

Seasonal indices of arrivals and price spread of tomatoes in Western Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted on the fluctuations in the monthly average prices of tomatoes in market of Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. Multistage sampling technique was adopted for the selection of district, tehsil, villages and respondents of tomato growers from three seasons *i.e. kharif, rabi* and summer and the data pertained for the year 2005-06. The results revealed that on an average monthly arrivals and prices with season indices for the tomatoes was highest in the month of August followed by September and July while price index was highest in the month of July followed by June.

Key words : Arrivals, Prices, Seasonal indices.

Vegetables have proved to be important supplementary food crops which form an essential part of human diet. Of them tomato ranks first among the processed vegetables and is next to potato in area and production in the world. Maharashtra is the major tomato growing state in the country. In Western Maharashtra, Ahmednagar district occupies major area under tomato crop. The tomatoes grown from this area are famous for quality and acceptability all over India. The tomato crop is grown in all the seasons *i.e. kharif, rabi* and summer. However, each season has its own peculiarities in terms of production, demand and supply, cost and prices, market preferences and comparative advantages. The prosperity of the cultivators depends not only upon the increased rate of production but also on the method and efficiency with which they disposed of their produce to their great advantage. The efforts of large production are unfruitful until the produce is marketed efficiently. The prices are ruled by demand and supply conditions in the market. Price received by producer mainly depends on proper time and proper stages. Considering the fact, seasonal nature of tomato also affects the price in the market.

METHODOLOGY

Ahmednagar district of Western Maharashtra was purposively selected for the study. After selecting the district, one tehsil, Sangamner having maximum average under tomato was selected from Ahmednagar district. Further, from selected tehsils, a list of villages growing

tomatoes in *kharif, rabi* and summer seasons were prepared. Then from the list of villages, ten were selected. Further, the list of tomato growers from the selected villages were prepared and from the list, 90 sample farmers were randomly selected. This had taken due care for equal representation for all the three seasons as well as tomato growing areas. Thus, in all, 90 sample farmers comprising 30 samples each from the growing seasons were selected for the study for market study APMC market Sangamner was purposively selected and time series data on arrivals and prices were taken for the year 2005-06. The data on relevant aspects of the study, for *kharif, rabi* and summer seasons were collected by personal interview method with the help of specially designed questionnaire. The data thus collected were analysed by tabular as well as by statistical methods.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seasonal indices of arrivals and prices of tomato:

The information on indices of arrivals and prices of tomato is presented in Table 1. Increase in area and production of tomato vegetable crop cannot be sustained in less remunerative prices to the farmers and it is in this context, that an understanding of the pattern of market arrivals and price behaviour of tomato crop assume significant importance. With this background the present study was undertaken to gain in sight into behaviour of market arrivals and prices of tomato in Ahmednagar district market.

Data presented in Table 1 revealed that the peak arrivals of tomatoes were observed in the month of August and September followed by July and March. The price indices were 77.71, 80.74, 84.61 and 85.03 February, April, September and January, respectively. There was comparatively low price as regard the other months indicating assured arrivals in August. The price for the

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