



Research Paper

Economics of production and disposal of honey in Uttrakhand- A study of HORTICO-product

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Paper History :

Received : 15.04.2012;

Revised : 21.06.2012;

Accepted: 25.07.2012

ABSTRACT : In this paper an attempt has been made to study the production and disposal of honey as small and cottage industries corporation in Uttarakhand state of India. The analysis revealed that, stationary and migratory type of bee-keeping was an apian size of 81 and 131 colonies, respectively was prevalent in the study area. Bee hive was the major item of investment as it accounted for 50.18 to 57.47 per cent of the total investment. Total cost, gross returns and net returns per 100 colonies were higher on migratory bee farms. The cost per kg honey production on these farms was low mainly due to higher average yield per colony as compared to stationary bee farms. The farm wise honey production increased and it was 1002.60 kg and 4216.70 kg per annum on stationary and migratory bee farms, respectively. The summer yield 2.5 to 5 per cent was higher than spring season. Marketed surplus of honey was about 95 per cent and 99 per cent of the total production on stationary and migratory bee farms. As far as mode of marketed surplus of honey is concerned large chunk of it was marketed through wholesalers proportion of honey marketed through bee keeper's co-operative society, which was found to be 18.12 on stationary and 37.48 per cent on migratory farms, there by indicating that bee keeper's co operative has yet to prove its worth in the study area. The study suggests for migration of all bee colonies to enhance the income of the bee-keepers further the bee-keepers should be encouraged to sell honey through co-operatives.

KEY WORDS : Cost, Return, Income employment, Co-operative society

HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER : Prasad, Keshav, Singh, Balwant and Singh, Rakesh Kumar (2012). Economics of production and disposal of honey in Uttrakhand- A study of HORTICO-product, *Internat. Res. J. agric. Eco. & Stat.*, 3 (2) : 284-289.

INTRODUCTION

Honey and beekeeping have a long history in India. Honey was the first sweet food tasted by the ancient Indian inhabiting rock shelters and forests. He hunted bee hives for this gift of god. India has some of the oldest records of beekeeping in the form of paintings by prehistoric man in the rock shelters. With the development of civilization, honey acquired an unique status in the lives of the ancient Indians. They regarded honey as a magical substance that controlled the fertility of women, cattle, as also their lands and crops. The recent past has witnessed a revival of the industry in the rich forest regions along the sub-Himalayan mountain ranges and the Western Ghats, where it has been practiced in its simplest form.

Particularly in the developing countries where numerous

programme of marketing improvement have been launched (Hartwan, 2004). These studies infest, provide basic input for estimation of marketing efficiency. Besides; such studies are useful for both the producers-sellers and consumers, because the farmers are interested in getting the highest price for their produce while the latter are interested in fetching as low price as possible. Honey is considered as the most valuable food and gift of nature has been favoured by groups of all ages. The employment and income for the landless poor in particular and entrepreneur of any subsistence economy in general. The migratory system of bee keeping first tried in 1952 has proved to be beneficial in terms of increased yield per bee colony. Both stationary and migratory systems of bee keeping are in operations in the state.

Bee-keeping an economic enterprise is relatively a new venture in Indian. Bee keeping activity has now generated