



Research Paper

An economic analysis of production and value addition in foxtail millet in Bellary district of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT : The focus of the present study was on production and value addition in foxtail millet in Bellary district of Karnataka. A sample size of 90 farmers for production and 60 farmers for value addition of foxtail millet was selected using multiple stage random sampling method. Field level data were elicited for the agriculture year 2009-10 through personal interview method. For analyzing the data collected during the study, budgeting technique and tabular analysis were employed. The per hectare total cost of cultivation of foxtail millet worked out to be Rs.11607.21. Farmers got about 12 quintals of main product and 4.5 quintals of by-product worth Rs. 17190 per hectare. In the preparation of Papad, the total cost of production worked out to be Rs.7000, gross returns realized were Rs.11880 and net returns were Rs.4880. In preparation of tambittu, gross returns were Rs. 14250 and net returns were Rs. 5960 after deducting total cost of Rs. 8290 from gross returns. The major problems faced by the farmers were lack of technical guidance, non-availability of quality seeds, lack of marketing information, standardization of value added products and tough competition with existing products. The study concluded that, farmers can better utilize their marginal lands by cultivating foxtail millet on them. Value added products of foxtail millet brought more returns to the farmers than the foxtail millet grains. Hence, the study suggested the farmers to involve in value addition of foxtail millet and get better returns rather than selling it in raw form.

KEY WORDS : Foxtail millet, Cost of cultivation, Net returns

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INTRODUCTION

Minor millets are small seeded annual cereals and forage grasses cultivated for food, feed, forage and other industrial uses. The term minor millets embraces at least 12 to 14 species of the grass family and those with potential to become important crops in semi-arid production systems are finger millet (Ragi, *Eleusine coracana*), foxtail millet (Navane, *Setaria italica*), proso millet (Baragu, *Panicum miliaceum*), barnyard millet (Oodahe, *Echinochloa frumentacea*), little millet (Savi, *Panicum miliare*), kodo millet (Haraka, *Paspalum scrobiculatum*). Precise estimates on area and production the crops are not available. They frequently possess unusual ability for adaptation like tolerance to drought and low soil fertility most often; they are grown with low inputs in emergencies following crop failure in traditional agricultural systems. There has been a trend in the recent years to replace

these crops by major cereals like maize and wheat. Minor millets received very little attention despite their potential. There are many unique traits possessed by the minor millets that could make them important components of semi-arid production systems.

Foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*) is one of the oldest crops cultivated for hay, pasture and food grain. Foxtail millet also known as Navane, Kangni, Tenai, Korra and Rala in various colloquial names in different Indian languages. Known for its drought tolerance, it was once an indispensable crop of vast rainfed areas in semi-arid regions in India. At present the crop is cultivated on a limited area in sporadic patches in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and North Eastern states. Native home of foxtail millet is considered to be China. In Karnataka, foxtail millet is widely grown in Bellary, Koppal, Chitradurga and Belgaum districts.