JUST AGRICULTURE
multidisciplinary e-Newsletter

Growing Together: The Success of Mixed Farming

Shivam kumar jaswal[1] and Gurshaminder Singh[2]
[1]B.Sc Agriculture Student and [2]Assistant Professor
UIAS, Chandigarh University, Gharuan, Mohali, Punjab,140413

ARTICLE ID: 35

Introduction

Mixed farming has been practiced for generations. Farmers can increase their sources of income and reduce their reliance on a particular crop or livestock species. By rotating crops and utilizing animal waste as fertilizer, which supports soil health. By growing a variety of crops and raising different types of livestock, farmers can take advantage of the synergies between different components of their farm, such as using animal manure to fertilize crops or using crop residue to feed livestock.

One successful story of a farmer who grows rice, wheat and keeps buffalos for dairy production. Harpal Singh is a 39-year-old man from the Punjab village of Batta. Mr. Singh received his father's 7-acre land. He began withplanting rice, wheat. He quickly discovered, however, that the money from these crops was insufficient to maintain his family needs. As a result, he chose to go into the dairy business. He began with dairy farm of 6 buffalos. To boost milk supply, he applied advanced procedures for buffalos breeding, feeding, and management. This enabled him to earn a nice living by selling dairy products such as milk. He grows Berseem on some of the land as buffalo feed. In some of his land he grows vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, garlic and potatoes for own purposes. Mr. Singh also took part in a number of training programs and seminars on farming practices and agricultural marketing. He learnt about the

JUST AGRICULTURE
multidisciplinary e-Newsletter

practices, which he implemented on his farmlike crop rotation is a method in which various crops are cultivated in a specific order to preserve soil health and decrease pest and disease risk. Mr. Singh is capable of keeping the fertility of his land and eliminate the need for artificial fertilizers and pesticides by rotating his crops and due to mixed farming he is earning good income which he uses to buy hybrid seeds of rice(RHR-333) and wheat(DBW-296).Mr.Singh uses improved and new seeds suggested by the KVK. These seeds have been particularly designed to be disease-resistant as well as offer larger yields than regular seeds. As a result, he is getting good yield which increases his income year by year.

Harpal Singh makes around 6 to 7lakhs each year from mixed farming.His wheat and rice yields per acre are approximately 18 to 19 quintals and 28 to 30 quintals, respectively. And he owns 7 acre of land, which means

Wheat:7*19=133 quintals

Rice: 7*28=196 quintals

The market price for wheat and rice is 2100 and 2060.

Wheat: 133quintals*Rs 2100 = Rs 2,79,300

Rice: 196 quintals* Rs2060 = Rs 4,03,760

Total income =6,83,060

The expenditure for growing wheat and rice would include costs for inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation as well as labor costs and other expenses such as equipment maintenance, land rent and transportation costs. His total expenditure of around Rs 3,80,000.

Net income = Total income – Total expenditure

Net income = Rs 6,83,060 -3,80,000

Net income = Rs 3,03,060

He sells milk of buffalos RS.65 per litre in the diary market. His 6 buffalos yield is around 40litres per day. He earns around 78,000 per month by selling.

Feed costs:Rs 600 – 900 * 30 days = Rs 22,000 approx.

Veterinary Cost: Rs 700- 1000 * 6 buffalos = Rs 5000 approx. per month

Miscellaneous Expenses: Rs 2000 – 2500 per month

Total Expenditure: Rs 29,500

Total income of him around 48000 approx. per month.

JUST AGRICULTURE
multidisciplinary e-Newsletter

In his home there were some other animals were also there like chicken, rabbits, dogs. He also said that in future he might also do poultry business, now days he keeping the chickens for own purposes. In his home, he also has Guava, Figs, Sapota, Lemon Grass, rose.

He also said that why he adopted mixed farming becausemixed farming can help to minimize crop failure risk and boost farm productivity overall. This is due to the fact that if one crop fails, there is still alternative source of income from animals. Furthermore, the animals can help in the management of weeds and pests, decreasing the need for costly pesticides and herbicides.

Conclusion

To summarize, Harpal Singh's success story indicates that mixed farming, which mixes agricultural and dairy farming, may assist small farmers in Punjab produce a sustainable income. Farmers may achieve success in the agriculture industry by using creative strategies. Mr. Singh's story also indicates that dairy farming is a profitable business in Punjab, especially when paired with other agricultural activities.