

AN ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF OKRA AND ASH GOURD VEGETABLES IN GAZIPUR AND CHITTAGONG DISTRICTS OF BANGLADESH

Major Professor: Dr. Joynal Abedin

Name of the author: MD. Jahangir Kabir

Reg. No.: 98-05-752

Year: 1999

Abstract

This study was conducted in two villages, namely, Pajulia and Jobra under Gazipur sadar and Hat Hazari thana in Gazipur and Chittagong district, respectively. The specific objective of the study was to empirically measure the profitability of okra and ash gourd vegetables and compare the profitability of IPSA developed okra and other okra and to examine their productivity and resource use efficiency. Primary data were collected from 60 vegetables growers from selected villages during 1999. Tabular and some functional input-output analyses were done in this study. It was found that per hectare gross costs of production of okra stood at Tk.49379, and Tk.48306 while per hectare gross return, net return above gross costs and net return above cash costs were Tk.97100, and Tk. 10910, Tk.47721 and Tk.60794, Tk.68821, and Tk.81819 in Gazipur and Hat Hathazari, respectively. Similarly per hectare gross costs of production of ash gourd stood at Tk.52140, and Tk.50317 while per hectare gross return, net return above gross costs and net return above cash costs were Tk.79600, and Tk.83600, Tk.27460 and Tk.33283, Tk.44788 and Tk.51553, in Gazipur and Hat Hazari, respectively. The per hectare gross costs of production of IPSA okra stood at Tk.31809, while per hectare gross return, net return above gross costs and net return above cash costs were Tk. 102340, Tk.70530 and Tk.89747, respectively. The results indicate that IPSA okra growers obtained the higher per hectare gross return, net return above gross costs and net return above cash costs compared to other okra and ash gourd growers. It was also revealed that the owner farms obtained a highest net return. This may be due to the fact that the owner farmers applied all inputs in proper dozes and timely. Factors such as sowing time, seed rate, human labor, manure and fertilizer have caused sufficient variation in yield of the selected vegetables. Thus farmers should be motivated to select appropriate time of sowing and dozes of these inputs. Production functional analysis of okra showed that coefficients for okra seed, manure, urea and TSP were significant. For ash gourd, coefficients for human labor, manure, urea and TSP were also significant. These inputs should therefore, be used properly and supplied in right time to the vegetables growers. The ratios of MVP and MFC of urea and TSP were greater than one and positive, indicating that there were opportunities for expanding the output of okra. The ratios of MVP and MFC of human labor, manure, urea and TSP were greater than one and positive, indicating that by using more of these inputs the per hectare net return can be increased. The vegetable growers faced various types of problems of which lack of good quality seeds, attack of pests and diseases, lack of irrigation facilities, and non-availability of inputs were dominant as reported by majority of the farmers.