

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF RIBBED GOURD CULTIVATION IN HOMESTEAD AREA

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to analyze and find out the costs and returns of ribbed gourd cultivation and examine the labour utilization pattern specially the use of female labour in respect of ribbed gourd cultivation in homestead area. In order to achieve this objective, thirty vegetable growers were selected from four villages in Jamalpur district. Random sampling technique was followed in selecting the samples. It was estimated that per hectare total cost of production of ribbed gourd according to farm category was Taka 48599, 52039, 63382 and 67277 for the marginal, small, medium and large farms, respectively. For the large farmers net returns (Taka 61,547/ha) and benefit cost ratio (1.89) were the highest. Marginal farmers received the second highest net returns (Taka 41,721/ha) and benefit cost ratio (1.85). It was found that the average return to labour were Taka 94.39/m-day. The family labour utilization pattern showed that the marginal farmers utilized the maximum female family labour. Disposal pattern of vegetables showed that all farmers consumed the major portion of vegetables. Specially marginal farmers utilized about 88% of total product for their consumption need. Marketing pattern of homestead vegetables showed that wives of marginal farmers sold 70% of product in the village market. Marginal farmers used their income from homestead production mainly on food and clothing while the medium and large farmers used their income primarily on household items and education purpose. About 90% of the farmers were associated with marketing problem such as lack of reasonable price of vegetables, high price of fertilizers and insecticides. Some recommendations were made for increasing the homestead vegetable production.