

Retrospect and prospects of chickpea processing industries in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the present study was to calculate the value addition, benefit cost ratio and employment pattern in chickpea processing for the year 2004-05 for Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. The average cost required for the establishment of chickpea mill was Rs.4.80 Lakh in which the cost of machinery was the major item (61.46%). The net profit was Rs. 3.32 lakhs /year and it was directly related with size of processing unit. The per quintal net profit of chickpea processing was Rs.63.31. The value addition due to processing of chickpea was to the extent of Rs.14.97 during the study period. The net benefit cost ratio was 0.06 in chickpea processing. Chickpea mill provided employment to 11.18 workers for 250.48 days in a year. Casual workers contributed to the extent of 86.96 per cent in the total man days employed by chickpea mill. Average capacity utilization of chickpea mill was 71.20 per cent during the study period.

Key words : Capacity utilization, Value addition, Employment pattern, Chickpea.

Chickpea is an important food legume widely consumed in Asia, the Middle East and Several Mediterranean countries. Chickpea is nutritious foodstuff and because of its bland flavor is suitable for incorporation in protein rich food mixtures suitable for infant feeding. Maharashtra economy is basically an agrarian economy and development of state largely depends upon development of agriculture and processing industries. There is a lot of scope for improving post harvest life of agricultural commodities by processing them into diverse food products in Maharashtra. Processed foods have a very high demand in both domestic and international markets. The objective of the present study are to study the different stages in chickpea processing, to study the value addition and break even point by chickpea processing industry and to workout the benefit cost ratio and employment pattern in the chickpea processing industry.

METHODOLOGY

For the present study, 23 chickpea mills were studied in the year 2004-05 and they were divided into Gr. I(11) having milling capacity below 32q/day and Gr. II(12) milling capacity 32 q. and above/day. For knowing the different stages in processing of chickpea, a special

questionnaire was prepared. To find out the cost of processing, various factors including fixed cost, variable cost were studied. Benefit cost ratio was calculated by dividing net profit by total cost. The break even point was workout with the help of following formula- $BEP = \frac{\text{Total annual fixed cost}}{\text{Custom charges} - \text{Variable cost}}$. It is a point where the industry runs on no loss no profit basis. Capacity utilization is the ratio of actual quantity of raw material processed to the quantity of total raw material required for full utilization and it is calculated in percentage.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results are summarized below according to objectives of the study.

Processing of chickpea:

There are three distinct stages in the processing of chickpeas; primary cleaning and grading, dehulling and splitting and milling. At each of these stages chickpea products can be removed for consumption or various secondary processes to create a final product.

Stage 1: Primary cleaning and grading:

Desi and Kabuli type chickpeas receive similar treatment for primary cleaning and grading. The objective of this process is to remove contaminants from the seed into different grades, primarily by size. The following common types of equipment are used in cleaning and grading:

– *Aspirators:* Use of air to remove lighter material, hulls, dust and any material with a high surface area to

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