

Assessing the Actual Status and Farmer's Attitude towards Agroforestry in Chiniot, Pakistan

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Abstract : In Pakistan, major demands of fuel wood and timber wood are fulfilled by agroforestry. However, the information regarding economic significance of agroforestry and its productivity in Pakistan is still insufficient and unreliable. Survey of field conditions to examine the agroforestry status at local level helps us to know the future trends and to formulate the policies for sustainable wood supply. The objectives of this research were to examine the actual status and potential of agroforestry and to point out the barriers that are faced by farmers in the adoption of agroforestry. Research was carried out in Chiniot district, Pakistan because it is the famous city for furniture industry that is largely dependent on farm trees. A detailed survey of district Chiniot was carried out from 150 randomly selected farmer respondents using multi-objective oriented and pre-tested questionnaire. It was found that linear tree planting method was more adopted (45%) as compared to linear + interplanting (42%) and/or compact planting (12.6%). Chi-square values at P-value < 0.5 showed that age (11.35) and education (17.09) were two more important factors in the quick adoption of agroforestry as compared to land holdings (P-value of 0.7). The major reason of agroforestry adoption was to obtain income, fodder and fuelwood. The most dominant species in farmlands was shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*) but since last five years, mostly farmers were growing Sufeida (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), kikar (*Acacia nilotica*) and popular (*Populus deltoides*) on their fields due to "Shisham die-back" problem. It was found that agro-forestry can be increased by providing good quality planting material to farmers and improving wood markets.

Keywords : agroforestry, trees, services, agriculture, farmers

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