



Research Paper

Economics of mango production under GAP certification

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ABSTRACT : The itemwise per hectare total cost of cultivation (cost-c) in case of orchards in GAP adopters group was Rs. 124708.06 and it was Rs. 74781.25 in case of orchards in GAP non-adopter group. The per hectare value of the produce received was Rs. 347354.22 in case of GAP adopter group and Rs. 124190.95 in case of GAP non-adopter group. Regarding benefit cost ratio, it was 2.78 in GAP adopter group and 1.66 in case of GAP non-adopter group. At the GAP adopter level, per hectare yield of mango obtained was 4.52 MT which valued to Rs. 347354.22 with profit at cost of production of Rs. 221060.76. In GAP non-adopter group per hectare yield of mango obtained was 4.47 MT which valued to Rs. 124190.95 with profit at cost of production was Rs. 45645.58.

KEY WORDS : Cost, Returns, Profitability, Farmer's response

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INTRODUCTION

The investigation was carried out in the Konkan region of Maharashtra state of India where mango is one of the major fruit crops grown on cultivation, especially the variety "Alphonso" has great export quality and potential grown commercially in this region (Gorivale *et al.*, 1997; Wadkar *et al.*, 2006). The State Government has taken special initiative to promote mango production by declaring the region as potential Agricultural Export Zone (Gandhi, 2006). It is mandatory now to get a certification before exporting agricultural commodities especially to European countries and the standard that is extensively accepted in many EU countries for fresh fruits and vegetables which is EUREPGAP. Considering this mandate, the government in co-operation with some private organizations has taken steps to provide technical support to farmers in knowing and implementing EUREPGAP standard on their farms to produce the mangoes with prescribed quality.

Considering the above facts, the present investigation was under taken to know the basic information on input cost, returns and profitability in two categories of mango farms *viz.*, GAP adopter and GAP non-adopter.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the year 2006-2007, there were 48 mango growers registered certificate holders in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. Therefore, a sample of 40 mango growers having GAP certificate were selected from these two districts. For the comparative study, the equivalent numbers of mango growers (without GAP certificate) were selected from the same village, Tahsil and district for the present study. Thus, the final sample consisted of 40 GAP certificate holder mango growers and 40 mango growers without GAP certificate.

RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSIS

The experimental findings of the present study have been presented in the following sub heads:

Size of mango orchard :

The information in respect of average size of orchard, per farm number of bearing and non-bearing trees is given in Table 1.

It is seen from the Table 1 that at GAP adopter level, average age of the orchard was 47.8 years, whereas it was