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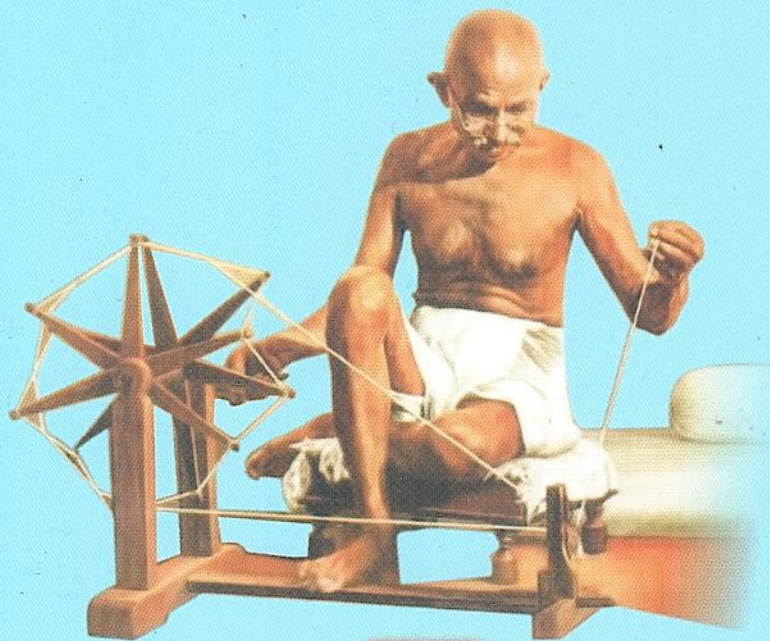
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(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

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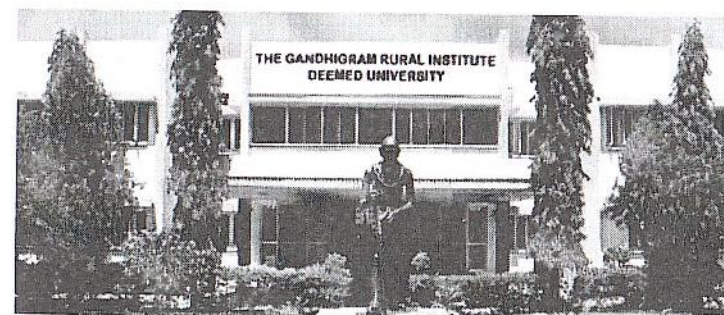
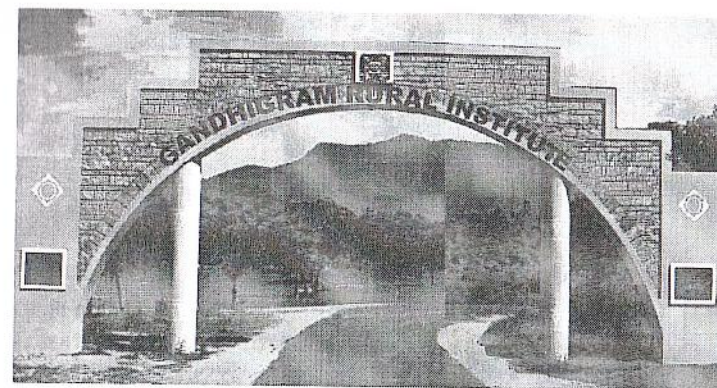
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Rural upliftment through income generation programmes essentially involve promotion of enterprises also training of vulnerable groups to make them partner in development transaction at the micro level. Sustainability of the benefits and transmission of research based knowledge through extension or its application by the beneficiaries is inter dependent and mutually exclusively and also deliver dividends to the beneficiaries. Sustainable development ensures not only meeting the needs of the present generation but also provides surplus to meet the requirements of the future generations. This type of development strategy not fulfills present but also future, is to be translated in to development action in the direction of ensuring village development linked with national development.

This issue of Journal of Extension and Research (JER) carries the hardcore areas of empirical research related to land, irrigation, farmers, labour, environment, employment, rural literacy, micro finance, small business ventures, entrepreneurship, marginalized groups etc. which are directly linked with extension leading to rural development. I wish the subscribers and readers of this journal to make effective use of this knowledge and enlightenment for integrating research based extension leading to rural development.

S.GURUSAMY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

JOURNAL OF EXTENSION AND RESEARCH

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ECONOMICS OF HOMESTEAD FARMING: A STUDY IN MOKERY VILLAGE OF KERALA

K. Manikandan, Prabeena Ambidattu and N.R.Deepa

Abstract

Homestead farming plays an important role in providing firewood, fodder, medicines, fruit and timber. Homestead farming assumes significance in the context of food and nutritional security and women empowerment. A review of literature carried out on homestead farming reveals that most of the studies discussed about food security, nutritional status and species diversity aspects of homestead farming. Only a very limited number of studies have their focus on the economic analysis of homestead farming. The present study makes an attempt to fill this gap by providing an analysis on economics of homestead cultivation by conducting a survey among 50 homestead cultivators in Mokery village of Kannur district in Kerala. The study shows that the net return per 10 cents of homestead farming is Rs. 8716 and per farm it is Rs.23830. The benefit cost ratio of sample farms is 1.46. Once family labour cost is eliminated the ratio becomes huge as 8. It indicates that family labour particularly female labour is gainfully employed in the homestead farming in the study area. Since the average size of homestead farm is relatively higher (27.34 cents) the farmers sell most proportion of the produce. The study has revealed that the farmers face certain constraints in homestead farming. Measures as suggested in the study need to be taken which would scale up production of vegetables. The study suggests for a strong government role as Kerala state depends heavily on neighbouring states for its vegetables requirements.

Key Words: Homestead farming, Production, cost benefit, utilization pattern.

In many developing countries home gardens are widely used as a remedy to alleviate hunger and malnutrition in the global face of a global food crisis. The origin of home gardening could be traced to South East Asia and East Africa. In Java (Indonesia) and Kerala (India) home gardening has been a way of life and is still critical to local subsistence economy and