Indian Economy · GS - III

How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Crop–livestock integration; resource recycling; diversified income; soil fertility; risk reduction; water efficiency; implementation challenges

Model Answer

Introduction

An Integrated Farming System (IFS) combines crops with complementary activities such as livestock rearing, fisheries, poultry, horticulture and agroforestry within a farm.

Contribution to Sustainable Production

- **Resource recycling:** Crop residues feed livestock, while animal manure improves soil fertility.
- **Income diversification:** Multiple farm enterprises reduce dependence on a single crop.
- **Risk management:** Losses in one activity can be offset by income from others.
- **Efficient resource use:** Farm ponds, composting and intercropping improve water and nutrient utilisation.
- **Employment:** Year-round activities create work for family labour and rural communities.
- **Ecological benefits:** Mixed enterprises can reduce waste, improve biodiversity and lower dependence on chemical inputs.
- **Nutrition:** Diversified production improves household access to milk, eggs, fish, fruits and vegetables.

Limitations

IFS requires technical knowledge, initial investment, market access and locally appropriate enterprise combinations. Smallholders may also face constraints in credit, storage and veterinary services.

Conclusion

IFS can sustain agricultural production and strengthen farm resilience, provided it is tailored to agroclimatic conditions and supported by extension services, institutional credit and reliable markets.

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