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RESEARCH PAPER

Economics of maize production in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Investigation was carried out during the year 2010-2011. Multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of district, tehsil, villages and cultivators. In all 60 cultivators were selected for present study. The techniques like mean, percentage, ratio and cost concept of Cost-A, Cost-B and Cost-C were used to analyze the data. The results revealed that use of hired human labour was more than family human labour in maize production. Per hectare net profit was Rs.18741.55. The output-input ratio was 1.46. Per quintal cost of production of maize was Rs.530.88.

KEY WORDS : Maize, Net profit, Cost-C, Gross returns

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Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is considered as queen of the cereal. Maize belongs to the genus '*Zea*' family Gramineae. In our country maize is mainly grown for grain purpose, which is consumed either as food or feed. Utilization of maize for specialized purpose such as 'pop corn' is also made which is best food for children. It is also a good feed for poultry, piggery and other animals. Maize grain contains about 10 per cent protein, 4 per cent oil, 70 per cent carbohydrates 2.3 per cent crude fibre, 10.4 per cent albuminodies and 1.4 per cent ash. About 55 per cent of the total maize produced in India is used as direct human food and less than 35 per cent is to animal feed industry. Maize grain has significant quantities of vitamin A, nicotinic acid, riboflavin and vitamin E. Maize among the cereals ranks third, both in terms of area and production in the world. In India, the important maize growing states include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab along with Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The need was felt to answer some queries such as costs, returns and profitability. Keeping in view the above aspects, the present study has been undertaken.

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METHODOLOGY

Multistage sampling design was adopted in selection of district, tehsils, villages and maize growers. In first stage, Aurangabad district was purposively selected because of availability of more area under maize production in the district. In second stage, Kannad and Sillod tehsils of Aurangabad district were selected on the basis of highest area under maize cultivation. In third stage, from each selected tehsil, five villages were selected on the basis of highest area under maize cultivation. The selected villages in Sillod tehsil were namely Andhari, Ghatnandra, Kerhala, Modha bk and Shivana, whereas in Kannad tehsil, Chincholi, Javkheda, Karanjkhed, Nachanvel and Pishor. In the fourth stage, stratified random sampling technique was used for each village. Thus, from 10 villages, 60 maize growers were selected for the present study. The cross sectional data were collected from sixty growers by