

PROFITABILITY AND TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY OF WHEAT PRODUCTION IN SOME SELECTED AREAS OF DINAJPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to find out the socio-economic characteristics, production practices, profitability and factors affecting profitability, technical efficiency and factors affecting inefficiency of wheat production in the study area. Nawabganj thana under Dinajpur district was selected randomly for the present study. Sixty farmers were selected randomly from the wheat producers of Nawabganj thana using random number table. Among the sixty selected farmers 30 were small, 15 were medium and 15 were large. Sixty five percent of the family/members of the study area were literate which is similar with the national literacy level. Ninety two percent of the farmers used medium high land whereas eighty seven percent of the farmers used sandy loam soil for wheat production. Ninety two percent of the farmers had sown seeds in optimum date. Weeding was less important function for wheat production. Farmers applied fertilizer in two stages and irrigation in three stages after seed sowing. Market was the main source of seed whereas extension workers were the main source of agricultural related information. The study reveals that total costs of wheat per ha was the highest for small farms and lowest for large farms. Net return of wheat production was highest for medium farmers followed by large and small farmers whereas the benefit cost was highest for large farmers followed by medium and small farmers. So the large farms were most profitable compared to others. Gross margin was highest in medium farms followed by small and large farms in the study area. Regarding technical efficiency of wheat producers medium farmers were technically more efficient than the large and small farmers. Regarding factors affecting profitability of wheat production multiple linear regression analysis showed that the coefficient of total hired labor cost, cost of TSP was negative whereas co-efficient of farming experience was positive and significant at 1% level. Whereas coefficient of total family labor cost was negative and coefficient of small farm dummy, medium farm dummy, education level in years were positive and significant at 1% level. Regarding factors affecting inefficiency of wheat production co-efficient of education in years, farming experience, frequency of extension contact were negative and significant implies that the farmers with more education, more farming experience, and more extension contact were technically less inefficient. Lack of government attention was most acute problem for wheat production followed by high price of input and lack of quality seed. In case Variance ratio parameters, X of wheat producers was statistically greater than zero implies that differences in actual production from maximum production mainly arose from differences in farmer's practices rather than random variability.