

Socio-economic status of tomato producer in Western Maharashtra

MOHD. ASMATODDIN, V.S. MASKE, J.N. GHULGHULE AND J.B. TAWALE

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ABSTRACT

Sangamner tehsil from Ahmednagar district was selected purposively and 10 villages were selected randomly. From each village 3, tomato growers were selected. The results revealed that on an average family size of *kharif*, *rabi* and summer tomato grower farmers was 5.97, 5.47 and 5.59, respectively. Education status of family members at overall level in *kharif*, *rabi* and summer season *i.e.* illiterate, primary, secondary, graduate farmers were 7.78, 24.44, 45.56 and 22.22 per cent, respectively. Livestock rearing at over all level by tomato growers in the three seasons was observed in which crossbreed occupied the highest place followed by sheep and goat, bullock and buffaloes *i.e.* 37.00, 34.67, 17.34 and 10.97 per cent, respectively. Cropping intensity was highest in case of *rabi* tomato growers followed by summer and *kharif* *i.e.* 170.68, 169.33 and 152.85 per cent, respectively.

Key words : Socio-economic status, Cropping pattern, Cropping intensity.

In the wake of trade liberalization and globalization, the Agriculture sector in India faces an uphill task of meeting global competition, reducing unemployment and enhancing income in rural areas. Diversification of agriculture towards selective high value crops like tomato has been recommended as one of the strategies for meeting these challenges. An individual needs about 1.1 million calories every year and this quantity can be supplied by cereals produced from 0.45 ha of lands. However, if vegetables are grown they would supply four times more calories. On an average we consume 375 g of cereals and only 30 g of vegetables as against 328 g of vegetables and 362 g of fruits in advanced countries. The daily minimum requirement of vegetables according to dieticians is 280 g per head *i.e.* about 20 per cent of daily requirement of the total food of an adult. But the requirement is more in case of vegetarian diet. It has been therefore, recognized that there is an urgent need for further increase in vegetable production especially protective food such as fruits and vegetables.

Vegetable crops are more economical than foodgrains due to their higher production per unit area in less time. They provide a good source of income to farmers. The production of vegetables has increased considerably during the recent years because of introduction of modern inputs and development of new production technique. By virtues of its many attributes,

tomato is considered as a favourable crop for research in physiology and cytogenetics all over the world. Because of its wider adaptability and versatility, tomato is grown throughout the world either in outdoors or indoors. The present investigation was carried out to know the socio-economic status of tomato producer at Sangamner tehsil of Western Maharashtra.

METHODOLOGY

Sangamner tehsil of Ahmednagar district was selected purposively on the basis of the highest area under tomato crop and the infrastructural facilities like irrigation, transport and marketing were well developed. The list of villages growing tomato in Sangamner tehsil was obtained from the Tehsildar's Offices. Ten villages were from tehsil were selected randomly. From each of selected villages, the list of tomato cultivators was obtained. The list was stratified into three groups *i.e.* *kharif*, *rabi* and summer. Three tomato growers were selected from each village under that categories. Thus, total sample size comprising of 90 tomato growers were selected from 10 villages. The respondents were personally interviewed with a well constructed and pretested interview schedule. The information was collected on socio-economic characters and cropping pattern of tomato growers. The collected data were analysed as arithmetic means and percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In socio-economic characters and cropping pattern of tomato growers are important aspects in production of crop.

Socio-economic characteristics of tomato growers:

Absolute mean with respect to socio-economic

Correspondence to:

MOHD. ASMATODDIN, Department of Agricultural Economics and Statistics, Marathwada Agricultural University, PARBHANI (M.S.) INDIA.

Authors' affiliations:

V.S.MASKE, J.N.GHULGHULE AND J.B.TAWALE, Department of Agricultural Economics and Statistics, Marathwada Agricultural University, PARBHANI (M.S.) INDIA.