

Research
Paper

Cost, returns and profitability of soybean production in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merill.] is known as golden bean in India. Soybean is grown successfully in various agro-climatic conditions. Soybean is one of the important oilseed crops of the Latur district in Maharashtra. For present study multistage sampling design was used in selection of district, tehsils, villages and soybean growers. On the basis of high area under soybean crop Latur and Renapur tehsils were selected. From selected two tehsils 12 villages were selected purposely on the basis of highest area under soybean crop. In this way, 180 soybean growers were selected for the present study. The information collected with respect to expenditures and returns were analysed in tabular form by using cost concepts like cost - A, cost - B and cost - C. Data pertained to the year 2007-08. The result revealed that, cost-C was Rs.25883.57 in which share of cost-B was 86.64 per cent while that of cost-A was 66.40 per cent. Gross return was found to be Rs.29748.52 and net profit was Rs.3864. The output input ratio was 1.15.

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Key words : Soybean, Costs, Returns, Profit

INTRODUCTION

Soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merill.] is one of the major oilseed crops in India. Though, soybean is a legume crop, yet it is widely used as oilseed crop. Due to very poor cook ability, and account of inherent presence of trypsin inhibitor, it can not be utilized as pulse crop. Soybean is important oilseed crop of the Latur district of Maharashtra. It was observed that, farmers in Latur district are gradually substituting soybean for *Kharif* sorghum, greengram, blackgram, groundnut and other traditional crops grown in the region. One of the most economic factors for shifting area from traditional crops to soybean crop is the increasing price of soybean crop. It is the successful crop having short duration with moderate inputs requirements. In production technology, important inputs are labour, chemical fertilizers, manure, seed and plant protection. It is necessary to know the cost of cultivation of the crop. It can help to improve the profitability of crop by extending the technical advice and supply of inputs in time to the cultivators view. The attempt has been made in the present investigation to study the input utilization, costs, returns and relative profitability of soybean in Latur district.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of the district, tehsil, villages and soybean growers. In first stage, Latur district was purposively selected on the basis of highest area under soybean crop. In the second stage, Latur and Renapur tehsils were selected on the basis of highest area under soybean crop. In the third stage, 6 villages were selected from each selected tehsil. In the fourth stage, from each of the selected villages, fifteen soybean growers were randomly selected. In this way 180 soybean growers were selected for the present study. Data were collected from them with the help of pretested schedule by personal interview method for the year 2007-08. Data were converted to per hectare basis in tabular form, statistical tools like arithmetic mean, percentage and ratio were used for accounting the cost and returns in soybean production. The cost concept like cost-A, cost-B, cost-C were used for cost evaluation and to estimate profitability in soybean production. Cost-A includes the items namely, hired human labour, machine labour, seed, fertilizer, manure, plant protection, land revenue, interest on working capital and depreciation of asset. Cost-B comprises of the cost-A plus rental value