

## Economics of farming systems in Ratangiri district of Konkan region

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### ABSTRACT

The study revealed that, there was wide variation in per hectare gross and net return of different crops. Irrigated crops were found more profitable than rainfed crops. Perennial and seasonal horticulture crops were more profitable than cereals, pulses and oilseeds in both the farming systems. 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. 10,441.58 and 27,354.59, 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).

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### INTRODUCTION

In Konkan region, mono-cropped rice based farming system is uneconomical hence, there is a wide scope for maximization of returns from horticulture, dairy, goat, poultry and vegetable enterprise system. However, due to non-homogenous topography, there is very little scope to bring more area under the plough. By adopting intensive cultivation methods, increased use of inputs and appropriate agro-techniques, higher food grain production can be achieved. Farming system is one of the main approaches, wherein the risk in dealing with single component can be minimised and, at the same time, increase in productivity through effective recycling can be ensured and result into improving the socio-economic status of the farmers. Not all the farming systems are remunerative to the farmers of this region; hence, to suggest the profitable farming system to this area, this study was undertaken with the specific objective to study the income and employment generation by adopting various farming systems.

### METHODOLOGY

The ex-post-facto research design was adopted for this study, since the phenomenon has already started and is continuing. The research work was conducted in Ratnagiri district of Konkan region of Maharashtra State. This district was purposively selected, because it has more diversified farming systems (Swami, 2004). Four tahsils having maximum

area under the cultivation of rice and horticulture 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. From each tahsil, five villages were selected on the basis of maximum area under the respective farming systems. Thus, twenty villages from four tahsils were selected for the study. List of the farmers, who were adopting the respective farming system, was prepared and ten farmers were selected by n<sup>th</sup> number method of random sampling from each village. Thus, the sample was constituted of one hundred farmers for each farming system and the total sample size was two hundred farmers.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *Crop economics:*

#### *Per farm income:*

Per farm income from crop production was estimated in terms of gross income, farm business income, family labour income and net income and the results are presented in Table 1.

In case of rice based farming system, the average total per farm cropped area was worked out to 0.58 hectare. Per farm gross income was Rs. 15,054.69, the major income was from rice Rs. 10,035.72, followed by mango (Rs. 642.94), groundnut (Rs. 539.57) and cashewnut (Rs. 245.67). Income from

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