Economics of production and marketing of mulberry leaves in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT : Investigation was carried out during the year 2010-2011. Multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of district, tehsils, villages and sericultural producers. The techniques like mean, percentage, ratio and cost concept of cost-A, cost-B and cost-C were used to analyze the data. The results revealed that the net profit of 0.58 hectare mulberry garden was Rs. 6233.55 and per hectare mulberry garden was Rs. 10747.43. The output-input ratio was 1.17. Per quintal cost of leaves production was Rs. 405.90, in case of marketing of mulberry leaves It was clear that mulberry leaves were produced on own farm as raw material for silkworm. It was observed that total leaves production was 66.25 quintals in owned mulberry garden. About 56.35 quintals of mulberry leaves were used as raw material in cocoon production on own farm. In other words the retention in cocoon production on own farm was 56.35 quintals. The marketed surplus through channel-I (producer-proxi silkworm rearer) was 2.54 quintals. The marketed surplus through channel-II (producer-vicinity silkworm rearer) was 7.36 quintals. Hence, the total marketed surplus was 9.90 quintals.

KEY WORDS : Mulberry leaves, Input, Output , Cost-C, Gross returns, Net profit

INTRODUCTION

There are four types of food plant for silkworm like mulberry (*Bombyx mori*)tassar (*Antheraeapaphia*), eri (*Philosomia ricini*) and muga (*Antherea assama).* Mulberry raw silk contributes about 85 per cent of total silk production in India.

Cultivation of mulberry and rearing of silkworms are the two activities generally performed by the silk cocoon producers. Cultivation of mulberry plants is called as moriculture. There are about 20 species of mulberry of which the four species are more common like *Morus alba, Morus indica, Morus serrate and Morus latifolia*. Varities of mulberry like Kanva-2, S-30, S-40 and V-1 are grown as important varieties. Mulberry cultivation involves various farming practices. Cultivation of mulberry is considered for raising the leaf crop to use the raw material for silk rearing industry. Mulberry cultivation is agricultural in nature. In India, the scientists are keeping on developing improved mulberry varities and silkworm hybrids and testing them in diffirent climatic conditions of the country. Some of the mulberry varities are superior in leaf quality and some of them are superior in leaf yield. The growth and development of silkworm and the cocoon quality largely depend on the nutritional status of the mulberry leaves (Tikedar and Kamble, 2007).Osmanabad district of Maharashtra has favourable climate for mulberry cultivation as well as silkworm rearing. Mulberry varities like V-1 and Kanva are grown while silkworm like CSR is reared in the district as 3 to 4 crops. Farm families are engaged in cultivation of mulberry as well as cocoon production. But the families who mostly belong to weaker sections of the society are connected with this industry. Hence, surplus quantity of mulberry leaves are purchased by landless families for silkworm rearing. Therefore, marketing of mulberry leaves is being introduced in cocoon production activity in rural area. By keeping in view the above aspects, the present study has been undertaken.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Multistage sampling design was adopted for the selection of district, tehsils, villages and sericultural producer. In the first stage, Osmanabad district was purposively selected