



RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Identification of cropping pattern and input utilization pattern of major crops on small farms in Parbhani district of Marathwada region: An economic analysis

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SUMMARY : The present paper attempts to identify cropping pattern and input utilization pattern of major crops on small farms. A multi-stage random sampling method followed by a farm survey with structured interview schedule. For personal interview a total of 60 respondent farmers being selected, this revealed that the cropping pattern of selected farms was dominated by *Kharif* crops with an area of 1.47 ha. and cropping intensity was 126.06 per cent. The Inputs utilization for various crops at overall level showed that per hectare utilization of human (166.3 man days) and bullock (31.98 pair days) labour were highest in case of sugarcane crop. Utilization of machine labour was highest for *Rabi jowar* crop (3.05 hours). Seed utilization per hectare for crops was as per recommendations. Regarding manures, highest quantity was used for sugarcane crop (31.96 q/ ha). Analysis of per hectare total cost of cultivation of different crops showed that maximum cost was incurred in sugarcane (Rs. 85247.88) followed by cotton (Rs. 42563.09). Per hectare total returns from sugarcane was the highest (Rs. 154678.50) followed by cotton (Rs. 80821.50). Regarding the profitability of crop enterprise, cotton was most profitable crop as its input-output ratio was 1.89 followed by sugarcane (1.81).

KEY WORDS:

Cropping pattern,
Input utilization, Cost,
Returns, Profitability

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