RESEARCH ARTICLE

Economics of production of blackgram in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state

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ABSTRACT

Blackgram (*Phaseoulous mungo* L.) is an important pulse crop in India. Survey was conducted in Parbhani and Nanded districts of Maharashtra state for the year 2006-07 to study economics of blackgram production. Data were collected from 64 blackgram growers. The results revealed that main product of blackgram was 7.96 q/ha. In production process cost 'C' was found to be Rs. 11999.27 /ha. The proportion of cost 'A' in total cost was 51.81 %, while proportion of cost 'B' was 89.02 %. The net profit was Rs. 7221.81/ha. Output-input ratio was 1.60. Cost of production of blackgram was Rs. 1492.73/q.

INTRODUCTION

Blackgram [*Phaseoulus mungo* (L.)] commonly known as urdbean or urad, has great importance due to resistance to adverse climate and nitrogen fixation. It is used as green manuring crop. In human diet, blackgram plays an important role by providing 24 % protein, 0.70 % calcium and 57.30 % carbohydrate. It is used as nutritive fodder specially for milch cattle.

Blackgram is economically important crop and is cultivated in *kharif* season on rainfed farms. In Maharashtra, area under blackgram was 4.68 lakh hectares with the production of 2.00 lakh tonnes. Similarly, in Marathwada region, area under blackgram was 2.08 lakh hectares with the production 0.95 lakh tonnes for the year 2005-06. By keeping in view its importance, study was carried out with the objective to estimate costs and returns of blackgram.

METHODOLOGY

In relation to selection of farms, blackgram farms were selected through multistage sampling design as follows. In the first stage, Parbhani and Nanded districts of Maharashtra state were selected purposely, because these districts are well known for these crops. In the second stage, Jintur tehsil was selected from Parbhani district and Mukhed tehsil from Nanded district on the basis of highest area under total pulses in the tehsil.

In the third stage, eight villages from each tehsil were selected on the basis of the highest area under total pulses. The list of blackgram growers was obtained. Four blackgram growers were randomly selected from each of the villages. Thus, 64 blackgram growers were selected for present investigation. Total growers were grouped into three size groups *viz.,* small (up to 2.00 ha), medium (2.01 to 5.00 ha) and large (above 5.00 ha) on the basis of total holding.

For evaluation, data were converted into per hectare basis. Statistical tools like arithmetic mean, percentage and ratios were used for estimating the results. Cost concepts like cost 'A', cost 'B' and cost 'C' were used. Man days refers to a measurement of human labour whereas female labour is equal to 0.50 man day in case of both hired and family labour because the prevailing wage rates for female and male labour were Rs. 30 and Rs. 60 per day, respectively. Bullock labour cost was evaluated by considering the hiring rate of a bullock pair for Rs. 150 per day. Machine labour rate was Rs. 300 per hour. The rate prevailing for nitrogen, phosphorus and potash were Rs. 11.30, Rs. 20.00 and Rs. 8.50 per kg, respectively. Rates of above ingredients were estimated by considering the prevailing market prices of straight fertilizers. Cost of manure was evaluated at the rate of Rs. 40 per quintal. Pesticides were evaluated on the basis of their prices in the market.

Regarding evaluation of main products,