

Homestead Farm Management of Crop and Allied Enterprises for Livelihood and Nutritional Security in Mid-tropical Plain Zone of Northeastern India

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Abstract—The study quantifies household income of homestead production systems by integrating vegetables, fruits, spices, tuber crops, mushroom, poultry and goatary in farming system and analyzes its contribution to food and nutrition security. The yields of horticulture crops and the livestock kept indicated that homestead farms contribute remarkably to food security and farm income in terms of output and provision of varieties of crops relative to distant farms. The result suggests that homestead farm has better performances in terms of vitamins and minerals intake. Demand of Vitamin C and Iron were met along with 47% of Vitamin A and 20 % of Calcium and Phosphorus minerals through regular consumption of vegetables, eggs, mushroom and fruits. Total income was three times higher than the production cost. It also helps in improving soil productivity through the recycling of organic nutrient sources from the enterprises involved. Besides facilitating cash income, homestead farming system generated additional employment for family labour and minimizes the risk associated with conventional cropping system.

Keywords: homestead farm, integrated farming, nutritional security, cash income, smallholder farmers