

Rice- Fish- Live Stock-Horticulture and Agroforestry based Integrated Farming System: A viable option for farm sustainability and doubling of farm income in Eastern India

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Abstract:

Doubling farmers income by 2022 is a goal and target set by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is a challenging and daunting task within the time frame. The economic think-tank at Niti Aayog has put forth four- point action plans to double the incomes of India's farmers i.e. provisioning of remunerative prices, increasing productivity, reforming agriculture policy and provisioning of adequate relief measures. Experts engaged in searching the options recommended integrated farming system (IFS) approach adoption is considered one of the potential farming for enhancing the productivity and income of small and marginal farmers within a reasonable time frame. IFS has becoming more important in the eve of declining natural resources, increasing water scarcity, climate change and increasing energy costs while provisioning for protecting environment. Targeting higher production through intensive cultivation without adequate replenishments of nutrients threatening the very cause of sustainability of agricultural production systems. Therefore, integration of rice -fish-livestock-horticultural and agroforestry system and allied enterprises can contribute towards sustainability, enhancing productivity and possibly, doubling the farm income.