

Economic aspects of production, processing and marketing of turmeric in western Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to examine the economics of production, processing and marketing of turmeric. The results of the study based on the data (2001-02) collected from ninety turmeric growers selected from the six villages three each of Miraj and Walava tahsils of Sangali district in Western Maharashtra indicate that the mean cost of cultivation of turmeric was Rs. 84,420.56 per hectare. The 112.39 q of output *i.e.* the wet rhizomes gave the returns of Rs. 1,08,692.91 with the per quintal cost of production of Rs. 724.91 and the benefit cost ratio of 1.33. The farm level processing starts from separation of fingers from rhizomes, transportation from field to processing unit, filling of utensils, cooking, drying and polishing of cooked fingers. The per quintal cost of processing of these wet rhizomes was Rs. 156.25. The human labour was the major item and shared 44.10 per cent of the total cost of processing. This was followed by machine labour 27.73, utensil charges 21.34 and fuel 6.82 per cent. Even though processing loss of produce was about 67 per cent still the returns were raised to Rs. 1,49,760.00 as the processed produce fetched manifold higher price. The ratio of additional returns (Rs. 41,067.09) with additional cost (Rs. 17,549.98) was 2.34 indicated the value addition have resulted in more added benefits. The per quintal cost of marketing of turmeric in Sangali market was Rs. 417.61. The producer's share in consumer's rupee was 73.38 per cent.

Key words : Turmeric, Production, Processing, Marketing.

INTRODUCTION

Turmeric is known in India from the ancient time. It is used in vegetable preparation and thereby consumed in daily diet. It is useful in preparing dye, drugs and cosmetics. It has unique importance in performing pooja and many religious and marriage ceremonies in Indian culture. It is one of the important spices, which play an important role in the national economy, and is also one among the five important major spices of India. India has the unique position of being the largest producer and exporter of turmeric. Though turmeric can be grown in all the states in the country, the major production of this important spice crop is confined to Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Assam. The area under turmeric was 1,22,500 hectares with production of 5,25,155 metric tones in the country during the year 2000-2001. The area under turmeric in Maharashtra was about 8200 ha. during 2000-2001. The Sangali district is prime one in cultivation of turmeric in Maharashtra. It alone occupies an area of about 1048 hectares with production of about 6283 tonnes of turmeric. It is, therefore, attempted to undertake this in Sangali district of Western Maharashtra.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was primarily based on the farm level data pertaining to different aspects such as resource use, costs, return profitability, farm level processing and marketing of turmeric. The area under turmeric is

increasing day by day in Sangali district and therefore, two tahsils *viz.*, Miraj and Walva from Sangali district having maximum area under turmeric were selected purposively. The sampling technique adopted for this investigation was two-stage random sampling with the village as the primary unit and the cultivators growing the turmeric as secondary unit. Three villages were selected from each of the tahsils with the probability proportion to the area under turmeric. Fifteen cultivators were selected randomly from each of the village under study. Thus the total sample comprised of ninety turmeric growers. The data on physical resource use, input-output prices, yields obtained, processing of turmeric were collected for from selected cultivators the crop year 2001-2002. The data on marketing aspects were also collected from intermediaries involved in the marketing of turmeric. A simple method of tabular analysis was used to analyze the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Resource use and costs structure

The data on per hectare utilization of different resources and cost of cultivation are presented in Table 1.

It could be revealed from the Table 1 that, the total human labour required for cultivation of one hectare of turmeric was 147.07 male days and 140.73 female days. In this total human labour, the male labour comprised of 64.71 days of hired and 82.36 days of own. Whereas, the total female labour comprised of 92.69 days of hired