

## Profitability of *kharif* onion (*Allium cepa* Linn.) production

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### ABSTRACT

Onion occupies an important place in daily diet. It is semi-perishable in nature. Study is based on cross section data collected from 60 *kharif* onion growers. Standard cost concepts viz., cost A, cost B and cost C were used to work out the cost of cultivation. Study revealed that at an overall level per hectare use of human labour was 45.57 male and 75.19 female days. On an average hired human labour utilization was 15.76 per cent male and 39.19 per cent female. At an overall level bullock labour employment was to the extent of 4.12 bullock pair days. It was revealed that cost 'C' was the highest that of Rs. 23528.18 on small farm followed by large farm Rs.21996.48 and on medium farm Rs.21554.35. Highest net profit was on small farm followed by large and medium farm.

**Key words :** Onion, Cost concept, Physical inputs, Profitability

**A**mong the bulb crops onion is one of the most important vegetable crop grown from ancient times in India. Onion belongs to family Liliaceae. Primary centre of origin of onion is central Asia. Presently it is cultivated in various countries of the world viz., China, India, U.S.A., Japan, Spain, Turkey, Brazil, Iran, Egypt and Italy.

Onion occupies an important place in daily diet. It is semi perishable in nature, grown as field and kitchen garden crop. The green leaves and mature bulbs are eaten raw or used in preparation of vegetables.

The total area in the world is 18.83 lakh hectares with annual production of 282.23 lakh tonnes and its productivity is 15 tonnes per hectare. In India it occupies an area of 3.95 lakh hectare with annual production of 42.33 lakh tonnes which comes to about 21 per cent of the world area and 15 per cent of world production. India ranks first in area, second in its production and third in export. Export of onion from India is about 5 to 5.5 lakh tonnes. The major onion growing states are Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Maharashtra is the main supplier of onion to other states in India. Maharashtra state is first in area and production of onion in the country. The state occupies 20 per cent area and 25 per cent production of onion in the country.

In Maharashtra Nashik, Pune, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad and Satara are major onion producing districts. Ahmednagar is predominant in area after Nasik and Pune and second in production. In the present study an attempt has been made to analyse the per hectare cost and returns of *kharif* onion cultivation.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Multistage sampling design was used for present study. Ahmednagar district was purposively selected for study because of its predominance of area. The district contributes about 13.46 per cent area in the state. Shevgaon and Newasa tahsils were selected on the basis of highest proportionate area. Five villages from each tehsil were randomly selected. From each of the selected villages list of *kharif* onion growers was obtained and on the basis of total land holding they were divided into three size groups i.e. small (upto 2 ha), medium (2.1 to 4.00 ha) and large (above 4.00 ha). Twenty cultivators were randomly selected from each group. Thus constituting total effective sample size of 60 cultivators. The data were collected in well designed pretested schedule through personal interview method. Standard cost concepts have been used in the study in order to work out the cost of cultivation of *kharif* onion. For analysis of data simple statistically tools viz., means, ratios, percentage were employed.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *Utilization of physical inputs of kharif onion:*

Per hectare physical input use in *kharif* onion was studied and presented in Table 1. It is revealed from the Table that overall per hectare use of human labour was 45.57 male and 75.19 female days. Inter group comparison of total per hectare human labour requirement showed that maximum labour use was in group-I followed by group-II and group-III. At an overall level bullock labour employment was to the extent of 4.12 bullock pair days. In case of small, medium and large size groups highest