



Research
Paper

Economics of production of onion in selected tahsils of Amravati district

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ABSTRACT

Study titled was conducted in 2009-2010. From Amravati district two tahsils purposively and from each Tahsil two villages *i.e.* four villages were randomly selected. Twenty onion cultivators from each village *i.e.* total 80 farmers were randomly selected as sample size. Data used were pertaining to the period 2008-09. It was observed that cost 'C' was found to be Rs.33154.1, Rs.36238.55 and Rs.51874.61 for small, medium and large farmers, respectively. Net returns over cost 'C' was Rs.9672.63, Rs.12654.24 and Rs.17460.87 and input-output ratio at cost 'C' were 1:1.29, 1:1.35 and 1:34 for small, medium and large farmers, respectively. It was observed that returns per rupee of investment were higher in medium and large size group than small size group farmers. The variables of seed (0.2050) and bullock labour in small farmers (0.3580) found to be significant at 0.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent level of significance, respectively. In large farmers bullock labour (0.8976) and machine power (0.7834) found to be significant at 10.00 per cent level of significance. In medium farmers and large farmers negative regression coefficient of fertilizers and manures *viz.*, (-0.0626) and (-0.1179) showed excessive use of these variables on the farms.

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Key words : Cost of cultivation, Economics of production, Resource efficiency, Marginal value product

INTRODUCTION

Onion (*Allium cepa*) is included in under the family Amaryllidaceae. It is one of the most important commercial vegetable crops grown and consumed almost all over the world. The onion is grown in India from very ancient times as it was mentioned in 'Charak-Sanghita', a famous early medicinal treatise of India. It is widely grown in different parts of country mainly by small and marginal farmers. It is used as salad or cooked in all curies, fried and boiled. In production statistics, India ranks second after China having 0.46 million ha. area and 6.22 million tonnes production. (Source. NHRDF Estimate 2005 FAO Report). In India, it is fourth most important commercial vegetable crop covering an area of 593 thousand hectares which is 10 per cent of total vegetable area. (Source : www.apeda.com). Maharashtra ranks first state in onion production with share of 18 per cent therefore it is called as 'onion basket of India' (Source : www.apeda.com). In Maharashtra, area production and productivity of onion in year 2007-08 was 204.67 thousand hectare, 2713.28 M.T.

and 13.26 tonnes/ha. respectively. (Source : Directorate of Economics and Statistics Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi). In view of increased awareness about advantages of onion consumption, increasing population and increased urbanization demand is increasing day by day. For meeting domestic and export demand as per the need of day, there is necessity of increasing productivity and also quality through proper crop management during production. Present study was selected to enhance productivity of crop. It was useful to give indication of optimum use of different resources used for production of onion crop. Study will be useful in rational use of modern inputs so as to have consistency in production. Regarding these aspects present study was undertaken with following specific objectives to study economics of production of onion and to study resource use efficiency in onion.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For present study, two Tahsils from Amravati district were purposively selected. From each Tahsil two villages