

Costs, returns and profitability of pearl millet production

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ABSTRACT

Investigation was carried out during the year 2008-09. Multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of district, tehsil, villages and cultivators. In all 96 cultivators were selected for present study with equal distribution in small, medium and large groups. The techniques like mean percentage, ratio and cost concept of cost-A, cost-B and cost-C were used to analyze the data. The results revealed that use of hired human labour was more than family human labour in pearl millet production. The use of hired labour and bullock labour, increased with an increase in farm size. Whereas, the use of machine labour, seed, nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, manures, family human labour decreased with an increase in farm size. Per hectare net profit was Rs.3170.86 in small farm followed by Rs.2757.81 and Rs.1806.57 on medium and large farms, respectively. The output-input ratio was 1.18 on small farm followed by that of 1.17 and 1.12 on medium and large farm, respectively. The per quintal cost of production in pearl millet was Rs.512.31 on large farm followed by Rs.484.19 and Rs.476.80 on medium and small farm, respectively.

Key words : Net profit, Pearl millet, Cost-C, Gross returns

Pearl millet (*Pennisetum typhoides*) belongs to the family Gramineae. It is popularly known as bajra. The origin is traced to tropical Africa. Pearl millet is the sixth most important cereal crop after the wheat, rice, maize, barley and sorghum in the world as one of the millet crops. Pearl millet crop is also grown for grain purpose in China, India, is expected to increase and it would be possible to bring low fertile land of drought prone area which is in large proportion, can be brought under pearl millet cultivation in addition to present area. The increased demand may lead to increase in prices of pearl millet and the farmers may be benefited. The need was felt to answer some queries such as costs, returns and profitability. Keeping in view the above aspects, the present study has been undertaken. Pakistan and South East Asia. The total area under pearl millet cultivation in India is 9.24 million hectares which indicates the fourth rank after rice, wheat and barley. The total area under pearl millet cultivation in India is 9.24 million growing states are Rajstan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Maharashtra State is the third largest and second

in respect of area under pearl millet. The area under crop was 14 lakh hectares with a production of 101.08 lakh tonnes and yield was 712 kg/ha during the year 2005-06. Ultimately area under pearl millet

METHODOLOGY

Survey design of the study was based on four stages of sampling so as to elicit adequate and accurate information by the field of enquiry in Beed district of Maharashtra. In the first stage, the study was purposively conducted in Beed district because of the large area under pearl millet. In the second stage, Georai Tehsil was selected from Beed district on the basis of highest area under pearl millet in *Kharif* season. In the third stage, eight villages from Georai Tehsil were selected on the basis of highest area under rainfed pearl millet. From each of the villages, list of rainfed pearl millet growers was obtained. The list was divided into three groups on the basis of area under the pearl millet crops like small (≤ 0.40 ha), medium (> 0.40 to ≤ 0.80 ha) and large (> 0.80 ha). From each group, four pearl millet growers were selected randomly. In short, from eight villages, 32 small, 32 medium and 32 large pearl millet growers were selected for present study. Cross sectional data were collected with the help of pretested schedule by personal interview method. Data pertained for the year 2008-09. The cost concept of cost-A, cost-B and cost-C was used to analyze the data in present investigation. Cost-A included the items namely, hired human labour, seed, fertilizer, manure, plant protection, land revenue, incidental expenditure, interest on working capital and depreciation on asset. cost-B included the cost-A plus rental value of land and

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