Research Paper

Study on quality, grading and prices of maize in Northern Karnataka

■ **SOMANAGOUDA I. PATIL, N. ASHOKA, CHIDANAND PATIL, GANESHAGOUDA I. PATIL** AND **K. VASUDEVA NAIK**

See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

N. ASHOKA,
Department of Agribusiness Management, University of Agricultural Sciences, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA) INDIA
Email: narayana.ashoka @gmail.com

ABSTRACT : Karnataka is one of the Indian states where agriculture is the main occupation of a majority of the population. In order to accomplish the objectives of the study, maize samples were collected during their peak seasons (January-February for maize). The total sample size was 120. In maize, two leading varieties were selected and 30 samples from each variety were selected. The step wise multiple regression analysis was used. In the first model, price has been used as the dependent variable and quality factors as independent variable. In the second model, price has been taken as the dependent variable and non-quality variables as independent variables. In the third model, eye-sight grade has been taken as the dependent variables and quality variables as independent variables. In Belgaum market, the regression coefficient of colour indicated that for yellow maize fetched Rs. 62.77 extra per quintal compared to white maize.

KEY WORDS : Maize, Quality and non-quality characteristics, Pricing, Eye-sight grading

HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER : Patil, Somanagouda I., Ashoka, N., Patil, Chidanand, Patil, Ganeshagouda I. and Naik, K. Vasudeva (2012). Study on quality, grading and prices of maize in Northern Karnataka, *Internat. Res. J. agric. Eco. & Stat.,* **3** (1) : 23-28.

INTRODUCTION

Karnataka is one of the Indian states where agriculture is the main occupation of a majority of the population. Cultivators and agricultural labourers form about 56-60 per cent of the workforce in the state. Agriculture in the state is characterized by wide crop diversification. The northern part of the state, which covers 12 revenue districts of the state accounting for more than 50 per cent of the geographical area of the state, has vast dry tracts of farming. Among food crops grown in this region, cereals have a major share. Maize, wheat, jowar, and bajra are among the important cereals grown in this part of the state. The region has witnessed in the recent years several suicides of the farmers, who ended their lives on account of crop failures and price crashes for their produce. Thus, it is being increasingly realized in the present days that increased production is meaningful only when it fetches suitable price in the market.

Grading is the process of sorting unlike lot of the produce into uniform classes according to certain intrinsic quality factors and physical characteristics that include moisture content, foreign matter, admixture, extent of damage, extent of immature produce, pest infestation, weevil attack, and extent of shriveled produce. The object of grading the produce is enabling the producers of quality produce to get premium prices and improve their earnings.

It also aims at making available quality produce to the consumers according to their choice. In the absence of well developed grading, producers don't have the incentives for the production of quality produce. Further, buyers find it difficult to decide on the appropriateness of the quoted prices without the information of quality characteristics available in terms of grades. Thus, of the paramount importance is to develop marketing system on a more scientific basis with the adoption of grade specifications in the buying and selling of the farm produce.

This calls for efforts to develop meaningful grade standards on scientific basis. Such a step would be an important milestone towards improving the marketing environment for farm produce, and making agriculture a more viable occupation