

Resource use efficiency and constraints faced by the cultivators in flower production of coastal areas

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ABSTRACT

Flowers cultivation is wide spread throughout the world. Several countries are engaged in cut flower cultivation. The Netherlands is the world's largest producer as well as exporter of cut flower contributing 62.90 per cent of the global export followed by Columbia (12.40 per cent), Israel (4.10 Per cent), Italy (3.20 per cent), Thailand (2 per cent), and other countries (15.40 per cent). India is a country having abundant sunshine, plenty of land, availability of cheap and skilled manpower which are our strength for cultivation of variety of flowers in different regions of the country. Therefore, an attempt is made to study the Resource use efficiency and constraints faced by the cultivators in flower production of coastal areas. In Kagda the elasticity coefficient for area (X_1) and family labour (X_3) were positive and significant at 1.00 per cent level of probability elasticity coefficient for area (X_1) under Mogra was positive and significant at 1.00 per cent level of probability. In the Spider lilly the elasticity coefficient for area (X_1) was positive and significant at 1.00 per cent level of probability. Incidence of pests and diseases was the major problem in study area faced by 90.32 per cent, 100.00 per cent and 84.44 per cent growers in Kagda, Mogra and Spider lilly flowers. Insecticides were costly opined by 74.75 per cent of flower growers at overall level

Key words : Resource use efficiency, Cultivators

India is a country having abundant sunshine, plenty of land, availability of cheap and skilled manpower which are our strengths for cultivation of variety of flowers in different regions of the country. In the country, total area under floriculture is estimated at 50,000 ha in 2000 (Rathanam, 1998). Among the states, Karnataka has the highest area under flower cultivation (8,827 ha), followed by Tamil Nadu (8364 ha), West Bengal (3,150 ha), Andhra Pradesh (3,055 ha), Rajasthan (2,164 ha), Maharashtra (2,045 ha), Uttar Pradesh (600 ha), Haryana (470 ha) and Gujarat (405 ha). In India commonly cultivated flowers are jasmine (6630 ha), rose (5498 ha), chrysanthemum (3752 ha), marigold (1492 ha), crossandra, tuberose, and gladiolus. The flowers are grown mainly for traditional and industrial purposes. However in the recent years, commercial floriculture products are being taken up by private companies to produce cut flower for export purposes. The Konkan region of the state having 310 ha area under flower cultivation with a production of 376 metric tonnes in 1995-96, the Thane district of Konkan region had a total area of 100 ha under flower cultivation (Joshi, 1999). Therefore, an attempt was made to study

the resource use efficiency and constraints faced by the cultivators in flower production of coastal areas.

METHODOLOGY

Thane district from Konkan region was purposively selected for the study as flower cultivation is concentrated in this district. The necessary information was obtained from the selected farmers with the help of pre-tested structured schedule using survey method. The Cobb-Douglas type production function was employed to estimate resource use efficiency in flower production. The following Cobb-Douglas type production function was used in the present study.

$$Y = b_0 X_1^{b_1} X_2^{b_2} X_3^{b_3} X_4^{b_4} X_5^{b_5} X_6^{b_6} X_7^{b_7}$$

where,

Y = Yield of flowers (kg/ 000)

X_1 = Area under flower crop (ha)

X_2 = Hired labour (days)

X_3 = Family labour (days)

X_4 = Cost of FYM used (Rs.)

X_5 = Cost of fertilizers used (Rs.)

X_6 = Plant protection chemicals (Rs.)

X_7 = No of irrigation turn given.

b_0 = Constant or intercept

b_1 to b_7 = Regression coefficient of respective variable (1 to 7)

= Error term

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