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"Integrated Farming System: A Women Entrepreneurship Study"

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Abstract

The agricultural sector in India faces complex challenges including declining profitability, climate variability, and resource degradation. Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) represent a sustainable solution by combining crops, livestock, horticulture, and forestry to optimize productivity and resilience. This paper presents a case study of Kavita Mishra from Raichur, Karnataka, whose innovative IFS model transformed barren land into a profitable and sustainable agro-enterprise. The study evaluates the economic, social, and environmental impacts of her integrated farming approach and discusses the replicability potential for similar regions across India.

Keywords: Integrated Farming Systems; Sustainability; Women Entrepreneurship; Agroforestry; Profitability

1. Introduction

India's agriculture sector is under pressure from multiple fronts—declining soil fertility, unpredictable monsoons, and market uncertainties. Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) offer a promising model to enhance farm income, resource efficiency, and environmental sustainability. This study investigates the entrepreneurial journey of Kavita Mishra, a woman farmer from Raichur, Karnataka, who successfully implemented an IFS model that transformed 10 acres of barren land into a productive, eco-friendly enterprise.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the economic and environmental impacts of an Integrated Farming System model.
2. To compare financial performance and resource utilization between traditional monocropping and IFS.
3. To assess the factors influencing successful adoption and scalability of IFS for small and medium farmers.

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3. Review of Literature

Several studies have confirmed that Integrated Farming Systems substantially enhance profitability and sustainability compared to conventional farming. According to ICAR (2023), IFS adoption increases farm income by 30–50% relative to monocropping systems. Research in coastal Karnataka (ScienceDirect, 2023) also revealed improved energy use efficiency and profitability through diversification. Nataraja et al. (2022) found that farms practicing IFS generated annual net incomes between ₹2.76 and ₹4.89 lakhs per acre, significantly higher than traditional systems. Ramana et al. (2025) concluded that IFS can double farmer income within 5–7 years of systematic implementation.

4. Methodology

The research follows a descriptive analytical framework, integrating both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data include interviews and field visits, while secondary data are obtained from government statistics and scientific reports. The financial analysis covers a 20-year timeline (2004–2024), assessing metrics such as ROI, NPV, and profitability. Comparative evaluation between traditional and integrated models was conducted for the Karnataka region.

5. Results and Analysis

The study found that Kavita Mishra's integrated farming model generated substantial financial and environmental outcomes. Initial investment ranged between ₹18–28 lakhs, and the farm currently produces annual revenues of ₹2.4–3.6 crores, with projected income reaching ₹5–8 crores by 2027. The ROI is estimated at 1,200–1,800%, with a profit margin of 85–90%. Soil organic matter improved from 0.5% to 3.2%, and water use efficiency increased by 40% through drip irrigation.

Table 1: Comparison Between Traditional and Integrated Farming Models (Karnataka Region)

Parameter	**Traditional Farming**	**Kavita's IFS Model**
Input Costs	₹15,000-25,000	₹14,000-22,000
Profit Margin	30-40%	85-90%

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Risk Factor	High (single crop)	Low (diversified)
Sustainability	Medium	High
Employment Generation	50-80 person-days	300-400 person-days

6. Discussion

The findings reveal that IFS provides multiple economic and ecological benefits. Diversification across crops, livestock, and forestry minimizes risks while ensuring consistent income streams. The long-term vision and systematic implementation demonstrated by Kavita Mishra show how smallholders can achieve high profitability and sustainability simultaneously. However, scalability is limited by initial capital requirements and technical knowledge gaps among rural farmers.

7. Summary and Conclusion

The Integrated Farming System model pioneered by Kavita Mishra exemplifies sustainable entrepreneurship in agriculture. Her model combines profitability with environmental stewardship, contributing to carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, and water conservation. IFS offers a replicable pathway for doubling farmer income, provided adequate policy support and access to credit are ensured. The success underscores the critical role of women-led innovation in driving India's rural transformation.

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