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Research Paper

Economics analysis of pigeonpea in Bharuch taluka of South Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was undertaken with the specific objectives *viz*., to study the costs and returns structure in production of pigeonpea. The basic data were obtained from the selected sample farmers by survey method through personal interviews with the help of a specially designed questionnaire. The tabular techniques were the main tools of analysis. The study showed that at the overall level, per hectare use of family human labour and hired human labour was found to be 33.80 and 50.40 man days, respectively. The per hectare bullock labour, seeds, chemical fertilizers (P and N), plant protection and manures were 19.15 pair days, 15.42 kegs, 9.69 kegs, 6.00 kegs, 2.76 lit. and 2.46 cartloads, respectively. The overall per hectare total cost of cultivation (cost 'C_2') for pigeonpea was Rs. 16,555. The overall expenditure incurred on cost 'A', cost 'B', cost'C_1' was Rs. 8,735, Rs. 13,360 and Rs. 15,050, respectively. The major items of cost of cultivation were human labour (family + hired), bullock labour, and rental value of owned land, seeds, plant protection, manures and chemical fertilizers. Overall gross return and net profit were Rs. 27,615 and Rs. 11,060, respectively.

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Key words : Economics analysis, Proportion cost, Variable cost, Fixed cost, Pigeonpea, Cost and return

INTRODUCTION

Pigeonpea is extensively used in making *Dal*. Its green pods may be used as a vegetable. The green leaves and tops of the plant are fed to animals or are utilized as green manures. The husk of pods and seeds and also the kernels constitute a valuable cattle feed. Dry stalks obtained after threshing are used for basket making or as fuel or thatching material. Being deep rooted, it is also planted as a soil renovator to break the hard sub-soil and as a hedge to check the erosion. The heavy shedding of leaves adds considerable organic matter to the soil. It is mainly grown as subsistence crop in the tropic and sub-tropic of India. The data reveal that the area under pigeon pea in Gujarat was 3,323 hundred hectares in the year 2001-2002out of which 1,094 hundred hectares was in South Gujarat. The production of pigeon pea in the Gujarat state was 1,870 hundred million tones in the year 2001-2002, while the production of pigeon pea during the same period was 746 hundred million tones in South Gujarat. Pigeonpea is the major pulse crop of the study region, however its area is fluctuating from year to year. One of the reasons may be the fluctuations in rainfall, second could be the problem of pests and disease. Therefore, farmers are caught in and no other option for pigeonpea cultivation. Moreover, farmers blame that they are not getting the remunerative prices for their produce on the one hand and incurring high cost of cultivation on the other. It is, therefore, necessary to study the details along with the economics analysis, which in turn would help in increasing the production. Thus, the finding of the study would throw some light on various issues related to production of pigeonpea which would be helpful of policy makers, administrators, farmers, etc in formulating the appropriate strategies/measures to combat the above problems.