

Multistoried Cropping System—A Sustainable System for Indigenous Vegetables and Medicinal Plants

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Abstract—Traditionally, multilayered tree garden or multistoried cropping is practiced in and around the homestead of Bangladesh in an unsystematic manner. An initiative was taken to develop systematic multistoried cropping system/models at the Germplasm Centre, Fruit Tree Improvement Program (GPC, FTIP), Department of Horticulture, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh. In coconut based multistoried cropping system, indigenous vegetables like aroids, brinjal, yam, cabbage, spices like ginger, turmeric and medicinal plant like misridana grown very well as compared to sole crop. Similarly, in sissou woodlot, the above vegetables, spices and medicinal plants also showed positive performance. In this system, natural resources were utilized properly, income per unit area increased substantially with this system. This approach ultimately helps to mitigate nutritional problems as well as poverty alleviation of developing countries like Bangladesh. So, incorporation of vegetables, spices and medicinal plants under Multistoried Cropping System in the homestead and/or orchard is inevitable. The developed model may be replicated in the orchard of mango/litchi (in north-west region) and jackfruit orchard (in eastern region) and also in the forest plantations of Bangladesh.