

**Research Note**

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26725/JEE.2016.3.28.5723-5726>**Constraints in the Adoption of Indigenous Farming Practices****K. Kanagasabapathi<sup>1</sup> and V. Sakthivel<sup>2</sup>****ABSTRACT**

*Indigenous farming is a production system, based on renewal of ecological processes and strengthening of ecological functions of farm ecosystem to produce safe, healthy and sustainable food. Indigenous agriculture is being adopted by the farmers of Kolli Hills in centre Tamil Nadu for different reasons. However, a lot of constraints prevent the farmers in adopting indigenous farming practices, that include poor yield, poor marketing facilities, higher production cost and urbanization.*

**Keywords:** Tribal farmers, Indigenous Farming, Constraints, Kolli hills

The tribal farmers of Kolli Hills are noted for their rich traditional wisdom in agricultural operations. Invariably they practice indigenous farming. But of late, these tribal farmers are moving towards inorganic agriculture because of the influence of 'Green Revolution in India'. In recent days, the tribal farmers are again encouraged to practice indigenous agriculture. A lot of constraints / bottlenecks hinder the adoption of indigenous farming practices of the tribal farmers. Keeping the above facts in mind the present study was taken up with the specific objective of identifying the constraints in the adoption of indigenous farming practices as perceived by tribal farmers.

**METHODOLOGY**

There are fourteen villages in Kolli Hills located in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu and all the villages were included for the study. Respondents from each village were selected using Proportionate Random Sampling method. Three hundred farmers were selected as respondents for the study. Data collection was done primarily through personal interviews. The respondents were interviewed individually as well as in groups. Constraints refer to all the impediments expressed by the respondents in the adoption of indigenous agricultural practices. The respondents were asked to mention the constraints that limited the adoption of indigenous farming practices.

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## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### List of Indigenous Farming Practices

The following indigenous farming practices as adopted by many of the tribal farmers were observed during the investigation of the study.

- Application of farm yard manure to improve the fertility of the soil.
- Application of green manuring with leguminous crops
- Application of green leaf manuring
- Intercropping and cover cropping
- Sheep penning
- Cattle penning
- Crop rotation with leguminous crops
- Vermicomposting
- Application of crop waste, animal waste and other farm waste
- Application of neem extract to control the pests and diseases of the crops
- Application of cattle dung, cattle urine, poultry droppings
- Application of rural compost
- Application of forest litter

- Mulching

Most of these indigenous farming practices are eco-friendly, which highlights the concern of the tribal farmers for environment.

### Constraints Expressed by the Tribal Farmers

The constraints as perceived by the tribal farmers are presented in Table 1

It is understood from Table 1 that the constraints in the descending order of importance are 'Poor yield / Poor income from agriculture', 'Continuous pest and disease attacks', 'Rain fall failure / climate change', 'Less effective marketing and distribution of organic products', 'Exploitation by middlemen in marketing of organic farming products', 'Land tenancy system', 'Urbanization', 'Lack of support from extension officials for indigenous farming', 'Young people moving away from agriculture', 'Higher production cost', 'Insufficient dairy population for organic manure', 'No special recognition for the organic producers', and 'Insufficient land/ fragmented land'.

**Table 1.**  
**Constraints in the Adoption of Indigenous Farming Practices**

(n =300)

Sl. No.	Constraints	Number of Respondents	Percentage	Rank
1.	Poor yield/Poor income from agriculture	280	93.33	I
2.	Continuous pests and diseases attack	270	90.00	II

3.	Rainfall failure	260	86.66	III
4.	Less effective marketing and distribution of organic products	240	80.00	IV
5.	Exploitation by middlemen in marketing of organic farming products	220	73.33	V
6.	Land tenancy system	216	72.00	VI
7.	Urbanization	214	71.33	VII
8.	Lack of support from extension officials for indigenous farming	212	70.66	VIII
9.	Young people moving away from agriculture	210	70.00	IX
10.	Higher production cost	208	69.33	X
11.	Insufficient dairy population for organic manure	183	61.00	XI
12.	No special recognition for the organic producers	182	60.66	XII
13.	Insufficient land / fragmented land	154	51.33	XIII

### **Suggestions for Extension system**

Based on the results of the study, the following suggestions are made.

- Steps should be made for the easy and efficient marketing of indigenous agricultural products.
- More numbers of extension workers with hill experience may be appointed. Such extension workers are likely to promote the adoption of indigenous farming practices.
- Extension workers should encourage farmers to adopt rational indigenous farming practices
- Special prizes, cash incentives and awards may be instituted for the farmers to take up indigenous farming practices.
- Regular trials and demonstrations on indigenous farming techniques should be arranged periodically to encourage the farmers to take up valid indigenous farming practices.

### **Suggestions for Policy makers and Administrators**

Based on the results of the study, the following suggestions are made.

- Efforts should be made to reduce the role of middle men / brokers in the marketing of indigenous farming products by the tribes.
- Crop loans may be advanced to the farmers to encourage them to take up indigenous farming practices.
- Because of the land tenancy system many of the people from plains have occupied the lands of the tribal farmers and they are cultivating crops with inorganic fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides. Government should intervene and address this issue.

- Periodical trainings may be organized to create awareness among the tribal farmers and youth about the need for protecting the environment.

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