

# **Integrated Farming Systems for a Sustainable Future**

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## **ABSTRACT**

In the past few years, water and food security, as well as natural resources conservation and environment protection are the main issues the planet is facing today. Developing countries are struggling to affect these issues and also have to assert the twin burden of global climate change and globalization. Global climate change has started showing its impact on water resources and agricultural productivity worldwide. Therefore, promoting sustainable development through sustainable agricultural practices may be a reliable way to overcome the above issues without retarding economic growth. In India, small and marginal farmers are crucial for the agricultural economy constituting 85% of the entire farming community with an operational land of 44%. Based on the earlier studies conducted all over the country, crop cultivation alone cannot meet the demand of food and nutritional requirement and we have to focus on integrated farming. In integrated crop livestock farming system, crop residues can be used as a source for animal feed, while manure from livestock can be used to enhance crop yields. Integrated farming system (IFS) is the combination that reduces soil and water erosion by conserving and harvesting, improves soil health and soil microbial activity, essential nutrients recycling, less incidence of pest and diseases, enhances productivity with increased net income. Recent studies shows that IFS components are also known to control the weed and regarded as an important element of integrated pest management and thus minimizes the use of pesticides and thus protects the environment. IFS is the only way of efficient resource recycling within the system with enhanced soil sustainability, increased economic profitability, economic stability and preserving environmental quality and maintaining sustainability.

**Keywords:** *Integrated farming systems, sustainable, productivity, stability and environment.*