



Research Paper

Economics of production and marketing of summer groundnut in Tapi district of South Gujarat

■ J.J. MAKADIA, K.S. PATEL AND N.J. AHIR

See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

J.J. MAKADIA,
Department of
Agricultural Economics,
N.M.College of
Agriculture, Navsari
Agricultural University,
NAVSARI (GUJARAT)
INDIA

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ABSTRACT : The present study was undertaken in Tapi district of South Gujarat region to estimate cost of cultivation, marketing costs and margins and price spread using the primary data collected from 40 summer groundnut growers adopting multistage random sampling technique during the year 2008-09. The study revealed that the components wise cost of summer groundnut was found highest for human labour (26.79 per cent) followed by rental value of owned land (24.12 per cent), irrigation cost (10.65 per cent), seeds (10.44 per cent), miscellaneous cost (6.67 per cent), bullock labour (6.30 per cent), chemical fertilizers (4.52 per cent), and interest on working capital (2.56 per cent). The overall cost of cultivation was Rs.33341 per hectare in which operating cost (cost-A) occupied Rs.16747 (50.10 per cent). The average yield per hectare of summer groundnut was reported to 17.59 quintals with gross return of Rs.51568. The return per hectare over cost-A, cost-B, cost-C₁ and cost-C₂ was found to be Rs.34821, Rs.26693, 21176 and Rs.18137, respectively. The per quintal marketing cost of summer groundnut was found to be Rs. 64, Rs.85 and Rs.105 for cultivators, wholesalers and retailers, respectively. The price spread and marketing margin were Rs.782.79 and Rs. 528.79 per quintal, respectively. The producer's share in consumer's rupee was estimated to 77.82 per cent.

KEY WORDS : Cost components, Yield, Market margin, Price spread, Summer groundnut

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INTRODUCTION

Oilseed crops have a very important role in agriculture, industry and export trade. India occupies a prominent place in oilseeds map of the world due to the fact that it produces a large variety of oilseeds in sizeable quantities and stands second in the world with regard to production of groundnut producing 6.25 million tonnes in the year 2008-09 Anonymous (2009) after China. The important oilseeds crops grown in India are groundnut, rapeseed, mustard, soybean, linseed, castor, sunflower, niger and safflower.

Groundnut is one of the most important oilseed crops in India. It is mainly grown in kharif season, as a rain fed crop. India ranks second having share of 18.1 per cent in world production of 34.43 million tonnes in the year 2008-09. During the same period, groundnut area in the country was placed at 62.2 lakh hectares with total production of 73.4 lakh metric

tonnes. The per hectare national average yield was about 1180 kilograms in the year 2008-09 (www.agricoop.nic.in).

Groundnut contains about 45-50 per cent of oil which is of highly edible quality. Groundnut cake is a rich source of protein for animals. Groundnut kernels which are produced in plenty in India are widely acknowledged as a rich and cheap source of vegetable oil and are included in the daily diet. Kernels are also eaten as raw, roasted or sweetened milk and curd preparation. In Gujarat, it was grown on an area of 17.95 lakh hectares in kharif during 2008-09 with total production of 24.56 lakh metric tonnes claimed the productivity of 1368 kilograms per hectare. In summer season, it was grown on area of 1.12 lakh hectares with total production of 2.05 lakh metric tonnes claimed the productivity of 1829 kg per hectare for the same year (www.agri.gujarat.in). Particularly, South Gujarat region is popular for sugarcane and paddy cultivation but recently, summer groundnut cultivation is getting popularity