

Economics of production of leafy vegetables in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state

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ABSTRACT

A Survey was conducted in the year 2005-2006 at Latur district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra to find out economics of major leafy vegetables (palak, methi and chukka). Results revealed that, average size of holding of farmer was 6.78 hectare. Major crops grown in the study area were *kharif*, jowar, sugarcane, green gram and chickpea. Per hectare production of palak, methi and chukka were 112 q, 96q, and 116q, respectively. Per hectare total cost required for palak was Rs. 22,324.09 for methi was Rs. 20,179.37 and for chukka was Rs. 22,653.13. The gross returns were Rs. 34, 809.96, Rs. 32, 236.80 and Rs. 44,103.20 for palak, methi and chukka, respectively. Per hectare net profit was highest for chukka (Rs. 2,140.10) followed by palak (Rs. 12,485.86), and methi (Rs. 12,057.40). In all selected vegetables except fertilizer all other variables were significant. The input-output ratio was the highest for chukka (1:1.94) followed by methi (1:1.59) and palak (1:1.55) indicating growing of leafy vegetables under study area was profitable.

INTRODUCTION

Vegetables are important component of our food basket. They supply minerals, vitamins, carbohydrates and protein of high biological value. An average Indian consumes 434g of cereals whereas takes only 21g of leafy vegetables and 74g of other vegetables as against the requirement of 284g per capita per day. In Marathwada, per capita consumption is about 100g. This is still low in rural areas. It is because of our total production of vegetables, is only 3 lakh tones as against the annual requirement of 11 lakh tones. It is therefore, necessary to increase vegetable production and in turn consumption to meet the requirement of nutritive diet.

Vegetable production helps the farmer for employment of family throughout the year and other than its profitability weekly receipts by the sale of vegetables facilitate to meet consumption expenses.

Considering the importance of vegetables, the present study has been undertaken with the objectives to examine the physical input use, to study the costs and returns in vegetable cultivation and to study the resource productivity of various inputs in selected vegetables.

METHODOLOGY

For present study Latur district was purposively selected. Three villages *viz.*,

Kawa, Mahapur and Mamdapur from Latur taluka were selected randomly. Information about vegetable growers were obtained from village authorities and 25 cultivators for each crop *i.e.* palak or spinach (*Beta vulgaris*), methi (*Trigonella foenum graecum*) and chukla (sorrel) were randomly selected constituting a total sample of 75 cultivators. The required data were collected in especially designed schedule by survey method. Data in respect of land use pattern, cropping pattern, input use, cost and returns were collected. Data pertained for the year 2005-06. Data so collected were tabulated and analyzed. The results obtained are presented below.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Land use pattern:

Per farm land use pattern is presented in Table 1. On an average, size of holding was 6.78 ha of which net cultivated area was 6.38 ha which accounted 94.10 % of total area.

Table 1: Land use pattern

Sr. No.	Particulars	Area in ha	Percentage
1.	Total area	6.78	100.00
2.	Irrigated area	1.67	24.63
3.	Un-irrigated area	4.71	69.47
4.	Uncultivated area	0.40	05.90
5.	Net cultivable area	6.38	94.10
6.	Net sown area	6.19	91.31
7.	Double cropped area	2.27	33.48
8.	Gross cropped area	8.46	124.79

Key words :

Leafy vegetables, Cost of cultivation, Palak, Methi, Chukka.

Accepted :
December, 2008