



HOMESTEAD FARMING FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Mitraniketan Core Support Project



CORE Grant to Mitraniketan
No: SEED/TIASN-2/011/2013(G)
Long Term Core Support Programme
Technology Advancement for Rural Areas (TARA)



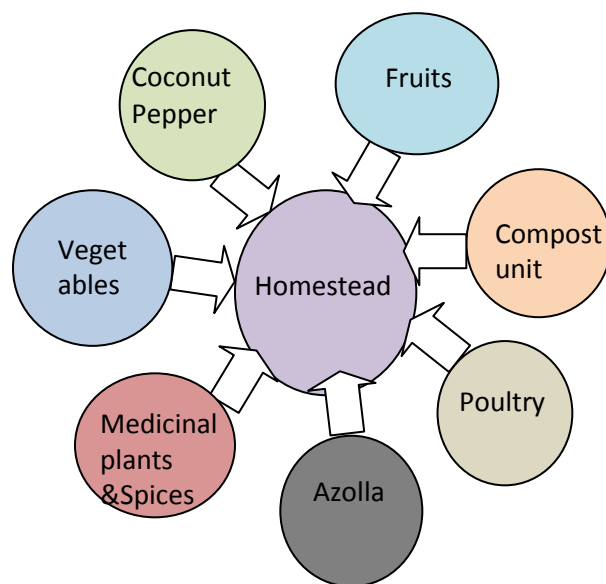
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INTRODUCTION

The tiny state of Kerala is blessed with many congenial agro-climate conditions for cultivating different types of crops throughout the year, but due to overwhelming population and land reform regulations there is intense fragmentation of holdings causing scarcity of land. There are 63 lakhs of holdings occupying 17 lakh hector of land. Out of this, 60 lakh holdings are having less than one ha. The progress of agricultural production depends mainly on the scientific management of these tiny holdings. Hence one of main activities under Core Support is the overall development of these homesteads for ensuring food and



IDEA BEHIND HOMESTEADS

The concept of homestead farming is a tradition. It was practiced for the production of subsistence crop for the farmer and his family. But the new concept has to correlate with the sustainable farming system with the scientific blending of all the aspects of modern scientific cultivation to make it eco-friendly, economically sustainable and to provide food and nutrition security. As such Core team undertook the multifarious scientific creativities in 4 selected Panchayats of Thiruvananthapuram district. The ultimate aim is to formulate suitable farm models to replicate the same to other areas with suitable modifications it needed.



OBJECTIVES

- Achieve food and nutrition security of the farm family.
- Ensuring bio- diversity coverage, soil and water conservation, and augmentation of organic measures and adoption of organic farming.
- Intensification of vegetable cultivation including terrace farming, live stock rearing and poultry keeping, beekeeping and cultivation of fruit plants.
- Promotion of agro-based bi-product utilization and processing units
- Utilization of family labour

FARM MODEL: 50 cents area

By successful field trials of the pilot projects, farm models having different area have been formulated by the Core team involved in field studies. The details of one of the models having an area of 50 cents are illustrated below. 13 main components are included in the homestead unit with a cropping intensity of 148. Most of the overall objectives and subsidiary integrating objectives correlated in the model to get maximum outcome of food and nutrition security, environmental safety, economic viability, sustainable agro production, bio diversity utilization and family labour. A profit of Rs. 65,106 has been obtained during the 3rd year of implementation. The BC ratio comes to 1.4. The agricultural produce costing Rs 15,320 has been utilized by the family during the year. Family labour utilization is estimated as 90 man days.



Azolla



Vermi compost



Mushroom



Poultry



Crops



50 cent Homestead model

House: 5.0 cent

Way and other opened areas: 5.0 cent

Coconut: (16 no) 4 cent

Banana: (15 no) 1 cent

Fodder: 7 cent

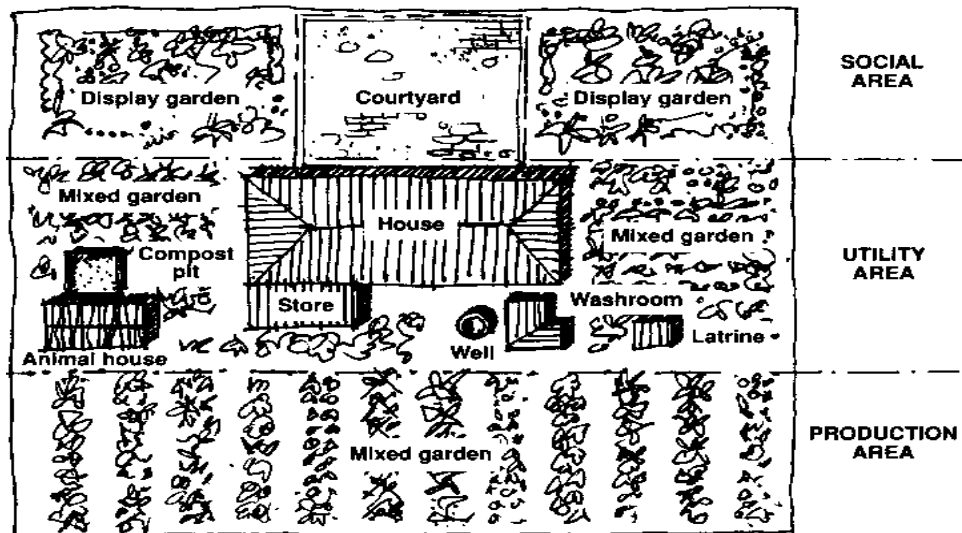
Vegetables (3 times in a year): 15 cent

Tapioca: 6 cent

Other tubers: 4 cent

Others: 13.0 cent

Total : 50 cent



Simple layout of homestead

