

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Livelihood impact of farm diversification in dryland ecosystem

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SUMMARY : Integration of one more enterprises with farming decides the economic wellbeing under dryland farming. Sustainable development in terms of income and employment generation is quite possible with suitable mix of crop, animal husbandry and non-farm enterprises. Livelihood impact of farm diversification was measured among 100 small and 100 big dryland farmers from Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu. While big farmers generated maximum income of Rs. 19.75 (ten thousands/year) from crop + animal husbandry + non-farm activities, small farmers reported an income generation of Rs. 13.91 (ten thousands/year) from crop + animal husbandry + non-farm activity. Nearly, 50.00 per cent of the total income earned by the dryland farmers was from the non-farm sector. Among the diversification patterns, crop + animal husbandry + non-farm activities generated more (619.1) mandays. While, small farmers generated 574.4 mandays of work from crop + animal husbandry + non-farm activities, big farmers gained 678.4 mandays from the same.

KEY WORDS:

Farm diversification,
Livelihood impact

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