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Resource use efficiency of important vegetables in Chorayasi taluka of south Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

The production function analysis indicated that there existed a variation in the production elasticity of resource inputs among the vegetable crops under study. In general, nitrogen, potassium fertilizers and other working capital were the important resource variables positively influencing the crop output. The comparison of marginal value products of resource inputs with their per unit prices indicated optimum use of resource variables such as nitrogen, potassium and other working capital in the production of brinjal crop, while cropped area, bullock labour, nitrogen and potassium in case of cauliflower crop.

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Key words : Resource use efficiency, Marginal value products, Brinjal, Cauliflower

INTRODUCTION

Vegetables serve as one of the vehicles to move away from subsistence farming towards business oriented farming that improves income, nutrition and the quality of lives in rural communities. Now-a-days vegetable based industries are emerging as powerful engines for economic growth. The economical development is enhanced by cereal-based production with a vegetable crop production. Further, with the rise in income, the consumption pattern of the households is most likely to shift away from cereals to items like milk, milk products, fruits and vegetables. New techniques of cultivation have enhanced this interest which is reflected in continuous expansion of area and production of vegetables. Use of suitable varieties, recommended doses of fertilizers coupled with proper irrigation and plant protection measures have ensured high returns to the vegetable growers. Around the assured markets, many farmers are raising 3 to 4 crops in year only by including vegetable crops in the cropping pattern. Vegetables play a very important role in the human diet supplying cheaper sources of proteins, vitamins, carbohydrates, minerals and dietary fibres, which are deficient in other food material. It is encouraging to note that recently more attention is

being paid to increase the production of vegetables. India is the second largest producer of vegetables in the world next to China. The area of vegetables in Surat district was 19.64 thousand hectares and 257.73 thousand M.T. production, respectively in the year 2002-03. Out of this, the area and production of study crop, brinjal was raised to 4,444 ha. and 79,992 M.T., respectively in the year 2002-03 and cauliflower was raised to 546 ha and 9,555 M.T. in the same year (Anonymous, 2003).

The present study, examine the resources productivities and resource use efficiency of brinjal and cauliflower vegetables in Choryasi Taluka of south Gujarat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chorayasi Taluka of South Gujarat is an important Taluka growing vegetables. In view of this, it has been purposively selected for the study, because it has maximum area under vegetable crop in the district. The important vegetables such as brinjal and cauliflower were selected for the study. From the list of villages, five villages were randomly selected on the basis of probability proportion to the area under vegetables *viz.*, brinjal and cauliflower. A list of vegetable growers with the area under vegetables