

MODERN TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE



1. Integrated Farming System

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Abstract

Agriculture plays a vital role in the economy of different developing countries, including India. In India, small and marginal farmers are key positions constituting 85 per cent of the total farmers. Continuous shrinkage in average farm size along with financial constraints for higher investment in agriculture is very prominent to small and marginal farmers. For securing food and nutrition security for the sizable population, productivity enhancement may provide a vital solution. Under this situation, there is very little scope for horizontal expansion of land for food production and vertical expansion is possible by integrating appropriate farming enterprises that require comparatively less area and time to achieve handsome and regular income to farm families. A system approach may be considered as a need of the time for fulfilling the requirement of farm output without disturbing the ecology. An integrated farming system (IFS) seems to be one of the possible solutions in this regard with the stability of income, nutritional security, and sustainability of livelihood for the majority. The farming system approach is not only the best possible way of assuring fairly good productivity with a substantial input economy but also a concept of maintaining ecological balance which ultimately leads to agricultural sustainability. Hence, proper utilization and management of available resources with optimum allocation by IFS is vital to mitigate the risk related to farming sustainability. The present article focuses on