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Integrated farming system

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Abstract

Integrated farming system is an environmentally beneficial strategy in which waste from one sector is used as an input in another, allowing for more effective use of agricultural resources. As a mixed farming system, Integrated Farming System is a system made up of at least two distinct but conceptually related components of an agriculture and livestock enterprise that are related to each other. IFS aids in soil health, weed control, and pest control, improves water efficiency, and keeps water clean quality. The use of toxic chemicals in an integrated farming system is prohibited. Pesticides, weed killers, and chemical fertilizers should all be avoided. Small and marginal farmers' economic conditions improve as a result of the integrated farming system, which enhances their education, health, and social obligations, as well as their overall livelihood security. Chemical use (fertilizers and pesticides) can be minimized using the IFS technique, resulting in chemical-free, healthy food for society.

Keywords: Integrated farming system, concept, goals, productivity, profitability, advantages, disadvantages

Introduction

According to the Economic Survey of India, between 1990 and 2007, food grain output grew at a rate of 1.2 percent, which is lower than the population growth rate of 1.9 percent. Our country's population is expected to reach 1370 million by 2030, and 1600 million by 2050. To meet future demand, we'll need to produce 289 and 349 mt of food grains during the next two years. According to the current situation in the country, the area under cultivation may continue to decline, with more than 20% of current cultivable land being converted to non-agricultural uses by 2030. (Gill *et al.*, 2005) [2]. The difficulty is exacerbated in India by the falling average farm size and financial constraints that prevent larger agricultural investment because 80 percent of farmer families belong from small or middle class group. Productivity improvement could be a crucial answer for ensuring nutrition and food security for a large population. This entails the use of scientific agronomic methods and technologies to increase the productive potential of conventional agricultural systems.

During the twentieth century, agronomic practices such as the authorized use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides increased productivity. Environmental degradation that is significant but unfavourable agriculture's operational costs have soared as a result raised doubts about the feasibility and long-term viability of the project (FAO, 2010; IAASTD, 2009) [106, 107]. Animals were once used as a source of food utilized to give direct meals or other services such as horses provide either power (draught animals) or transportation (horses) farming systems that are integrated animals were also involved engaged in an indirect capacity to perform weed and pest control services.

Animals could also provide resources like dung or leather, which could be sold directly or transformed into a value-added product, bringing money back into the business (Devendra and Thomas 2002) [105].

Unsustainable farming pollutes the environment, endangering the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and their families. Increasing agricultural production systems for improved sustainability and economic returns is a vital strategy for developing countries to increase income, food, and nutrition security (Ravallion, 2007) [5].

IFS is a whole-farm integrative method that is successful in solving difficulties for small and marginal farmers. The goal of IFS is to increase small-scale farm employment and revenue by integrating multiple farm enterprises and recycling crop leftovers and byproducts on the farm. Farmers must have a steady source of income in order to live comfortably above the poverty level. To meet the challenges given by the current economic, political, and technical environment, progress in production or sustained growth in output is required.

In this context, a farming system approach is one of the most important solutions for dealing with this peculiar situation, as it allows for the careful management of various enterprises and the development of location-specific systems based on available resources, resulting in long-term development (Dashora and Hari, 2014) ^[7] in integrated farming system all firms are interlinked with each other that is the waste from the one can be used for the growth of other. According to IFS, waste from one type of agriculture can be used as a resource for another.

We not only remove waste, but we also ensure an overall boost in production for agricultural systems as a whole (CARDI, 2010) ^[13] IFS is a set of resource-saving strategies aimed at achieving acceptable profits and high and sustained production levels while reducing the negative consequences of comprehensive farming and preserving the environment (Lal and Miller, 1990, Gupta *et al.*, 2012) ^[33, 108].

IFS concept

IFS is a mixed farming system described as a crop and livestock enterprise that comprises of at least two different but logically interdependent sections (Okigbo, 1995) ^[83]. (Edwards, 1997 and Jitsanguan, 2001) ^[45, 94] describes the integrated farming system as crop aquaculture farming system in which the fishes are fed with fresh animal waste and along with that fishes leads to increase in the nitrogen and phosphorous content of the soil and plants (Giap *et al.* 2005) ^[51]. A farming arrangement is a collection of farm enterprises in which farm owners allocate resources for the most efficient use of the actual enterprises in order to boost the production and economic profit of farm. Crops, agroforestry, cattle, aquaculture, agri-horticulture, and sericulture are among the agricultural operations (Singh, 2004) ^[96]. IFS is defined by (Radhamani *et al.*, 2003) ^[95] as a component of farming systems that considers the notions of boosting productivity, reducing risk, and increasing profits while enhancing the utilisation of organic wastes and crop leftovers in the field.

IFS is a component of FRS (Farming System Research), according to (Jayanthi, 2006) ^[93], and it brings a transformation in farming techniques for enhancing productivity in the cropping pattern while also ensuring optimum resource availability.

As per Panke *et al.* (2010) ^[26], integration is done in such a way that the output of one enterprise / component becomes the input for the other enterprises with a high degree of valuable effects. According to the authors, the aim of IFS is to reduce waste from many subsystems on the farm, which enhances employment prospects, nutritional security, and income for rural people.

Integrated Farming System Goals

IFS's four main Goals are

1. Maximization of all component enterprises' yields to ensure a consistent and stable income.
2. Achieve agro-ecological equilibrium by rejuvenating/improving the system's productivity.
3. Using natural cropping system management, avoid the build-up of insect pests, diseases, and weed populations and keep them at a low intensity.
4. Reducing the use of chemicals (fertilisers and pesticides) in order to provide society with chemical-free, healthy produce and an environment (Manjunatha, 2014) ^[81].

Farming System Vs. Integrated Farming System

The agricultural system, according to Rana and Pankaj ^[35], is an appropriate combination of farming activities such as cropping systems, horticulture, livestock, fishing, forestry, and poultry. They realised that the farmers' ability to profit from these activities was the most important issue for agriculture. They demonstrated that the agricultural system interacts with the environment, but that this interaction must not disrupt the ecological and socioeconomic equilibrium. Finally, they realised that agriculture has national as well as farmer (profit), consumer (food), and posterity (environmental sustainability) goals to achieve.

While these goals are essentially at odds, the agricultural system will assist expand the economy where it runs and enhance farmers' living standards in the country by seeking to optimise progress toward each. FSR (Farming System Research) component IFS promotes a change in farming operations for optimum crop output and optimal resource utilisation. In the IFS, farm waste is better repurposed for beneficial purposes.

Unlike the CFS, the IFS concentrates its efforts on a small number of interdependent, interconnected, and frequently interlinking production systems based on a few crops, animals, and related sub-professions. IFS aims to increase total productivity, sustainability, and gainful employment by using complementarities and synergies among various agricultural sub-systems/enterprises.

As a result, farmers are encouraged to switch from CFS to IFS in order to maximise resource usage and assure long-term production sustainability.

Components of IFS

(Thamizoli *et al.*, 2006) ^[97] discovered that combining forestry and agriculture, as well as farm-based allied sectors like as dairy, apiculture, goat rearing, and so on, can be used as a risk management method to deal with calamities such as lengthy drought seasons and major floods. In the Gajapati area of Orissa, (Mohanty *et al.*, 2010) ^[99] found that the IFS model includes field crops (rice, groundnut, maize, pigeon, pea, and ragi), horticulture crops (yam, banana, tapioca, and vegetables), chicken (Vanaraja breed), and vermicomposting. Crop + dairy, crop + dairy + goats + horticulture, crop + horticulture +goats, crop +dairy + vegetables, dairy + vegetables + horticulture, dairy + vegetables, and dairy + crop + companion animals are among the primary components in IFS, according to (Tripathi and Rathi, 2011) ^[98].

The prisoner from Erode district of Tamilnadu had goat +crop, goat +dairy + crop, goat + dairy, and goat +dairy +crop systems as the key components in IFS, according to (Manivannan *et al.*, 2011) ^[80]. Agriculture — Horticulture, Forestry, Dairy, Fish farming, Duck rearing are all components of IFS. Mushroom farming - sericulture, azolla farming, kitchen gardening, fodder production, and nursery Vermiculture, Pigeon Rearing, Apiary, Goat Rearing, and Poultry Production are all examples of seed production. Piggery, Rabbitry, and Sheep Rearing Addition of value (Lal *et al.*, 2018) ^[109]. The increasingly popular practise of aquaponics is an integrated method peculiar to small-scale farms. Aquaponics is a combination of fish culture (aquaculture) with soilless plant production that is commonly connected with greenhouse or other controlled environment production methods.

The increasingly popular practise of aquaponics is an integrated method peculiar to small-scale farms. Aquaponics is a combination of fish culture (aquaculture) with soilless plant production that is commonly connected with greenhouse or other controlled environment production methods. Nutrients obtained from fish excrement, with tilapia being the most common fish species used, are recirculated through the structure and used by plants to meet their nutrient requirements in this sort of production system. Large numbers of fish are typically reared in modest amounts of water to allow non-toxic nutrient concentrations to clump together (Rakocy *et al.*, 2006) ^[100].

Advantages

IFS is more beneficial to farmers than they may imagine. Produce more by maximising resource use, recycling waste, and utilising family labour. It is beneficial to any investigation since it not only provides an overview of previous work but also serves as a foundation for interpretation and debate of findings for future research. (Sasikala and colleagues, 2015) ^[101]. By integrating livestock into crop-based farming, (Ngambeki *et al.*, 1992) ^[104] demonstrated the system's profitability through greater financial advantages and better use of intermediate farm resources like as manure, draught power, and crop wastes. It has been noticed that the integration of various firms on the one hand, and the integration of various enterprises on the other hand, arble size land holding are less profitable as compared to various size of land holding, and hence create more jobs. When compared to the conventional rice cropping system, (Rangasamy *et al.*, 1996) ^[103] describes how integrating poultry, mushroom, and fish with rice cultivation over five years increased net farm income and on-farm labour. The comparative analysis also suggested that diversification and integration of resource management can be productive, profitable, and manageable, given access to labour and secure tenure.

According to (Ashby, 2001) ^[10], relying on a few crops in combination with a high chance of crop failure owing to a variety of variables such as disease, drought, and other factors exposes farmers to a high degree of fluctuation in yields and income, and hence risk. Animal excrement is also a great fertiliser, providing additional nutrients to the soil in addition to the simple chemical nutrients of N, P, and K. Manure continues to be the link between crop and animal production in the developing world as an input for crop farming methods. The major problem is to find better techniques to boost production. benefits that manure can provide to society and the environment. Crop leftovers can be fed to animals, while increasing agricultural output can be achieved by utilising livestock manure by intensifying nutrients that increase soil fertility and decreasing the usage of artificial fertilisers (Gupta *et al.*, 2012) ^[44].

Due to the integration of several firms of varying economic importance, there is a greater level of sustainability in agricultural output. Recycling wastes as they accumulate in the system reduces reliance on external high-energy inputs, preserving natural and precious resources. Money progresses through the farming system. Eggs, edible mushrooms, milk, honey, silkworm cocoons, and other items are available to the farmer throughout the year. This will assist a resource-strapped farmer in escaping the clutches of moneylenders and/or agencies.

The demand of the chemical fertilizers get automatically reduced as the recycling of organic wastes. Furthermore,

biogas production can meet the energy needs of a home. As a result, IFS contributes significantly to the resolution of energy issues (Manjunatha, 2014) ^[81].

Problems

According to Devendra *et al.* 2011 ^[38], dairy goats are frequently overlooked in development efforts, despite their importance in some nations. The spread and intensification of smallholder dairy production is fueled by the constant need for milk. However, this demand is associated with difficulties in milk handling and distribution, problems in maintaining hygiene and environmental pollution. The major constraints faced by the producers are, inter alia, choice of strains, breeds and availability of animals; fodder & feed resources as well as improved feeding systems; advanced breeding & reproduction, animal health care activities; management & maintenance of animal excreta; organized, functional marketing channels; and sufficient market outlets.

According to Pushpa *et al.* 2011 ^[102], the most significant constraint for 86.19 percent of respondents was a lack of coordinated extension services. The lack of demonstration of the integrated farming system was the second major limitation, cited by 80.95 percent of respondents. The third major stumbling block was a lack of understanding of corporate integration (67.62 percent). The other two restrictions connected to the third constraint were a lack of information on the types and sizes of firms to be included (55.24 percent) and a lack of understanding on successful farm waste recycling (33.81 percent). Inadequate credit facilities and a lack of composite credit facilities were cited by 67.62 percent and 49.52 percent of respondents, respectively.

Limited scientific knowledge in animal rearing, unavailability of advanced breeds in local markets, and insufficient financial support were among the constraints identified by (Kadam *et al.* 2010) ^[110]. Thirty percent of respondents complained of a lack of adequate market facilities and the absence of cooperative societies; twenty percent, six percent, and four percent of respondents mentioned limited scientific knowledge in animal rearing, unavailability of advanced breeds in local markets, and insufficient financial support, respectively.

Thamrongwarangkul *et al.* 2001 ^[76] noted that resource deprived farmers were unable to invest more capital because farmers always need fast returns so that they can manage the expenses of their family. High start-up expenses, according to Tipraqsa *et al.* 2007, may deter farmers from moving to integrated farming and reaping the benefits of resource integration.

Productivity and profitability

Crop- Aquaculture farming system

This type of farming system is mainly followed in china, japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines. Many reports suggests that by the adoption of Rice + Fish farming it would be very beneficial. It helps in increasing the fertility of soil as fish helps in increasing the availability of phosphorous and nitrogen in the soil. And on the other hand fish will get benthic, planktonic and periphyton type of food from the rice field. (Mustow 2002) ^[92] as it would be helpful in fulfilling both the fish and rice demands. Integrated fish and rice farming sytem is very successful in lowland rice because there is proper utilization of fertilized water and food chain. This system maintains the utilization of farm resources and

also helpful in maintaining the food security. This type of farming system not only helpful in adoption of different type of farming system but also helps in increasing the economical status of the farmers.

Balusamy *et al.* (2003) ^[15] explained that the rice + azolla + cum fish aquaculture is the most widely adopted method in crop aquaculture farming system. In this the input cost is very less as compared to the output cost. As in rice field utilized the aquatic productivity of rice when rice bottom is highly fertilized it helps in production of zoo and phytoplankton which is utilized by fish.

Different type of farming system but also helps in increasing the economical status of the farmers

Ways of farming system	Increase in percentage	Increase in yield rupee/hectare
Rice + azolla + fish	25.7%	8817/ha
Rice + fish	6.9%	3219/ha
Rice Farming	0%	Normal yield

Model proposed in Tamil Nadu (source Balusamy *et al.* 2003) ^[15]

(Bisht 2011) ^[83] also worked Rice- Fish farming system in Indian Central Himalayan and an average net gain he get is

rupee 36823 annually with an investment of rupee 11925. If we do the economic analysis it clearly shows that the increase in income is 200%. This show that Rice+ Fish farming is very advantageous to farmers at both nutritionally and economically.

Crop livestock farming system

Crop wastes can be used for animal feed in an integrated crop livestock farming system, while manure from livestock can boost agricultural output by increasing nutrients that improve soil fertility and decreasing the usage of artificial fertilisers (Gupta *et al.* 2012) ^[44]. Excreta from animals contain a variety of nutrients (including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) as well as organic matter, which are essential for soil structure and fertility. Bhatt and Bujarbaruah, (2005) ^[63] analysed different sources of manure available in Intensive integrated farming system developed in Umiam and found higher N,P,K, Ca, and Mg in farmyard manure, poultry manure, goat manure, vermi-compost, pig manure, liquid manure, cow dung, duck droppings, and *Azolla pinnata* in the range of N (%): 0.65- 5.20, P (%): 0.35- 1.46, K (%): 0.18-3.60, Ca (%)- 0.75-4.15, Mg (%)- 0.07-3.96 within the system's recycling.

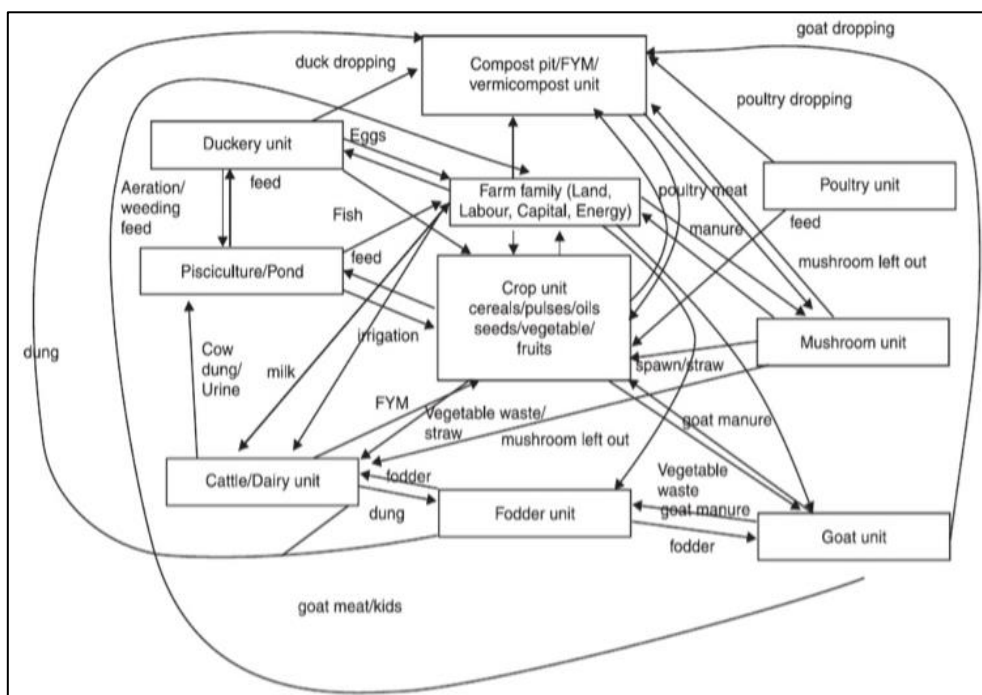


Fig 1: Input-Output flow diagram existing under the developed IFS module [Kumar *et al.* (2011)] ^[86]

Kumar *et al.* (2011) ^[86] noted that nutrient recycling has boosted nutrient efficiency at the farm level by using wastes/by-products of crops/animals as inputs for another component. Figure. 1 shows the input-output flow diagram. Organic residues in the form of recycled animal and plant wastes could also aid in increasing soil health and hence productivity over a longer period of time while posing less environmental risks (Gill *et al.* 2009, Kumar *et al.* 2017) ^[1, 87]. Integration of crop sequences with animal components boosted overall system profitability, even on a small farm of 0.50 ha in Umiam, Meghalaya, with a 32 percent slope (converted into terraces), contributing more than 55 percent of total farm income and making the system economically more beneficial (Panwar 2014) ^[85]. By providing monetary income, boosting family nutrition, and recycling crop wastes and

livestock waste into useful nutrient sources for crops, the inclusion of animal components in the system established a positive link on sustainability (Saxena *et al.* 2003) ^[57]. Dhiman *et al.* (2003) ^[84] stated that integrating cattle with crops on a watershed and individual holding basis improved the traditional farming system sustainably and environmentally. In the North Telangana zone, a farming system that included agricultural and dairy created more than 200 percent more jobs than agriculture alone. Agriculture and dairy had the highest net returns, followed by agriculture and poultry and agriculture and sheep (Reddy 2005) ^[56].

Crop poultry farming system

Crop poultry integrated farming system plays important role in increasing the income of farmers. Poultry waste like (duck

droppings) can increase the profit percentage of farmers upto 20% by enhancing the physical properties of the soil like infiltration rate, porosity and bulk density. (Mathew and Varughese 2007) ^[91].

Crop-fish-poultry farming system

Channabasavanna *et al.* 2002) ^[88] found that rice-fish-poultry combinations produced the highest net revenue (>'157000/ha) while also improving soil health in integrated farming system studies in Sirupura. According to Channabasavanna and Biradar (2009) ^[89], the nutritional status of soil NPK improved from 187 kg/ha to 262 kg/ha (40%) in the rice-fish poultry system, 29.3 kg/ha to 33.6 kg/ha (14%) in the traditional system, and 503 kg/ha to 530 kg/ha (5.4%) in the rice-fish poultry system (rice-rice). The rise was 11.5 percent as compared to traditional systems. Similarly, IFS demonstrated a rise in P and K content.

Ramrao *et al.* (2006) ^[90] investigated a crop-livestock integrated farming system for marginal farmers in rainfed regions of Chhattisgarh in Central India to find a sustainable mixed farming model that is economically viable by integrating different components such as crop, livestock, poultry, and duck on almost two acre land holding. With a net income of '33076 per year against arable farming, a model with 2 bullocks + 1 cow + 1 buffaloes + 10 goats + 10 poultry + 10 ducks plus crop cultivation was the best (crop farming) alone (7843 per year) with a cost-to- benefit ratio of 1:2.238 and a 316-day employment cycle.

In the upland model, a Cashew (Variety Bhaskara) + Pine apple (Variety Giant Kew) system in the upper elevation; a local coconut cultivar intercropped with elephant foot yam/papaya (local selection) and noni (*Citrus aurantifolia*) in the middle elevation; and a high-yielding arecanut variety Mangala with tissue cultured banana intercrop in lowlying areas integrated with poultry Solaiappan *et al.* (2007) ^[59] investigated different farming system models alongside conventional cropping and discovered that the model with poultry (20) + goat (4) + sheep (6) + dairy (1) produced the highest levels of organic carbon (0.35 percent), available soil N (134 kg/ha), soil P (8.5 kg/ha), and soil K (378 kg/ha) at the conclusion of the study.

Conclusion

Integrated farming systems (IFSs) are well-known around the world for their long-term viability and profitability. Small and marginal farmers should explore adopting IFSs in large numbers. They must be shown why single-product farms make it difficult for them to meet their food and other fundamental needs.

Farm income is slowly declining due to shrinking land holdings and continued non-integrated agriculture. Crops, dairy, fisheries, poultry, mushrooms, horticulture, sericulture, and other agricultural components must be integrated into a single farm unit to preserve farm income.

IFS is a comprehensive strategy that takes into account interactions between the various IFS components as well as the environment. IFS is also a one-of-a-kind waste recycling system in that nothing is wasted; the trash or by-product of one system becomes the feed for other systems. Labor-intensive enterprises like as dairy, poultry, fruits, vegetables, sericulture, mushrooms, and other labor-intensive enterprises can improve employment generation (man- days) on an IFS farm, particularly for family labour. Furthermore, spending on external inputs will be reduced. IFS is both economically and

environmentally viable.

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