



Research Paper

Surplus and price spread in marketing channels of Pukraj potato in Latur district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT : The present study was undertaken to know the marketing channels and price spread in Pukraj potato marketing in Latur district of Maharashtra. For the study, Chakur and Latur tehsils of Latur district were surveyed in the year 2008-09. The result revealed that 24.13 quintals of Pukraj potato were marketed through channel-I, in which the highest quantity involved was higher quantity of grade-III (3.89 per cent) followed by grade-I (2.45 per cent) and grade-II (1.97 per cent). It was understood grade-II as a higher quality followed by grade-I and grade-III. Thus, net price received by producer was higher as Rs.712.74 for grade-II followed by Rs.655.70 in grade-I and Rs.339.82 in grade-III.

KEY WORDS : Pukraj potato, Cost, Margin, Price spread, Market

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INTRODUCTION

Potato as a vegetable is of great importance in our daily diet. Potato is one of the richest sources of calories (Protein-calories ratio 17 g protein: 1000 k cal) needed to maintain day to day output of human energy. Potato is rich in carbohydrates, quality of protein, dietary fibre, vitamin and minerals. Potato contains vitamin like Niacin, Thiamin and vit.-B group. Beside this, it also contains calcium, phosphorus and iron. Quality of potato proteins is comparable to eggs and milk therefore superior to those present in cereals, pulses or vegetables. Potato is in maximum uses for making potato flour, potato chips, French fries, frozen potato, potato starch, tapioca of potato.

Insufficient availability of quality seed all over the country and the high cost of seed in some areas are the problems of potato cultivation. At present, as already stated, the CPRI has monopoly for the production of breeder's seed. It is then supplied to state Agricultural / Horticultural Departments and the national and state seed corporations for further multiplication into certified seed and eventual distribution to the farmers. The CPRI presently meets about 25 per cent of the

national requirements of breeder's seed. In view of the limited resources of the CPRI in increasing its breeder's seed production capacity, two steps have been taken recently like involvement of six state agriculture universities in breeder's seed production and use of modern techniques of micro-propagation with tuberlet production for improving breeder seed production. The effects of these measures will be evident only after the next 10-15 years and the country will then become nearly self-sufficient in its seed requirements.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Latur district was purposely selected for present study because of more availability of area under potato production in the district. On the basis of the highest area potato crop, Chakur and Latur Tehsils were selected for the present study. From each selected Tehsil, four, villages were selected on the basis of highest area under variety Pukraj-166 potato cultivation. The selected villages in Chakur Tehsil were namely, Devangra, Nalegaon, Murambi and Sugaon whereas in Latur tehsil, Bhatangali, Kasarkheda, Mamdapur and Ramjanpur.