



Research Paper

Cost structure of minor millets grown in Tribal Dang district of South Gujarat

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ABSTRACT : Minor millets are one among the traditional group of cereal crops and are cultivated in areas where they produce a more dependable harvest compared to any other crop. The present study is an effort in this direction to study all aspects of cost of cultivation of minor millets namely Kodra (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*), finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*), and Vari (*Panicum miliare*) grown in tribal and hilly area of Dang district of South Gujarat region. The primary data were collected with the help of well designed questionnaires consisting 120 sample farmers (40 farmers for each crop). To derive the results, simple average, tabular analysis and cost concept were used. The rental value of owned land and family labour combined have more than 93 per cent share in total fixed cost in selected minor millet crops. The bullock labour cost, managerial cost, manure cost and hired human labour cost have jointly more than 84 per cent share in determination of variable cost in selected minor millet crops. The overall cost of cultivation for Kodra, finger millet and Vari was found to Rs. 3187, Rs. 7378 and Rs. 7997 per hectare, respectively. The average yield per hectare of Kodra, finger millet and Vari was reported to 7.57 qtl., 14.68 qtl. and 8.69 qtl, respectively. The gross return per hectare for Kodra, finger millet and Vari was found to Rs. 3348, Rs.13580 and Rs.16950, respectively. The cost of production per quintal of Kodra, finger millet and Vari was estimated to Rs. 421, Rs. 441 and Rs. 920, respectively. The net return per hectare over cost₂ for Kodra, finger millet and vary was found to Rs. 161, Rs.6202 and Rs.8953, respectively. The bulk line cost per qtl.for Kodra, finger millet and Vari was found to Rs.390, Rs.495 and Rs.1190, respectively.

KEY WORDS : Fixed cost, Variable cost, Gross return, Minor millets

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INTRODUCTION

The transformation of agriculture to more productive systems has often been accompanied by increased production in a fewer crop species. Concurrently, the area and production of a great diversity of traditional crops have declined. Yet in many parts of the world, these traditional crops play an important role in maintaining stable and sustainable forms of agriculture. Minor millets are generally consumed by the people of low socio-economic status. The reasons for limited utilization of millets are poor grain quality characteristics, such as rough texture, high fibre content, lack of gluten and typical flavour. Despite, their nutritional superiority, utilization of millets is restricted due to non-availability of refined and processed millets in ready to eat form. Hence, millets are confined to traditional consumers

and to the people of lower strata. A majority of the millet production (80%) although is used for human food, it is also used for feeding cattle and cage birds.

Minor millet comprising the small seeded cereal crops like finger millet, little millet, kodo millet, fox tail millet and common millet are grown in India. The area of minor millet in Gujarat is over the hilly tracts of Dang, Valsad, Bharuch, Baroda, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts. These are grown as *Kharif* rain fed crops in the least fertile hilly soil by tribal and area adjoining to hilly tract. Minor millets are the staple food for the large section of rural and working class in the state. In Gujarat Kodra is cultivated in the area of 40000 hectares. Nowadays, finger millet gets popularity among minor millets due to its high content of calcium (344mg/100g), magnesium (191mg/100g) and its different nutritive bakery products.