected by nth number method of random sampling, making a sample of 200 farmers. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Personal interview technique was used for data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Different farming systems in the study area:

In the study of farming system, following four enterprise combinations were identified in rice based farming system and horti based farming system.

- Only crops
- Crops + dairy
- Crops + poultry
- Crops + dairy + poultry

It is clear from Table 1 that majority of the farmers adopting rice based farming system (66.00 per cent) and horti based farming system (58.00 per cent) had followed 'only crop production', whereas equal number of farmers (30.00 per cent) adopting each farming system had followed the 'crops + dairy', while only 2.00 per cent cultivators adopting rice based farming system and 1.00 per cent cultivators adopting horti based farming system followed the 'crops + poultry' enterprise combination. Further, 2.00 per cent and 11.00 per cent farmers adopting each farming system had all the three enterprises viz., crops, dairy and poultry, respectively.

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