Conclusion

It can be concluded that Integrated Farming System (IFS) had a positive effect on the economic return maintaining the environmental sustainability than the Non-Integrated Farming System (NIFS). The enterprises which were integrated, played an important role and also were found to be very much region specific. Integration of more than three enterprises always improved the Benefit Cost (BC) ratio that is, gain per unit expenditure.

In this present study, when only cattle was integrated with fish culture and pond dykes turmeric production (IFS-I) the BC ratio was found to be lesser (5.3) than NIFS (6.5) but, integration of another enterprise like duck rearing (IFS-II) enhanced the BC ratio (8.1) greater than IFS-I and NIFS. During the period of study, it was also perceived that, one must try to integrate the locally available resources in the specific area so that the input cost of the farming is reduced and also must select the output to be produced from the farming in such a way that the produce gets high local market value and thus the farming system will be more viable.

The dykes were utilised in this study only for turmeric production (April – December) under integrated farming system but, in future different scopes are open for researcher to find out the optimum model of pond dykes utilization along with the fish culture round the year in this rain fed Terai region of West Bengal so that maximum profit can be achieved by the small and marginal farmers. Again, there is also further research scope to study the optimum composite fish farming suitable for this regional market to get maximum profit from this integrated farming.