

Economics of soybean seed production in Nagpur district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted during 2006-07 in Nagpur District of Maharashtra state. Under soybean seed production, average per hectare total cost *i.e.*, cost 'C' was worked to Rs. 16172.72. The input-output ratio for soybean seed production at cost 'C' was 1:1.20 which indicated that soybean seed production was profitable proposition

INTRODUCTION

Soybean is known as the "Golden bean" of the twentieth century.

Though soybean is a legume crop, yet it is widely used as oilseed. It is now the second largest oilseeds crop in India after groundnut.

In the recent past, soybean cultivation has increased manifold as compared to any other oilseed crops in India. For the last six years, soybean has been witnessing growth in terms of acreage and it now stands at 88.50 lakh ha. But the yield per hectare declined from 1,074 kg per hectare in 2003-2004 to 927 kg per hectare in 2006-07.

There is ample scope of increasing the production. Non-availability of short duration high yielding, good quality seeds on adequate scale are the major constraint in achieving higher productivity. Only limited seed varieties are available and production of quality seed is also limited. As, the country is in short supply of edible oil and about 50 per cent of our edible oil consumption is fulfilled by import of different vegetable oils, there is a dire need to promote the production of oilseeds like soybean.

The Indian farmers have now realised the benefit of quality seed in boosting agricultural production and therefore, are willing to undertake seed production plot of different field crops and also pay a price for quality seed available in the market.

The seed production activity has become a prospective enterprise among the farmers. This has stimulated the curiosity of the farmers

and entrepreneur. They would be interested to know introduction of this industry in farm economy, the problems involved and costs and returns in the production of seeds. Considering the importance of the seed production programme, the vital role being played by the seed industry in the farming system and its prospective integral place in the farm economy, it would be appropriate to make efforts to throw some light on the economics of seed production and to know its profitability over the commercial production. Therefore, the present study was taken up with the objectives to study per hectare cost of cultivation of soybean seed production and to examine per unit cost and return from Soybean seed production.

METHODOLOGY

Nagpur, Saoner, Katol and Kalmeshwar tahsils of Nagpur district were selected for study, as they contribute large area towards seed production of soybean crop. One village from Saoner and Nagpur tahasil, four villages from Katol and Kalmeshwar tahasil were selected purposively. From these 10 villages, 120 soybean seed producers were selected randomly for the sample. Out of 120 seed growers/farmers, 50 farmers were selected for the study. The data for the study were obtained by survey method in the prescribed schedule by personal interview. The data pertained to the year 2006-07. The collected data were compiled and tabulated according to the cost concepts and analyzed by using tabular

Key words :

Soybean, Seed production, Input-output ratio, Gross and net return, Cost economics

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