



Research Paper

Economics of production of ginger in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT : Uttara Kannada district is considered as the spice bowl of Karnataka. In this context the present study were conducted to analyze the cost and returns in production of ginger and to identify the production problem of ginger. Primary data for the study was obtained from the sample farmers through personal interview method with the pre-tested questionnaire. To evaluate the objectives of the study, data were analysed using simple tabular analysis with averages and percentages. The cost of cultivation was higher in case of small (Rs.89435.17) farmers compared to medium (Rs.87203.30) and large (Rs.87015.34) farmers. However, there were no substantial differences in the cost of cultivation between small, medium and large farmers. High incidence of pest and disease was the major production problem expressed by most of the respondents. High yielding rhizome materials were used in cultivation, the cost was very high. Supply of plant material at subsidized rates would reduce the cost of cultivation.

KEY WORDS : Production of ginger, Labour utilization, Costs and returns

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INTRODUCTION

India is rightly called as "spice bowl of the world" for the production of variety and superior quality of spices. The spices are grown throughout the country from tropical to temperate climate. India has highest number of spice varieties in the world. For over 5,000 years ginger has been recognized as the "universal medicine" by the ancient oriental of China and India. Today ginger remains a component of more than 50 per cent of the traditional herbal remedies and has been used to treat nausea, indigestion, fever and infection and to promote vitality and longevity. Though grown all over India, the finest quality ginger comes from Kerala endowed as it is with a congenial climate and a rich earthy soil. In India, major ginger growing states are Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Sikkim and Mizoram.

Uttara Kannada district is considered as the spice bowl of Karnataka. The hot humid climate with heavy rainfall and slopy land in the mountain ranges of Malnad region possess to be the most suited land for successful growing of spices. The present study was undertaken in Uttar Kannada district

with the following specific objectives:

- To analyze the cost and returns in production of ginger in study area.
- To identify the production problems of ginger and to suggest appropriate policy guidelines.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through personal interview method from farmers, with the help of well-structured and pre-tested questionnaire exclusively designed for the study. The sampling technique followed was both purposive and random. From among the eleven taluks of Uttara Kannada district, top three Taluks, Sirsi, Siddapur and Mundgod were selected based on the highest area under ginger crop. These three Taluks put together cover nearly 70 to 80 per cent of the production in Uttara Kannada district.

Five villages were selected randomly from each one of the selected Taluks, from each village six farmers were selected randomly to make the total sample size of 90 farmers.