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Research Paper

Resource integration, nutrient recycling and economics of an integrated farming system in Southern Kerala

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ABSTRACT : An integrated farming system consists of a range of resource-saving practices that aim to achieve acceptable profits, high sustained levels of production and preserving the environment, while minimizing the negative effects of intensive farming. This paper presents insights into integrated farming systems of crops with allied enterprises, implemented in a 0.4 ha upland holding in Vettikavala block, Kollam district, Kerala state. The structural composition, recycling of organic nutrients, nutrient accretions and farm income are quantified demonstrating the technical feasibility and economic viability of the system. Besides facilitating cash income, integrated farming system generates additional employment and minimizes the risk associated with conventional cropping systems. The emphasis has been on optimising resource utilization rather than maximization of individual elements in the system.

KEY WORDS : Benefit : Cost, Integration, IFS, Nutrient addition, Recycling, Sustainable

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