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**International Research Journal of Agricultural Economics and Statistics**

Volume 6 | Issue 1 | March, 2015 | 150-154 ■ e ISSN-2231-6434 |



Research Paper

## Economic analysis of green fodders in western Maharashtra

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**ABSTRACT** : India is basically an agricultural country and nearly three-fourth population depends on agriculture, livestock and allied sectors for livelihood. Nearly 70 per cent of country population lives in rural areas. Furthermore, of the 40.7 crore poor in the country, about 80 per cent are rural poor. Livestock plays an important role in the rural economy of the country. Livestock is a key source of supplementary income and livelihood especially for small landholdings and landless rural poor households. The costs and returns analysis for various fodder crops were helpful to examine the relative profitability of these crops in the region in order to ensure fodder supply through extensive cultivation. In view of this, economics of production and marketing of green fodder (Jowar and Maize) in western Maharashtra is under taken for study and objectives are to estimate the resource use pattern and to estimate per hectare costs and returns. The primary data regarding fodder crops for the year 2012-13 was collected in designed schedule. The total 90 samples irrespective of size groups were selected for two fodder crop separately. It can be concluded that, the per hectare human labour use was 42.05 and 89.46 mandays, the bullock labour use and manure use was at par for maize and jowar fodder cultivation. The per hectare cost of cultivation for maize and jowar was Rs. 33143.46 and Rs. 48571.91, the per quintal cost of cultivation for maize and jowar was Rs. 140.93 and Rs. 156.48 and B:C ratio of 1.49 and 1.60, respectively. The estimates of the production function human labour, manure, nitrogen, phosphorus and irrigation are the important resource variables contributing on yield. Therefore, it is suggested that, the use of these resource variables has to be extended by the fodder growers to maximization of profit.

**KEY WORDS** : Economic, Analysis, Green fodders

**HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Kumbhar, J.S., Pawar, P.P., Patole, S.D. and Gavali, A.S. (2015). Economic analysis of green fodders in western Maharashtra. *Internat. Res. J. Agric. Eco. & Stat.*, 6 (1) : 150-154.

**Paper History** :

**Received** : 01.03.2014;

**Revised** : 30.01.2015;

**Accepted** : 17.02.2015