

Comparative economics of production and marketing of tissue culture banana and traditional banana in Pune district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

In order to know the current production and marketing status of both traditional and tissue culture banana cultivation in Pune district of Western Maharashtra, the present study was undertaken. The per hectare returns of tissue culture banana was higher than the local banana plant in the study area. It was observed that in the selected area major quantity of banana (71.14 per cent) was disposed through the second channel that is Producer-Wholesalers-Contractor-Retailer-Consumer. Per quintal receipts in channel – II for both T.C. banana and local banana was more due to more rate received as compared to channel – I. In channel – II producer's share in consumer's rupee was 57.18 per cent and 60.84 per cent in case of tissue culture banana and local banana, respectively. Channel-II was found to be more efficient than other channels as 82.37 per cent and 71.14 per cent tissue culture banana and local banana produce was routed through this channel, respectively. The benefit cost ratio of tissue culture banana was more that is 1.51 as compared to local banana 1.18.

INTRODUCTION

Banana is an important fruit crop grown in western Maharashtra. Farmers are diversifying the fruit cultivation by planting the tissue culture banana crop because of its throughout year demand and wide acceptance by all classes of the societies. Due to commercialization of agriculture and use of biotechnology in agriculture, farmers are diverted from traditional method to improved method that is tissue culture banana cultivation.

In order to know the current production and marketing status of both traditional and tissue culture banana cultivation in Pune district of Maharashtra, the present study was undertaken with following objectives to study the comparative production and disposal of tissue culture and traditional banana crops, to estimate the marketing cost and price spread of banana, to estimate the comparative cost of banana cultivation and to study the problems of banana growers regarding the production and marketing of banana.

METHODOLOGY

The farmers are changing their cropping pattern by reducing the area under less profitable crops and increasing area under banana cultivation due to the profitability of this crop in recent years. Therefore, Pune district was selected purposively for this study.

The list of villages where banana cultivation is concentrated was obtained from concerned Tahsil office. Five villages from Junnar Tahsil were selected randomly. Twelve cultivators from each village in which six cultivators growing a tissue cultures banana crops and six cultivators growing traditional banana crops by using the suckers were selected randomly. Thus, thirty farmers from tissue culture banana cultivation and same from ordinary banana cultivation were selected randomly. The overall sample consisted sixty farmers. The data were collected by personal interview in the year 2006-07 by filling specially prepared questionnaire and analyzed by simple tabular method by using various statistical and arithmetical tools such as averages, mean, etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Production and disposal of banana fruits:

Per farm production, value of produce and disposal of banana fruits by selected banana growers from the selected area are presented in Table 1.

It is revealed from the Table 1 that, average yield per hectare of banana in the study area was 742.22 quintal and 497.65 quintal of tissue culture banana and local banana plant, respectively. The yield of tissue culture banana plant was more due to more number of hands and fingers per bunch. Comparatively there

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