



CHALLENGES AND CULTIVATION ISSUES OF BANANA GROWERS IN ERODE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Banana is a major horticultural crops as a source of food, fruit, leaf and medicinal value . It has unique feature on its various phases of process after harvest. In recent days Banana growers who increased in western Ghats of Tamilnadu. Particularly, Theni, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Erode. The major concern for preference has given to the Banana is earned huge with mixed crops until the matured stage of banana. Then, short time yield and provide to yield within short days. On the other hand, the growers in this region who faced many challenges for cultivation and sales. In Erode districts has recorded moderate rainfall from North East Monsoon only. Similar ways, the growers who faced such constraints on irrigation shortages, transportation for local sales during summer season. This study has been conducted in major geographical zone of Banana Cultivation in Erode District.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION

Banana may be a significant food crop and its greater economic importance among the food crops, since it's one among the leading commodities in agricultural exports. Hence, the assembly performance of the crop is of critical importance in improving the efficient use of resources. Farmers raise the crops with a hope of receiving fair returns for his or her hard labour. For this, they depend on the market conditions, which aren't very conducive to fulfill their hopes and expectations. Forced sales, multiplicity of market charges, malpractices in unregulated markets and superfluous middlemen are the issues faced by the farmers. These problems of selling get further added up by the special features of agricultural commodities namely, their inelastic demand, seasonality in supply, spatially scattered production, bulkiness and perishability. The study covered the challenges of cultivation and determinants of marketable surplus in banana.

Statement of the problem

Banana may be a significant food crop and it's greater economic importance among the food crops, since it's one among the leading commodities in agricultural exports. Hence, the assembly performance of the crop is of critical importance in improving the efficient use of resources. The value of production and net returns obtained per unit would determine the profitability of the crop. The profitability of an enterprise depends upon the efficient use of the resource in production. Further, the study of cost and returns structure of banana would help the farmers in ensuring proper resource combinations to reinforce the banana yield, thereby increasing the profits. Though production is that the initiation of the developmental process, it could provide less gain to the producers unless there exists an efficient marketing system. Agricultural marketing is therefore, of greater importance. Commercialization of agriculture has further increased the importance of selling. Farmers raise the crops with a hope of receiving fair returns for his or her hard labor. For this, they depend on the market conditions, which aren't very conducive to fulfill their hopes and expectations.

Forced sales, multiplicity of market charges, malpractices in unregulated markets and superfluous middlemen are the issues faced by the farmers. These problems of selling get further added up by the special features of agricultural commodities namely, their inelastic demand, seasonality in supply, spatially scattered production, bulkiness and perishability. Besides, it leads more expenses for ploughing, maintenance of tree. Because of, Tissue culture varieties are required more maintenance except traditional Local varieties. Otherwise, yield is going to reduce from its maximum

expected level. Is that manure expenses, labour cost are adequate and reasonable for existing Tender coconut Cultivation? How the Growers who adopted to seasons and availability of labour? Is there any impact on organic manure and pesticides for yield? How for it feasible with marketing of Banana growers? Hence, this study makes an attempt to find out the solution for developmental aspects of Banana Growers in the study area.

OBJECTIVES

To study the cultivation practices of the sample farmers . To find out the determinants of cultivation and marketable source in banana.

To review the issues faced by the banana cultivators within the production and marketing of banana.

Scope

This study is an effort to analyze the resource use efficiency and various issues related to it. The results of the study would guide in reallocation of scarce resources with a view to extend the economic efficiency of banana farming within the study region.

The issues encountered in production would pave way for furthering research efforts within the desired direction. An in depth analysis of selling of banana would identify the ways and means of augmenting the producer's share in consumer's rupee. Hence, the results would be useful particularly to policy decisions on production and marketing for the advantage of the producers and therefore the ultimate consumer.

METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive in nature. The study makes an attempt to analyze the cost of cultivation and facing challenges of Banana growers in the study area. The primary data were collected from 70 sample farmers in the mass cultivation zone of Erode District in Tamil Nadu. The samples were chosen using simple random sampling method. Besides, secondary data were used collected from various sources. Chi-Square test was using for significant levels of selected independent and dependant variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the observation from the field , we can conclude the opinion from the irrespective of banana (all varieties) growers. Besides, the results were drawn from the data had been classified and analysed with suitable statistical tool ie., Chi square.

Table-1 Annual income with farm size

Farm size	2-5 AC	5-10 AC	11-15 AC	16 – 20 AC	TOTAL
Annual income					
Below 1 lakhs	7 63.6%	4 36.4%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	11 100.0%
Upto 2 lakhs	8 29.6%	15 55.6%	0 0.0%	4 14.8%	27 100.0%
Upto 3 lakhs	3 17.6%	10 58.8%	4 23.5%	0 0.0%	17 100.0%
Above 3 lakhs	0 0.0%	4 26.7%	7 46.7%	4 26.7%	15 100.0%
Total	18 25.7%	33 47.1%	11 15.7%	8 11.4%	70 100.0%

Source: Primary Data

There is significant associate between farm size with annual income status at 0.01 percent level.chi – square value in 35.398.

Farm size of the growers shown as one of the economic indicators of Banana growers. It has assessed their asset and operational structure of cultivation and its expenses have cope up with income. However, annual income is considered to be consolidated income where gained from various sources of the growers, table explains that the range of farm size (in acres) and average income of Banana growers, the range of 16 – 20 acre holders have above 3 lakhs of annual income is 26 per cent. The category of 2- 5 acre holders who belonged to the range of annual income is below one lakh per annum is 63 per cent. Next to, the category of 5 – 10 acre holders who belonged to the income range is upto two lakhs (55%). The same category of land holders income range is 3 lakhs covered 58 per cent. Therefore, the land holders income is not equal for the range of land size and its earning. I is inferred that coconut cultivation itself , not determine the income generation of their family.

Table-2 Farm size and duration of cultivation

Farm size	2-5 AC	5-10 AC	11-15 AC	16 – 20 AC	TOTAL
Duration of cultivation					
6 – 10 years	7 63.6%	4 36.4%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	11 100.0%
11 – 20 years	0 0.0%	10 47.6%	3 14.3%	8 38.1%	21 100.0%
21 – 30 years	4 25.0%	8 50.0%	4 25.0%	0 0.0%	16 100.0%
Above 31 years	7 31.8%	11 50.0%	4 18.2%	0 0.0%	22 100.0%
Total	18 25.7%	33 47.1%	11 15.7%	8 11.4%	70 100.0%

Source: Primary Data

There is significant associate between farm size with annual income with duration with cultivation status at 0.01 percent level.chi – square value in 33.597.

The duration of banana cultivation refers to the growers contribution, span of time and investment with profit since the beginning stage are the major component of cultivation and assessment of financial indicator for the range of farm size, more than half of per cent of the (63 per cent) respondents who belonged to the category of below 5 acre have engaged only Red Banana and Kadhai cultivation.

The category of 6- 10 acre holders who belonged half of them are engaged all varieties of banana cultivation is above 21 years and the same duration is covered 18 per cent of them are below 5 acres, therefore, the range of high amount of firm size holder only engaged separate banana cultivation , not mixed another vegetables

Table-3 Nature of Coconut preferred with Type of Cultivation

Type of Cultivation	Small size cultivation	Mass cultivation	Total
Nature of Coconut preferred			
Katpooravelli	0 0.0%	24 100.0%	24 100.0%
Red banana	0 0.0%	11 100.0%	11 100.0%
Rasthaali	4 50.0%	4 50.0%	8 100.0%
Kadhali	3 27.3%	8 72.7%	11 100.0%
Kadhali + Red + Pooven	7 53.8%	6 46.2%	13 100.0%
Red + Rasthaali	0 0.0%	3 100.0%	3 100.0%
Total	14 20.0%	56 80.0%	70 100.0%

Source: Primary Data

There is significant associate between type of cultivation with nature of coconut preferred status at 0.01 percent level.chi – square value in 23.671.

The banana Growers who mostly preferred katpooravelli and Red babana in order to get more profit in entire season. The mass cultivation is preferred 80 per cent of the respondents.

Table-4 Farm size with Place of seed preference

Place of seed preference	Own preparation on sapling	Purchase from private nursery	Purchase from govt nursery	Both govt + private	Total
Farm size					
2-5 AC	0 0.0%	12 66.7%	3 16.7%	3 16.7%	18 100.0%
5-10 AC	0 0.0%	14 42.4%	16 48.5%	3 9.1%	33 100.0%
11-15 AC	4 36.4%	3 27.3%	4 36.4%	0 0.0%	11 100.0%
16-20 AC	4 50.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	4 50.0%	8 100.0%
TOTAL	8 11.4%	29 41.4%	23 32.9%	10 14.3%	70 100.0%

Source: Primary Data

There is significant associate between place of seed preference with farm size status at 0.01 percent level.chi – square value in 44.817.

The coconut growers who engaged with larger size of acres have been preferred for sapling in nursery where procured horticulture or private. This is the fundamental process for technical aspects and strength of yield forecasting. Highly recommended varieties have suggested by the expert from horticulture board. But, private concern is not that much technical but they forced to sole of their sapling as much as possibility on profit margin.

The above table explains about the preference of sapling by the respondents. The half of the respondents from the category of above 16 acre holders who prepared their own saplings, Nearly half of the respondents from the category of 6 – 10 acre holders who procured saplings from govt nursery.

About 66 per cent of the respondents from 5 acre holders who procured from private nursery. About 50 per cent of the grower who belonged to above 16 acre who procured from both govt and private Nursery . Therefore, a small growers who belonged to below 5 acre are preferred private Nursery.

Table- 5 Wage on laborers with main occupation

Labour cost per day Main occupation	Men500 Women 400	Men 550 Women 450	Men 600 Women 500	Total
	Banana cultivation is main	12 35.3 %	22 64.7 %	0 0.0 %
Banana cultivation is subsidiary	0 0.0	13 76.5%	4 23.5 %	17 100.0 %
Banana + Agriculture other crops	16 100 %	0 0.0 %	0 0.0 %	16 100.0 %
Banana + agriculture allied activities	3 100 %	0 0.0%	0 0.0 %	3 100.0%
Total	31 44.3 %	35 50.0%	4 5.7 %	70 100.0%

Source: Primary Data

There is significant associate between main occupation with labour cost per day size status at 0.01 percent level.chi – square value in 47.290.

The growers who engaged bulk cultivation is considered that their main occupation is entire variety of banana. The, combined works, cultivation and supporter for maintenance and labour cost while engaged multi – crops and other non – farm sector work. Table explains that the growers who engaged al types of banana, they spent labour cost is Rs.500 for men and Rs.400 for women upto 35 percent of them. Next to, the same category of the respondents are provide the labour charge is Rs550 for men and Rs 450 for women.

CONCLUSION

The preference of banana cultivation is profit oriented with seasonal attachments. The study area is located in middle part of south west monsoon catchment area. This is one of the challenges to practice for optimum and sufficient yield for Red banana and Khadali. According to the observation from field and data analysis the water source is inadequate for maximum number of grower's need. Secondly, the maintenance expenses are higher than matured tree, in terms of organic manure, water supply, cutting and removal of dry leaves are periodical work. But, the reasonable price of banana is getting only festival season. Regarding, selection of samplings by the growers, they can preferred private nursery is more than horticulture recommended saplings. Besides, the awareness of Spices Board has offered subsidies to the Tissue culture banana are very less. The labour cost is more expenses for only those who undertake only mass cultivation of banana. The horticulture department and Spices Board have been undertaken more provisions to promote the Banana cultivation and sales in this area.

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