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Integrated Farming System Increases Additional Income- Success Story of Women Farmer in Tamil Nadu

Integrated farming system takes care of optimal utilization of resources which integrate livestock and crop production or integrate fish and livestock along with cropping. The farm wastes of one enterprise become an input for another component. Judicious mix of agricultural enterprises which increases the additional income of the farmers and improves their socio-economic conditions and livelihood options. Keeping this in view under the AICRP on Home Science centre functioning at Community Science College and Research institute, TNAU, Madurai has trained the women farmers in the integrated farming system and distributed vanaraja chicks for the additional income. Mrs. Thamizharasi a dedicated and innovative farm women have got additional income out of IFS and motivated many women farmers in the village to adopt IFS Model. Five IFS models have been established in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu.

INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Thamizharasi an innovative farm women residing in the village Kalvelipatti of Alanganallur block of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu. She had completed her high school education and due to her family situation involved in agriculture. She always had a thrust for doing agriculture in an innovative ways. Her family had an agricultural land

of 3.25 acres in their village. Though she has cultivated different crops in her field like paddy, banana and pulses, vegetables regularly, she was not getting the expected yield and income. That income is not sufficient to maintain her home and farm activities. She felt that doing agriculture through conventional approaches minimized the yield and income. Due to pest and diseases she has to often go for pesticides and chemicals which lead to low productivity and increased input cost and poor or no utilization of existing other farm resources available in the farm brought start worrying. The soil fertility also comes down.

SOURCE OF MOTIVATION

During that time, in her village Training and awareness programme on Integrated Farming System

- By adopting vanaraja chicks practice in the IFS models, Mrs. Tamil Selvi belonging to kalvelipatti village had raised all the given vanaraja chicks and various techniques adopted in rearing the chicks.

ACHIEVEMENT OF ADOPTED IFS MODEL

Mrs. Thamizharasi has a total of 3.25 acre land out of which her crop field in 1.75 acre she accustomed this 1.75 acre land in IFS model and get the following yield and income. She felt that really IFS model helped her in increasing the additional income and sustainable profit. Apart from the regular cropping activities, she has gained Rs.3,600/- as profit from Vanaraja chicks (Poultry) which was distributed (100 chicks) during training programme.

Table 1. Profit from Integrated Farming System

Sl.No	Cropping pattern	Area	Season	Yield (kg)	Total Income(Rs.)	Expenditure(Rs.)	Profit (Rs.)
1.	Paddy	0.5ac	Kharif	1250	21500	9500	12000
2.	Banana	0.5ac	Rabi	5-6 tonnes	17500	8000	9500
3.	Mango	0.75ac	--	1200	42000	19000	23000
4.	Goat	4 No	Annual	-	20000	4000	16000
5.	Vanaraja (Poultry)	20 No	Annual	-	4400	800	3600

was initiated by the AICRP on Home Science centre which gives a boost for farming in an integrated way with different enterprises which improves the farm productivity, soil health and income. She started contacting the resource persons in the institution and started doing IFS and realized the benefits.

TECHNOLOGY /TECHNIQUE ADOPTED BY THE FARM WOMEN

- Integrated farming system practices were encouraged to the farm women in the selected area in Alanganallur block. Various farming practices were already being practiced in the regions of the villages.
- An additional of livestock (poultry) rearing practice was introduced to the farm women in the villages.
- As an initiative for adoption of improved IFS model the vanaraja chicks were provided through ADA office (Agriculture Department), Alanganallur, Madurai.
- This intervention was introduced by distribution of vanaraja chicks to the farm women as added economic practices for their existing IFS models.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- She regularized the contacts with the department to continue with developing the IFS model. Her continuous interest towards IFS development paved way for a successful IFS model.
- Mrs. Thamizharasi had to face various challenges in rearing the Vanaraja chicks, since the chicks were younger chicks and needed a lot of care in the vaccination and feeding practices.
- Vanaraja chicks reared with care and it aided more experience for the farm women. This model has increased the man days in providing employment opportunity.
- In addition to it, the chicks aided profit in developing economic viability of the farm women.

VISIBLE IMPACTS OF IFS MODEL

Her success influenced the other fellow women farmers in the village to go for adoption of any two of the components or part of IFS models in their farm and introduced Vanaraja chicks as an additional technique for better income generation. She realized the recommended and most appropriate IFS model for the villages was Garden land: Crop+ Poultry Apiary + Diary (3 milch animals + 2 calves goat) has yield an



Figure 1. Training on IFS and Distribution of Vanaraja Chicks



Figure 2. Successful women with Vanaraja chicks



K. TAMILARASI successful women farmer

additional income of 25 percent. So far five IFS models have been established in Kalvelipatti village, Alanganallur block of Madurai district, Tamil Nadu under the guidance of Mrs. Thamizharasi. The women nearby house started believing the usefulness of poultry rearing and started poultry farming. The whole village realized the importance of additional income apart from the regular income from agriculture. She was very much satisfied with her contribution to the village.

CONCLUSION

Women empowerment is really vests with financial empowerment. Hence proper focus has to be given to find out the suitable entrepreneurial ventures and regular income from agriculture. IFS are one of the best examples for agriculture and allied activities. Hence the whole village will be automatically developed and sustained in growth.