

A study of onion production and its marketing in Malwa Plateau of Madhya Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Onion is one of the most important vegetable grown in India which is used either in raw or dehydrated form to add flavour and taste to Indian cuisine. Since onion has medicinal values, it is used in some pharmaceutical preparations also. The present study was conducted in Malwa Plateau because it accounts 37.15 per cent of total area and 51.52 per cent of total production in the state during 2005-06. The multistage random sampling technique was adopted in designing sampling frame for the study.

Key words : Onion, Production, Marketing.

Onion is one of the most important vegetable grown in India which is used either in raw or dehydrated form to add flavour and taste to Indian cuisine. Since onion has medicinal values, it is used in some pharmaceutical preparations also. The diverse agro-climatic conditions enable India to produce onion in one or the other part round the year. At present, India stands second largest producer of onion in the world, next only to China. For India, onion is a consistent earner of foreign exchange and the exports on onion and onion products reach several destinations. The total production of Onion 622.325 Lakh tones in 2005-06 in India. (FAO production yearbook, 2005)

Most of the onion produced in India comes from the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh though onion is also grown in Karnataka, Orissa, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Madhya Pradesh state accounted for 5.49 per cent area and 4.88 per cent total output of onion in the country in 2005-06.

In the state of Madhya Pradesh, Malwa Plateau accounts for the bulk of the total onion production and Jaora and Indore are biggest onion markets. The onion produced in Malwa Plateau is distributed throughout the country. Bulk of the onion exported from India also originates from Malwa Plateau. Though there is great potential for the state of Madhya Pradesh in the cultivation of onion crop, farmers often incur losses due to low prices, lack of market outlet and other infrastructure in the marketing system.

In the light of the above facts, this paper seeks to

evaluate various aspects of production and marketing of onion in the state of Madhya Pradesh in general and Malwa Plateau in particular. The broad objectives of this paper are to comprehensively analyze various components of production and marketing costs, marketing channels adopted by the farmers, producer's share in consumer's rupee, price spread, etc. in respect of this important valued crop in this state.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Malwa Plateau because it accounts 37.15 per cent of total area and 51.52 per cent of total production in the state during 2005-06. The multistage random sampling technique was adopted in designing sampling frame for the study. In the first stage, one district was selected by random sampling and from selected district two blocks was also be randomly selected and 120 farmers (40 farmers from each category *i.e.* marginal, small and large) from each selected block was selected through convenient sampling method. Thus, for in-depth study, 2 blocks was selected and 240 farmers were undertaken for the present study.

The survey method was used for primary data collection regarding cost, return, productivity level and other agronomical practices. For secondary data district, block and village information was collected from various published reports regarding technological status and infrastructure facilities available.

Further, while selecting the villages in the selected block for identifying the potentiality as well as concentration of onion growers, experience of the officers of Horticulture/Agriculture/Marketing Departments at