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An Economic analysis of cotton and sugarcane and profitability on medium farm in Marathwada region (M.S.)

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ABSTRACT

The study of economic analysis and profitability of cash crops *viz.*, rainfed cotton and sugarcane was undertaken on medium farm during agriculture year 2005-06 in Marathwada region of Maharashtra. The data were taken from cost of cultivation scheme, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani. A sample of 100 medium farm size farmers throughout the zone was tabulated and analyzed by appropriate statistical tools. The result revealed that, in case of rainfed cotton per hectare cost of cultivation *i.e.* cost 'C' was Rs.17776.63 and net profit was Rs. 7011.27 per hectare. In sugarcane, per hectare cost of cultivation of sugarcane *i.e.* cost 'C' was Rs. 47578.33 and net profit was Rs. 17769.67 per hectare.

Key words : Sugarcane, Rainfed cotton, Economic analysis, Profitability.

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy as major chunk of the country is engaged and dependent on agriculture. It provides employment to large number of people, raw material to industrial units and food for survival to all. It provides 65 to 70 per cent livelihood of the total population. The introduction of scientific farm technology during mid sixties has increased the agricultural production and the country turned out from a position deficit in foodgrain production to surplus one.

The targeted growth rate of agriculture is fixed at 4 per cent to achieve projected requirement of foodgrain, oilseeds, sugarcane, livestock and fishery products to the tune to be doubled by the end of 2011-12. Sustaining a 4 per cent growth rate in next decade will require much larger use of inputs particularly land irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, high yielding varieties etc.

The net farm income is mainly a function of farm size and net profit per unit area. The net profits per holding, at point of times, depends upon several factors such as the type of farming practices, the quantum of use of various inputs, the prices of inputs and products and the overall management efficiency of the operators.

Sugarcane cultivation and processing is an important source of agricultural income and employment. Sugar is the largest processing industry next only to cotton textiles. In an agriculturally dominant country like ours, sugar industry plays a major important role in setting motion, a process for regeneration of the rural economy. It exerts a visible influence on the agro-technological,socio-economical and socio-political aspects of the rural masses. Development of this industry especially in the co-operative sector has made it possible to achieve social reformation, educational awakening, rural industrialization and employment for intellectuals,technocrates,scientists and million of skilled and unskilled labours. A large mass of Agricultural labour is involved in sugarcane cultivation, harvesting and ancillary activities constituting 7.5 per cent of the rural population. The sugar industry employs over 0.5 million skilled and unskilled workmen mostly from the rural areas.

Cotton ocuppies a place of price being the prime supplier of material for the textile industry which is one of the leading industries in the country.Cotton industry provides means of livelihood for about 250 million peoples in the world and about 60 million through its cultivation, trade and industries in India.Commercially,cotton is one of the best export earning commodities of the country. Cotton and textile exports are the largest sources of foreign exchange accounting for nearly one third of the national total exports.Cotton continues to remain the backbone of the rural economy, particularly in dryland areas,besides being a money spinner,it is also an employment generator.

METHODOLOGY

Marathwada region of Maharashtra was purposively selected in order to study the farm business analysis on cash crops. Multiple stage sampling design was used for selection of zone, tehsils villages and farms. Twenty eight tehsils under the assured rainfall zone were selected from the eight districts of the region because of their

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