

Economics of production of Kesar mango in Latur District of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Latur is an important Kesar mango growing district of Maharashtra. The study was under taken on the economics of production of Kesar mango in Latur. Results revealed that on priority basis use of bullock labour, manure, nitrogen and phosphorus can be increased in production of Kesar mango because MVP to price ratio was higher with respect to the variables in Kesar mango production in the Latur district.

INTRODUCTION

Mango (*Mangifera indica*, L.) belongs to family Anacardiaceae, originated in South – East Asia. It is one of the most important fruit crops grown in India. Mango is indigenous to India. It is as old as Indian civilization and mango has been cultivated in India since antiquity and records show that Huien-Tsang (606 – 647 AD) has testified its cultivation during the time of his visit to India. India occupies a prominent place in the cultivation of mango. Its cultivation is distributed throughout the warmer countries and is confined in regions between 30 N and 30 S of the equator.

In India, mango is popularly known as “king of fruits”. Amir Khusrau (1330AD) has stated: ‘The mango is the pride of the garden the choicest fruit of Hindustan, other fruits we are content to eat when ripe, but the mango is good in all stages of growth’.

It is used as a raw material in industries for the preparation of mango juice, mango pulp, mango chutney and mango pickles etc. Mango fruits are used at various stages as young and unripe fruits due to their acidic taste are utilized for culinary purposes. Mango fruits are utilized in preparing squash, nectar, jam, toffee, baby food etc. Bark of trees used for tanning production, which is used for leather industries.

The ripe mango fruit contains 90.00 per cent moisture, 8.8 per cent carbohydrate, 1.00 per cent protein, 0.1 per cent fat, 1.1 per cent

fibre, 0.8 per cent lipid, 0.01 per cent calcium, 0.02 per cent phosphorus, 4.5 mg per 100 g iron, carotene (as vitamin A – 150 i.u.), 30 mg per 100 g ascorbic acid.

Often per capita fruit consumption is taken as an index of standard of living of a country. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recommended consumption of 120 g of fruits per capita per day and as many variety as season permits, but the per capita consumption of fruit in India is only 40 g. In view of the ever-increasing facilities and improved technology of handling, processing, storing and transportation of fruits, the potential is likely to grow at a faster rate. Looking into these factors it is not only necessary to step up production, but also, to see that fruits are made available during off-season.

Marathwada is one of the important mango growing regions of Maharashtra and Latur is an important Kesar mango growing district. This district accounts about 15 per cent of total area of Marathwada region under Kesar mango. It envisages suggesting possible corrective measures to bring about the desired improvement in production of Kesar mango. The study was under taken to know the socio-economic characteristics of Kesar mango grower, to estimate cost and returns of Kesar mango garden and to examine the input-output relationship and resource use efficiency in Kesar mango.

Key words :

Cropping pattern, Cobb-Douglas production function, Marginal product, Elasticity of production and Geometric mean

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