

## Economics Of Banana Production In Sindhudurg District

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### ABSTRACT

The study on economics of banana production in Sindhudurg district was conducted with a sample of 90 banana growers selected from Dodamarg and Sawantwadi tahsils. The sample banana growers were classified into two groups on the basis of type of banana orchard viz., mixed cropping and sole cropping. Out of 90 growers, 67 were having mixed cropping and 23 were having sole cropping. The average area under banana was 0.40ha in mixed cropping and 1.08 ha in sole cropping. The per hectare cost of cultivation of banana was Rs. 61592 and Rs.57352 in mixed cropping and sole cropping, respectively. The net returns in mixed cropping were Rs. 60278 and in sole cropping were Rs. 58043. The benefit cost ratio turned out to be 1.97 in mixed cropping and 2.01 in sole cropping. The farmers following mixed cropping for banana cultivation preferred Channel-II (producer to commission agents) for marketing of banana, conversely farmers following sole cropping for banana cultivation preferred Channel-I (producer to contractor) for disposal of banana.

**Key words** : mixed cropping , sole cropping, benefit cost ratio and disposal.

### INTRODUCTION

Banana (*Musa paradisiaca*, *Musa accuminata*) is one of the ancient food plants having been used and cultivated. Banana is second important fruit next to Mango in India. The area under banana in Konkan region is about 900 ha. Sindhudurg district occupies near about 100 ha of area under banana producing 5700 MT of fruits. The area under banana cultivation in Sindhudurg district is increasing since last decade. Goa is the nearest market to Sindhudurg. Considering the importance of this crop in the economy of the region in near future, it is need of time to conduct systematic research in respect of production and other related aspects of this highly remunerative crop.

In view of the above mentioned aspects the present study was undertaken with the following specific objectives in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra state.

1. To study per hectare input use in banana cultivation.
2. To work out cost, returns and profitability in banana production.
3. To study the disposal pattern of banana.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Since the study was aimed at finding out the economics of banana production, as stated above, the sample for the study necessarily involved the selection of cultivators for gathering the relevant data of the study. Three stage sampling technique was used in this study

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for the selection of banana growers with tahsil as a primary unit, village as a secondary unit and banana grower as an ultimate unit. The two tahsils viz., Dodamarg and Sawantwadi were selected purposively for the study from Sindhudurg district, which are having maximum area under banana cultivation. From each tahsil, three villages having maximum area under banana cultivation were selected purposively. Fifteen banana growers were selected randomly from each village. Thus, the final sample consisted of 6 villages and 90 banana growers.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *Varietal preference for banana cultivation:*

Preference of cultivators for different varieties is given in Table I. The growers in both the groups mostly preferred Sonyal variety followed by Manyal, Saldati and Rasbal.

#### *Per hectare input utilization :*

The per hectare input utilization for the banana cultivation for both (mixed and sole cropping) the groups is given in table 2. The quantity of human labour was decreased in sole cropping group. In mixed cropping, per hectare labour utilized was 144.79 days, out of which 46.70 per cent (67.62 days) were hired labours and 53.30 per cent (77.15days) were family labours. In sole cropping, out of 138.12 labour days, 45.15 per cent was hired labours and 54.85 per cent of family labours. Further, it was also