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Livelihood of rural family through Kitchen gardening and Dairy

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Diversification has brought many changes among farmers. It has due to fast life. India is one of the developing countries, where the majority of the people



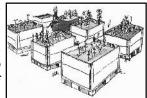
depend upon agriculture. 70 per cent of rural population is depending on rainfed agriculture. The recent climate changes made the farmer life tougher and resulted pure income.

Agriculture alone is not able to provide adequate income and employment to meet the need of households. Since several distress factors like poverty, unemployment and frequent natural calamities like drought, flood have pursued the rural household to go in search of various nonfarm activities to supplement their income and employment. Now the time has when the farming is not considered only to be the source of livelihood but as a commercial venture and profitable business enterprise.

For thousands of years, horticultural crops are in

cultivation to fulfill the need of family. The ancient life was nature friendly and had a perfect harmony with nature. Earlier every house was having a kitchen garden, which

was a striking feature of rural life. They people used to grow flowers, fruits, vegetables, aromatic as well as medicinal plants in their kitchen garden to meet the daily requirement of family. This practice has been



eroded because of so many reasons like urbanization, high cost of land, high cost of inputs and non availability of farm resources.

Socio-economic status of farmer: The fragmentation of land among the families decreased the per capita holding of the land and farm size became small. The diminishing natural resources, high cost of inputs and timely non availability of other farm inputs made it difficult for the farmers to earn profit from the farming. More over the rare opportunities of employment and entrepreneurship

	Earnings			Expenses			
Particulars	Unit	Yield(kg)	Rate (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)	Particulars	Rate (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)
Aonla	2	400	30	1200	Plants	15	30
Mango	2	4000fruits	40	32000		20	40
Papaya	2	400	25	10000		15	30
Guava	3	600	30	18000		20	60
lemon	3	6000 fruits	01	6000		15	45
Jamun	2	500	30	15000		15	30
Tomato	50 plants	125	10	1250		0.50	25
vines	15	150	07	1050		05	75
Milk	1 Buffalo	3500	30	10500	Buffalo		20000
					Fodder		10000
					Concentrate		14600
					Feed		300
Poultry	25 birds	575 eggs	3	1725			
		25 birds old	50	1250			
		25 birds (new)	100	2500			
Compost				6000	Spray pump		5000
			Total	Rs. 117275/-		Total	Rs. 50235/-



Returns	Returns					
Sr. No.	Particulars	Retums (Rs.)				
1.	Aonla (400kg)	12000				
2.	Mango (4000 fruits)	32000				
3.	Papya (400 kg)	10000				
4.	Guava (600 kg)	18000				
5.	Lemon (6000 fruits)	6000				
6.	Jamun (500 kg)	15000				
7.	Tomato (125kg)	1250				
8.	Vines	1050				
9.	Milk	10500				
10.	Poultry	5475				
10.	Compost	6000				
	Total	Rs. 117275/-				
12.	Production cost	Rs. 50235/-				
	Net return	Rs. 67340/-				

brought the rural families under stress by making their youth jobless. This has created problems of health, food security, shelter, education and discrimination among the society. This insecurity causes the fast migration of rural youth towards urban areas where the unbearable pressure of population collapsed the cities.

Sustainable kitchen garden system: An ancient heritage of kitchen gardening can be at rescue and act as remedy to overcome the situation. Planting of quick growing trees such as aonla, jamun,bael, lemon, papaya long with vines such as bittergourd, bottlegourd, cucumber, beans, watermelon, and vegetables which take up little space such as radish, carrot, lettuce, knoll-khol, beside

this, those vegetables which produce more fruits per plant like tomato, brinjal, chillies can fetch a good earning to support the family. The spacing for aonla, Jamun is 5x5 meter while dwarf varieties of mango and papya at the spacing of 3x3 can be planted. As per season the vines of bittergourd, bottlegourd, cucumber, watermelon should be trailed to the fences of the garden by giving a proper support. Due to less availability of space the vegetables like tomato, chillies, brinjal, can be planted in wooden barrels, crates and boxes, ridges may be utilized for growing root crop like radish, carrot and colocassia. The trees are planted at the back yard of the house. Besides farming other major sources of income can be dairy, poultry, or fisheries. A family can also have collection of 25-30 local birds of poultry, bee colony and a pond of fish also. The rural family has a trend to shift the piece of land got in inheritance. It is easy to accommodate these components with ease and has required inputs at farm.

A small family of four members can earn a very good income of 1.5-2.0 lakh, which is sustainable in rural area, if the fruits and vegetables are produced by organic farming. There is every possibility of primer price income may go-up. Apart from this family has almost two month at spare, which can be utilized for casual contractual works, which will be additional earning to them. It may be concluded that diversification while reducing uncertainty, would increase opportunity to earn more income for better livelihood in rural areas