RESEARCH ARTICLE

Economic analysis of production and physibility of sweet orange garden in Jalna district of Maharastra

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to estimate the cost and return per hectare, the economic feasibility of investment of the sweet orange fruit crop the study pertained to the year 2008. The study was based on data collected from 120 farmers selected from two talukas *viz.*, Ambad and Ghansawangi from Jalna district. It was observed that per hectare sweet orange production were 180 q ha^{-1} in the small garden followed by 166 and 161-q ha^{-1} in medium and large sweet orange grower. Thus, total investment per hectare in sweet orange garden was Rs.359587/-. It was observed that the net present worth was Rs.96181/- and internal rate of return it was 17.36 per cent and the Benefit: Cost Ratio was 1.18 in sweet orange garden the internal rate of return was greater than opportunity cost. Benefit: cost ratio was more than one in the project hence, the investment could be recovered. The net profit was highest (Rs. 44946/-) in medium sweet orange garden followed that the Rs.39117/- and Rs.38371/- in small and large sweet orange garden, respectively. The overall net profit of sweet orange garden was Rs.40811/-.

INTRODUCTION

Horticultural development had not been a priority until recent year in India. It was later in the post 1993 period the focused attention was given to horticulture development through enhancement of plant allocation and knowledge based technology. Despite of this decade being a period of "Golden Revolution" productivity of the horticultural crop has increased only marginally from 7.5 t ha^{-1} in 1991-92 to 8.4 t ha^{-1} in 2004-05 (Anonymous, 2005). It is known that horticulture sector in India is constrained by low crop productivity, limited irrigation facility and under development infrastructure support like cold storages, markets, roads, transportation facilities and also there are heavy post-harvest and handling losses, resulting in low productivity per unit area. However, on the other hand, India's long growing season, diverse soil and climatic conditions comprising several agro-ecological regions provide ample opportunity to grow a variety of horticulture crops.

Citrus spp. are of great importance and India is considered to be the home of *Citrus* spp. it is grown on the diverse condition ranging from tropical to sub-tropical climate, most of the tropical region of South East – Asia, especially China, India. Malaysia etc. are suitable for its cultivation. Sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis* Osbeck) is one of the important horticultural crops grown in India in general and Maharashtra in particular. In Maharashtra area under sweet orange was 91,634 hectare with production and productivity was 6,11,584 M.T. and 15.2 t ha^{-1}, respectively (Anonymous, 2007).

Sweet orange is a perennial crop and is continuous source of income generation to the farmers. It is grown widely in different districts of Maharastra, but Jalna, Aurangabad, Nanded and Parbhani are the major area in production, among them Jalna is dominant in area and production. It is a commercially viable crop.

Therefore, it was necessary to have an in depth study of production of sweet orange and proposed to perform an economic analysis of production of sweet orange with the following specific objectives: to study the cost and return of sweet orange and to determine economic feasibility of sweet orange