

Resource productivity and resource use efficiency of cotton on small farms in Parbhani district of Marathwada region

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ABSTRACT

The study attempted to examine the resource productivity, resource use efficiency and return to scale of cotton production on small farms in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. A sample of 54 farmers was selected through multistage sampling technique from Parbhani district and data were collected during November – December 2012. Cobb Douglas production function approach was used to measure the resource productivity, resource use efficiency and return to scale by calculating and comparing Marginal Value Products (MVPs) and MVP to factor price. Results depicted that on small farms, in case of cotton, 53.80 per cent variation in cotton production was explained due to independent variables considered for analysis. Regression co-efficient of manure (X_3) was 0.3871, which was positive and highly significant at 1 per cent level. Whereas regression co-efficient of bullock labour (X_4), fertilizer (X_5) and machine labour (X_6) were 0.4837, 0.6023 and 0.7543, which were positive and significant at 5 per cent level. Regarding utilization of resource, MVP of family labour, bullock labour, machine labour and manure were greater than unity indicating under utilization. However, all other resources were used in excess. The result also indicates that return to scale on small farm was increasing (Σbi : 1.435).

KEY WORDS : Cotton, Small farms, Resource productivity, Resource use efficiency

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