

Arrival and price behaviour of important jowar and wheat in Parbhani district

MOHD. ASMATODDIN*, T.G. SATPUTE AND V.S. MASKE

Department of Agricultural Economics, Marathwada Agricultural University, PARBHANI (M.S.) INDIA

Key words : Arrivals, Prices, Cereal, *Kharif* hybrid jowar, *Rabi* jowar and wheat.

A study was carried out during 2004-05 to know the arrival and price behaviour of cereal crops in APMC market in Parbhani. The study is based on time series data on arrivals and prices of major cereal crops. It indicated that at an overall level arrival of *kharif* hybrid jowar was highest in the month of November and price fetching in the month of June (Rs.407.77/q) whereas, *rabi* jowar, wheat highest arrival in the month of April and March, respectively and price fetch high in the month of February (Rs.780/q) and January (Rs.845/q), respectively. The price index fluctuated for *kharif* hybrid jowar in the range of 92.40 to 109 per cent throughout the year and fluctuation of price index observed for *rabi* jowar and wheat was 93 to 113 and 86 to 114, respectively.

The problem of agricultural marketing has become very important now a days because of increase in the specialization and commercialization of Indian agriculture. Agricultural marketing is one of the manifold problems which was direct bearing upon the property of the cultivators in the country. Hence, the problem of agricultural marketing is very important in Indian agriculture. Generally, agricultural producers are the weakest as they suffer due to literacy, lack of organization and indebtedness, lack of retention capacity at their level leading to forced sales. Due to weak bargaining position, farmer has to face so many odds while selling their produce in the market. The price variations are common in agricultural commodity mainly because of seasonality in production and inter market arrivals and forced to sale cause decline in price and the intermediate functionaries reap the benefit of such large income hence it is essential to understand the fluctuation in prices and arrivals of each commodity in given market so as to decide the period to maximize the net returns.

Therefore, it is necessary to study the fluctuations in the monthly average price of food grain in various markets which help farmer to plan their sale. Considering this importance, present study was undertaken with following specific objectives to estimate the fluctuations in market arrivals and prices, to identify the peak and slack periods of arrivals and to determine relationship between market arrivals and market price.

The study is based on time series data on arrivals and prices of major cereal commodities. The commodities selected were *kharif* hybrid jowar, *rabi* jowar and wheat. The data on market arrivals and wholesale prices of different cereals crops were collected from record of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Parbhani. The data pertained to the period for nine years (1996-97 to 2004-05). The data were analysed in term of mean value for each month and coefficient of variation was computed to find the degree of relationship between market arrivals and prices. The price index was computed for suitability of month to sale the produce in the market.

Results on average monthly arrivals and prices with seasonal indices for the three selected crops are presented in Table 1 to 3.

***Kharif* hybrid jowar:**

Data presented in the Table 1 revealed that, the peak arrivals in *kharif* hybrid jowar were observed in the month of November followed by December and January. The CV for the month of November was comparatively low as regards other months indicating assured arrivals in November. The price index for the month of May and June was nearly the same and higher over all other months, indicating thereby the suitability of months to sale the produce in the market.

***Rabi* jowar:**

The seasonal indices of arrivals and prices in respect to *rabi* jowar are presented in Table 2. It was observed that at APMC, Parbhani, index of arrivals was the highest in the month of April followed by May and June. The price index for these months was less than the average index (100), indicating thereby less than the average price received by the farmers as compared to other months. Price index was the highest for the months of February followed by January indicating thereby suitability of these months in selling the produce in these months. Dayaka Rao and Thirumal Valvan (2005) also carried out the survey on trends in arrivals and prices of sorghum at the regulated market of Maharashtra.