

Economics of ber production in Beed district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Investigation was carried out during the year 2010-2011. Multistage sampling design was adopted in selection of district, tehsils, villages and cultivators. In all 48 cultivators were selected for present study. The techniques like mean, percentage, ratio and cost concept of Cost-A, Cost-B, and Cost-C were used to analyze the data. The results revealed that use of family human labour was more than hired human labour in ber production. Per hectare net profit was Rs. 21,628.20 on ber farm. The output-input ratio was 1.57 in ber orchard. Per quintal cost of production was Rs. 412.78 in ber orchard.

KEY WORDS : Ber, Net profit, Cost-C, Gross returns

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Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*) is cultivated all over the drier parts of the Indian subcontinent for its fresh fruits, which are rich in vitamins (C, A, B complex) and minerals. Ber or Indian jujube belongs to family Rhamnaceae. Ber is native of India. It is believed that the Indo-Malaysia region (South and South-east Asia) is the centre of both evolution and distribution of the genus *Ziziphus*.

The major production area of ber is in the semiarid and arid parts of the country. It is widely cultivated in Punjab, Haryana, and Maharashtra. Eighteen species are found in the Indian subcontinent from the Himalayas to Cape Camorin and from the Western region to the Eastern wet tropics. The increase demand may lead to increase in prices of ber and farmers may be benefited. The need was felt to answer some queries such as cost, returns and profitability. Keeping in view the above aspects, the present study was undertaken.

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METHODOLOGY

Multistage sampling design was adopted in selection of district, tehsils, villages and ber growers. At first stage, Beed district was purposely selected on the basis of availability of ber garden. At second stage, two tehsils of Beed district were selected on the basis of highest area under sole fruit crop of ber. The selected tehsils were Kaij and Beed. At third stage, from each selected tehsil six village clusters were selected on the basis of availability of ber garden. In the fourth stage separate list of ber growers was taken from each village cluster and from that list, four ber growers were selected randomly. The cross sectional data were collected from forty eight growers with the help of pre-tested schedule for the year 2010-2011. The cost concepts viz., Cost-A, Cost-B and Cost-C were used to analyze the data in present investigation. Cost-A includes the items of cost like hired human labour, machine labour, manure, fertilizer, plant protection, irrigation, land revenue, incidental expenditure, interest on working capital and depreciation on asset. Then, Cost-B consists of Cost-A plus, rental value of land and interest on fixed capital and amortized establishment cost. Cost-C includes Cost-B plus imputed value of family labour. Evaluation of cost item was as follows. Human labour was measured in man day. One man day consisted with 8 hours. Labour cost evaluated at the rate of Rs. 100 per day for male and Rs. 80 per day for female.