

Financial feasibility of *Mrugbahar* sweet orange garden

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ABSTRACT

Present investigation was carried out during the year 2007-08. 50 *Mrugbahar* sweet orange growers were selected for the study. Project evaluation measures namely, NPW, BCR, N/K ratio and IRR were used. Gestation plus economic life of garden was found to be 21 years. Benefit cost ratio was 1.21. It implied that the sweet orange garden was in profit. N/K ratio was 1.69 which was indicating that investment in the project was feasible. Internal rate of return was found to be 18.89 per cent. It inferred that garden owner could get higher return than opportunity cost in *Mrugbahar* sweet orange production

INTRODUCTION

At present, India is second largest producer of fruits in the world. *Citrus* species are of a great importance and India is considered to be home of citrus species. Sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis*) is a fruit of excellence and having exceptionally good nutritive value which is regards as high source of vitamin 'C' (Ascorbic acid). Sweet orange orchard required more initial investment than any seasonal crop. In evaluation of orchard, its life is divided into two periods like gestation period and economic life of garden. Gestation period of sweet orange garden is four years in which garden can be established but no economic return. In other words, before first flowering period is known as gestation period. On the contrary, from the flowering period to over the period of 17 years is known as economic life of the garden. The sweet orange gardens are of two types like *Mrugbahar* and *Ambebahar*. Whereas, *Mrugbahar* is the bahar treatment in which water stretch is given in the month of April-May. The flowering occurs in the month of June-July and harvesting is completed in the month of February-March. Whereas, *Ambebahar* is the bahar treatment in which water stretch is given in the month of November-December. The flowering occurs in the month of January-February and harvesting is completed in the month of September-October. In order to known the financial feasibility, the evaluation

can be done by discounted measures of project worth.

In Nanded district of Maharashtra state, sweet orange is being grown on commercial scale. Once the garden is established, commercial production can be for over the period of seventeen years. Farmers must know that the investment in the garden is efficient and profitable, hence the present study of *Mrugbahar* sweet orange garden in Nanded districts has been undertaken.

METHODOLOGY

For study of financial feasibility of *Mrugbahar* sweet orange garden, Nanded tehsil of Nanded district was selected. From Nanded tehsil, ten villages were selected. Five *Mrugbahar* sweet orange growers were selected randomly from each of the selected villages. The data were collected by personal interviews during the year 2007-08 and in all 50 *Mrugbahar* sweet orange growers were selected. In order to know the financial feasibility of project, the evaluation measures namely. Net present worth (NPW), Benefit cost ratio (BCR), N/K ratio and internal rate of return (IRR) were used.

Net present worth (NPW):

The net present worth is computed by finding the difference between present worth of benefit stream and present worth of cost stream. It is calculated by formula as:

Key words :

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