CHANGES IN THE CROPPING PATTERN AMONG THE AGRO ECOSYSTEMS IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Water availability and access to the water is crucial factor in determining crop choice and cropping pattern in agriculture. Hence, this study aims to discover cropping pattern change among four ecosystems (Canal, tank, well and rain fed) based on the water source availability. 120 respondents were selected from four blocks namely Kottampatti, Vadipatti, T.Kallupatti and Kallikudi of Madurai district, Tamil Nadu. The result revealed that 58.3 per cent of the farmers were used to follow single cropping system followed by double cropping system (35.8 %) and triple cropping system (5.8 %). In canal and tank ecosystem few of the farmers were cultivate paddy in all the three seasons whereas well ecosystem and rain fed ecosystem none of the farmers were cultivate paddy in their farms instead they preferred to cultivate cash crops, vegetables and millets. These less labour-intensive crops provide buffer time and hence pave the way to acquire the non-farm employment for additional income. We conclude that water scarcity, labour shortage, enhancement of non-farm employment opportunity and economic factors are the major factor for cropping pattern change.

KEYWORDS: Agriculture, Water scarcity, Cropping pattern, labour Scarcity