

Resource utilization of commercial flowers in Konkan region of Maharashtra state

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ABSTRACT

A Study, on the Economics of selected commercial flowers in Thane district "was undertaken with the specific objectives such as, to know the input utilization in cultivation of selected flowers. For the study, Thane district was selected purposively because the district is having maximum area under flower cultivation, in Konkan region. Two Tahsils viz., Dahanu and Vasai were selected purposively on the basis of maximum area under flower cultivation. Data were collected from 90 flower cultivators which were selected randomly from these two tahsils. Flowerwise number of these cultivators come to 103. Per hectare inputs utilized for establishment of flowers indicated that, per ha total labour required for Kagda garden was 935.91 days of human labour, out of which 518.06 days were of male and 417.85 days of female labours, whereas bullock labour days were 14.03 pair days. The quantity of planting material used was 14969.62 cuttings, 83.38 C.L. manures, 647.90 kg N, 371.11 kg P and 262.03 kg K were used. The per hectare capital investment in Kagda garden was Rs. 1,14,943.17, out of which 37.51 per cent was labour cost, followed by planting (30.77%), Plant protection chemicals (13.03%), FYM (9.07%), fertilizers (4.79%) and irrigation charges (3.31%). Per hectare inputs utilized for establishment of flowers indicated that, per ha total labour required for Kagda garden was 935.91 days of human labour per hectare inputs utilized for establishment of Mogra garden was 440.98 days of male and 248.62 days of female, 9.39 pair days of bullock labour. The operation wise per hectare total inputs used for establishment of Spider lilly garden was 396.79 days of human labour, which was all hired labour.. Thus, among three flower crops, kagda required maximum cost, followed by Mogra and Spider lilly

Key words : Commercial flowers, Input utilization

Flowers possess the greatest gift for satisfying the basic human desire for the establishments of our link with nature. Flower is nature's beloved gift to humanity. Although, flowers are mute beauties, they convey best messages of man's head and heart. They are symbolic of beauty, love and tranquility. No matter how simple and short lived flowers are, they bring immense pleasure and satisfaction to one and all (Shedge, 1989).

In Maharashtra because of favourable climatic conditions, availability of transport facilities and good demand, flowers provide an ideal situation for flower cultivation. The state has about 2045 ha of area under flower crops. The Konkan region of the State having 310 ha area under flower cultivation with a production of 376 metric tonnes in 1995-96 (Bhujbal, 1996). The Thane district of Konkan region has a total area of 100 ha under flower cultivation (Joshi, 1999). The cultivators of Thane district produce flower on large scale primarily for sale.

The important flowers grown are Kagda, Mogra and Spider lilly. These are perennial flower crops. Spider lilly was taken as inter crop in Sapota Orchards in early years. Therefore, an attempt is made to study the input utilization in cultivation of selected flowers. The findings of the study will also be helpful for policy purposes, particularly to the credit institution for fixing the scale of finance for these crops.

METHODOLOGY

Thane district from Konkan region was purposively selected for the study as flower cultivation is concentrated in this district. To achieve the objectives of the study, three stage simple random sampling procedure was adopted which involves selection of tahsil as a primary unit, village as secondary unit and flower growers as the ultimate unit. Out of the fifteen tahsils of Thane district, two tahsils i.e. Dahanu and Vasai were selected purposively because floriculture is adopted as a commercial enterprise in few villages of these two tahsils.. Thus the final sample consisted of 2 tahsils, 6 villages and 90 cultivators, but flowerwise it was 103 cultivators. The necessary information was obtained from the selected farmers with the help of pre-tested structured

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