

The Effect of Commercialization of Subsistence Agriculture on The Living Standards of the Farming Families

K. Sheela¹ and Shashikala Puttaraj²

*¹Department of Rural Home Science, University of Agricultural Science,
Bangalore, India*

*²Department of studies in Food Science and Nutrition, University of Mysore,
Manasagangothri, Mysore, India
Fax: ¹<0091-80-2216213>*

KEYWORDS Commercial Agriculture Living Standards. Health Care. Socio-economic. Dietary Characteristics

ABSTRACT The present study was directed towards measuring the effect of changing farming systems towards cash cropping on the living standards, viz. demography socio-economic and dietary characteristics. The study covered a random population of 285 households located in 17 villages belonging to Bijawara mandal of Devanahalli taluk in Bangalore rural district of Karnataka State in India. The households represented three different farming groups, viz. commercial agriculture group with irrigation (CG-I), without irrigation (CG-WI) and subsistence agriculture (SG). Results of the study indicated that CG-I households involved in diversified commercialized agricultural system, viz. horticulture, sericulture and animal husbandry, were found to have improved, living conditions in terms of housing, sanitary system, health care, material possession. However, there was no improvement in the dietary characteristics of the farming families. The study reinforces the fact that increased income alone is insufficient to improve the household nutrition.