



Received : October, 2010; Accepted : November, 2010; Accepted : December, 2010

Research
Paper

Economics of raising nurseries in Marathwada region of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

An attempt was made in this study to find out the cost and returns in the production of various fruit nurseries organized by government and private agencies. Aurangabad district was selected purposively because of maximum number of registered nurseries. Twenty seven private nurseries were selected in group-I and five government nurseries in group-II. The data pertained to the reference year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. The 1000 grafts were considered as an eco unit, total cost was worked out to mango, chiku, guava, pomegranate and sweet orange for group-I that were Rs.9210.32, Rs.9182.98, Rs.5032.14, Rs.7076.94 and Rs.5908.35, respectively and for group-II it was Rs.5057.75, Rs.6976.64, Rs.8579.52, Rs.8549.58 and Rs.5099.41, respectively. The scion sticks/bud sticks, human labour, roots stocks, polythene material, sales tax, rental value of land and supervision charges were the major items of cost. Net income from mango, chiku, guava, pomegranate and sweet orange grafts worked out of group-I was Rs.8645.28, Rs.9858.03, Rs.5326.87, Rs.1995.26 and Rs.4686.15, respectively and for group-II it was Rs.5501.05, Rs.4345.36, Rs.2133.48, Rs.1751.10 and Rs.5202.59, respectively. The marginal productivity analysis indicated that, there was no scope to increase consumption of polythene and packing material for both the groups.

Rathod, S.U., Sanap, D.J., Babar, A.P. and Naik, P.G. (2011). Economics of raising nurseries in Marathwada region of Maharashtra, *Internat. Res. J. agric. Eco. & Stat.*, 2 (1) : 46-54.

Key words : Nursery raising, Total cost, Variable cost, Net return

INTRODUCTION

India's survival as a nation is largely depends on the capacity to produce the adequate fruits for daily consumption. Though India's ranking in fruit production is second in the world, the production is much lower due to inadequate availability of genuine seeds and plants or improved varieties.

The genuine and disease free planting material will boost productivity. The seeds or plants are carriers of genetic potential for higher crop production. The farmers are less sensitive to price when they are sure of quality planting material, its exclusiveness and that monetary compensations will acute from higher production.

The perennial fruit trees have a long juvenile phase and the bearing starts only after 5-6 years. The most of the fruit trees are vulnerable to infection, fungal, bacterial and viral diseases perpetuated through planting material. To achieve the supply of genuine disease free planting

material, the mother blocks with virus-cleaned material have to be established linking it with development agencies backed by diagnostic techniques that ensure freeness of plant from diseases.

To obtain first hand information on these aspects, the present study was undertaken in Aurangabad district of Marathwada with the following specific objectives to estimate the cost and return of nurseries organized by Government and private agencies and to estimate the marginal productivities of major inputs used in nursery production

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Aurangabad district was selected purposively for the present investigation because maximum number of registered fruit nurseries are situated in this district, also having five Government nurseries. The list of registered nurseries was obtained from the Office of Sub-Divisional