

Preservation of Farmlands through Sustainable Practices

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Abstract

Farmlands are indeed the backbone of our existence. The culture of working on farmlands for cultivating crops is changed as people stick on to white collar jobs. The level of pesticides added to vegetables and fruits are crossing the limits. People started realizing that efforts to cultivate crops using natural methods are essential for our existence. There are initiatives in schools with the support of school authorities as well as the government. New practices towards sustainability need to be promoted by the government and other agencies. It must be ensured that the efforts shall not destroy environment in any case.

Introduction

Farmlands are devastated day by day due to the acquiring of land for construction works. Since the population explosion takes place, unlike joint families nuclear families live in a small plot of land without farmlands near to their houses. Even the surroundings are interlocked which further reduce the chance for farming activities. They depend on markets to obtain vegetables and fruits. The majority of the young people are not interested in farming activities. But farming must be promoted as it is indeed the backbone of our existence. Many depend on new agricultural practices to increase output. Certain farmers have designed an integrated system with dairy farms. The manure obtained is utilized in cultivating crops. Poultry farms enrich the system by providing income and food to the farmers. The agricultural products do not need additional manure and sold to the market to earn money for living.

Efforts for cultivation of crops

There are efforts from self help groups formed by women to cultivate crops on a large scale with collective efforts. They also take land for tenure and cultivate crops with subsidies and loans from government or other agencies. They sell the products at their own risk or sell outside. The agricultural department provides high quality seeds for cultivation, subsidies, other benefits etc. The productivity is increased by providing modern machineries.

Related business firms give training and instruction for the farmers to cultivate organic crops and provide adequate price for the farmers. These firms process the agricultural products to export to the foreign markets at a higher price. The farmlands are visited by the foreigners and farm tourism is thus promoted. The market for the sale of agricultural products is arranged. The processing of various products is also done do sell at higher prices. The food and accommodation provide income for many local people and raise the living standard of them.

Along with the academic studies, the students have started cultivating vegetables and use them for supplementing mid day meals in schools. This gives them an opportunity to cultivate vegetables using organic methods. The media institutions and other private firms are giving support so that it helps in reducing the dependency on vegetables and fruits available in the market which are cultivated by spraying pesticides and insecticides. The nuclear families have started cultivating vegetables for their household needs. In certain areas where farmlands are not available, they use terraces of houses to cultivate vegetables

Need for combined efforts

The preservation of farmlands needs a combined effort of government and other organizations. The farmers are frustrated due to climatic variations and low productivity. Many have committed suicide since they are unable live as they depend on agriculture alone. Due to urbanization at a rapid rate, the farmlands disappear fast. The construction of building is also done in many hilly terrains that can be dangerous to environment. By influencing the policy makers, the natural resources are looted at an alarming rate.

Farmlands help in the existence of many living organisms. They create pollution free environment. The ministry of Human Resource Development has issued guidelines to maintain

kitchen gardens in all schools including urban and rural areas. Leveling of land for the garden is done with the support of MGNREGA workers. Even small plots in the vicinity of government offices are transformed to farmlands with the efforts of some enthusiastic officers.

Even if the space available for farming is limited, the government should promote people to engage in agriculture. Kerala state depends on nearby states like Tamil Nadu to obtain vegetables. Vegetables and fruits are exported to Kerala without proper testing. There are plenty of pesticides used on vegetables which require testing to find out the level of chemicals added. The farmers use pesticides multiple times at various stages of crop cultivation. They also use banned pesticides to ensure high productivity. The government has intervened in the issue. But deriving a solution for the problem is difficult.

Methods like poly house farming are done which is supported with government subsidies. The output is very high compared to the traditional methods. Restrictions arising from seasonal variations can be overcome using this method. Even though the initial cost is high, the output shall be profitable on a long run. The traditional farmers are fed up with the huge fall of prices of vegetables. So they must be trained to bring changes in this field.

Conclusion

The self reliance of livelihood with toxic free vegetables and fruits must be practiced. Agricultural practices which can maximize productivity without destructing the environment are necessary for sustainability. A scientific approach in farming practices is essential. Government should make sure that the existing farmlands are preserved and cultivated regularly. Acquiring of farmlands for construction of industries or buildings should not be promoted. The greed for maximum productivity by applying fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides etc. affects the fertility of the soil and turns it to be future deserts.

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