

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF ORGANIC VEGETABLES INITIATED BY PROSHIKA IN MYMENSINGH DISTRICT

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to examine the socio economic characteristics, production practices, factors affecting profitability of organic tomato, brinjal and cauliflower production. The study was based on primary data collected from 50 sample farmers from three selected villages of Muktagacha Thana under Mymensingh District by stratified random sampling method during the year 2004. Among the 50 selected farmers 19 were organic tomato growers, 11 were organic brinjal growers and 20 were organic cauliflower growers. Tabular and multiple regression analysis were used to achieve the main objectives of the study. In the study area the sample farmers of different organic vegetables growers used high land, medium high land, medium land and medium low land for organic tomato, brinjal and cauliflower production. The sample farmers used sandy, sandy loam and loamy soil to produce organic tomato, brinjal and cauliflower. In the study area, organic tomato growers used Ruma VF, Ratan and Bahar variety. Most of the tomato growers used Ratan variety. Organic brinjal growers used Kazla, Uttara and Tarapuri variety. The highest number of brinjal growers used Tarapuri variety. Organic cauliflower growers used Snow ball Y, Kartika and Poushali variety and most of the growers used Snow ball Y variety. The finding of the study revealed that most of the total sample growers aged average 41.06 years and their education average was 7.00 for different organic vegetables. Vegetable- Rice- Vegetable is the major cropping pattern practiced by the sample farmer. Agriculture was the main occupation of the selected farmers at the study area. Production cost of organic tomato was TK. 115206 per hectare which was the highest among other vegetables. It was TK. 86799 per hectare for cauliflower followed by brinjal (TK. 68485/ha). Per hectare gross return of organic tomato, brinjal and cauliflower were TK. 184379., TK. 137167 and TK. 170230, respectively. Per hectare gross return of tomato was higher than brinjal and cauliflower . Per hectare gross margin of organic tomato, brinjal and cauliflower were TK. 100393, TK. 99805 and TK. 112730, respectively. It reveals that the cauliflower growers received the highest net return followed by tomato and brinjal. The return of cauliflower was the maximum . On the contrary, benefit cost ratio was the lowest for tomato and cauliflower due to higher production cost. To identify the factors affecting yield, ninth variable included in the multiple linear model of which hired labor cost (Tk/ha), mechanical power cost (Tk/ha), interest on operating capital cost (Tk/ha), rent cost (Tk/ha), extension contact dummy and cauliflower dummy found statistically significant. Some different categories problems and constraints such as economic, technical and natural of production and marketing have been identified in the study area. The problems are high price of input, lack of fund, lack of quality seed, lack of government attention, unavailability of labour, disease infestation, lack of irrigation, low price of output, storage problem, lack of transportations facilities etc.