

Study on the trends in area, production and productivity of mustard in India

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ABSTRACT

The growth rates in area and production of mustard have been highly significant indicating the popularity of the crop in India and ever growing demand from the industry prices multiple uses in the economy and diversified utility of mustard in the agricultural economy of India. The productivity figures indicates insignificant growth rate mainly attributed to the high sensitivity of the mustard used in production of mustard seed due to problems like shattering and storability. Growth rates in area, production and productivity of mustard have been highly significant which is the indication of the major crop in Rajasthan in winter season. The contribution of Rajasthan in area was 20% of total mustard seed cultivation in India during earlier years but it has increased up to 40% in recent three years while in case of production the contribution of Rajasthan was 21% of total production in India during earlier years but it has increased up to 50% in recent three years. The increased in the area of mustard may be due to increased demand for mustard in North India or may be due to shift in acreage in favour of mustard due to its higher profitability. This eventually caused the shift in acreage under this crop from other *Rabi* season crops. Increased in productivity might be attributed to technology break-through in mustard with the release of high yielding varieties, utilization of proper combination of inputs and better field management practices. Production was increased both due to significant increase in area and productivity.

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Key words : Compound growth rate, Area, Production, Productivity

INTRODUCTION

India occupies a significant place among major cereal and oilseed producing countries in the world, next only to China and USA in cereals production and next to USA, China, Argentina and Brazil in case of oilseeds.

India holds a premier position in the world not only in terms of rich diversity of oilseed crops but also in terms of area as well. Oilseeds occupy an important position in the Indian economy as they account for 13.6 per cent of the gross cropped area, contributing more than 5 per cent to the gross national product (GNP) (Bhore *et al.*, 2008). In the domestic agriculture sector, oilseeds occupy a distinct position after food grains, contributing 14 per cent of the country's gross cropped area. Although, India has the largest cultivated area under oilseeds in the world, the current consumption level of crucial nutrients such as oils and fats are below the minimum nutritional requirements. The present per capita consumption level of oils and fats in India at around 7.5 kg per annum is quite below the world average of 15.0 kg per annum (Anonymous, 2008). This situation has forced the government to resort to large-scale import of edible oils to bridge the gap. Considering the sizeable drain on foreign exchange caused by edible oil imports to meet domestic requirement, the efforts towards achieving self-sufficiency assumes great significance. To achieve self-

sufficiency in oilseeds and to reduce the deficiency on balance of payments, Government of India appointed a Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO) in May 1986. This mission has implemented an integrated policy on oilseeds with a three pronged strategies to improve oilseed crop technology, to improve post-harvest technology, to strengthen services to farmers. As a result, there has been a phenomenal increase in the oilseeds production during the past few years. However, a high percentage of oilseeds cultivated in the country still depend on rainfall, and hence, the oilseeds production fluctuates from year to year.

Brassica (Mustard) is the second most important edible oilseed crop in India after groundnut and accounts for nearly 30% of the total oilseeds produced in the country. When compared to other edible oils, mustard oil has the lowest amount of harmful saturated fatty acids. It also contains adequate amounts of the two essential fatty acids, linoleic and linolenic, which are not present in many of the other edible oils.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nature and sources of data:

The nature of data used for the study is entirely based on secondary source of data. The data on area, production and productivity was compiled from various published journals, periodicals and websites from year

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