

Costs, returns and profitability of *Mrugbahar* and *Ambebahar* sweet orange production

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ABSTRACT

In sweet orange generally there are two types of bahar treatments like *Mrugbahar* and *Ambebahar*. Investigations were carried out in Nanded district of Maharashtra and data pertained to the year 2007-08. The study was conducted to compare the costs, returns and profitability of *Mrugbahar* and *Ambebahar* sweet orange gardens in Nanded district of Maharashtra. Ten villages were selected in district from which five *Mrugbahar* and five *Ambebahar* sweet orange growers were selected from each village. Total 100 sweet orange growers were selected. Costs and returns of sweet orange production were archived by application of cost concepts of Cost-A, Cost-B and Cost-C with the help of tabular analysis. The results revealed that on an average Cost-A, Cost-B, and Cost-C was worked out in *Mrugbahar* as Rs.32035.1, Rs.55149.62, and Rs.56197.90, respectively. In *Ambebahar* they were Rs.33951.30, Rs.58473.31 and Rs.60513.31, respectively. Thus, *Ambebahar* was slightly profitable than *Mrugbahar*.

Key words : *Mrugbahar*, *Ambebahar*, Profitability, Cost, Return

Production of sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis*) is taken place in two important bahars. The treatment in which water stretch is given to sweet orange garden to bear fruits is known as Bahar treatment. Thus, *Mrugbahar* means water stretch is given to the garden in the months of April-May and flowering occurs in the month of June-July. Harvesting of fruits can be done in the month of February-March. Similarly, *Ambebahar* means water stretch treatment is given to the garden in the month of November-December. The flowering is occurring in the month of January- February and harvesting is completed in the month of September-October. In Maharashtra, Nanded district is well known for sweet orange production due to favourable climate. There is necessary to know the profitability of the crop. By keeping in view, the above aspect the present study has been undertaken.

METHODOLOGY

Study was conducted in Nanded district of

Maharashtra state. The total sample consisted of 50 *Mrugbahar* sweet orange cultivators and 50 *Ambebahar* sweet orange cultivators spread over ten villages of Nanded tehsil. From each village, five *Mrugbahar* and five *Ambebahar* sweet orange growers were selected randomly. Cross sectional data were collected from 50 *Mrugbahar* and 50 *Ambebahar* sweet orange growers by personal interview method with the help of pre-tested schedule. Data pertained to the year 2007-08 in regard to area of the garden, sweet orange production, quantities of inputs, use of labour and so on. Terms and concepts which were used in the investigation are explained as follows. Human labour was measured in man days. One man day consisted with 8 hours. Labour cost was evaluated at the rate of Rs.80 per day for male and Rs.40 per day for female. The female labour was converted into man days by multiplying to number of female with 0.50. Bullock labour was charged at the rate of Rs.150.00 per day for one pair of bullocks. Machine labour in case of owned machine was evaluated as per the hired charge prevailed in the village and in case of hired machine as per the actual amount paid was Rs.300 per hour. The rate prevailing in the market for nitrogen, phosphorus and potash was Rs.10.91, Rs.24.85 and Rs.7.6 per kg, respectively. One cartload of manure was considered as 4 quintals and its prevailing price was Rs.35/q.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the present study are presented below:

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