

Characterization of farming systems adopted by small and marginal farmers in Raichur district of north-east Karnataka

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Received October 12, 2016 and Accepted January 22, 2017

ABSTRACT : This study characterizes existing farming systems adopted by small and marginal farmers in Raichur district of North-East Karnataka (16°12' N latitude and 77°20' E longitude at an altitude of 389 m above the mean sea level). A rapid rural appraisal was conducted *via* informal discussions with 125 (25 farmers each from Raichur, Manvi, Sindhur, Lingusugur and Devdurga talukas) randomly selected farmers using a pre-tested, structured questionnaire. This study distinguished farms based on various farm enterprises adopted in their respective farms *viz.*, crop based, dairy based, goat/ sheep based, vegetable based, agro-forestry based, horticulture based *etc.* Farming was the main income-generating source for the majority of households in the area. Paddy, cotton, maize, ground nut, vegetables, cattle, sheep/goat and poultry farming were the major farming activities that were undertaken by the farmers. Socio-economic status of most of farmers was determined by farming system adopted in their farm. Proper integration among crop-livestock farming activities could be suggested as a better solution to enhance long term sustainability as well as farmers' living standards by improving farm production.

Key Words : Integrated farming system, rapid rural appraisal (RRA), characterization, survey.