



Research Paper

Study on disposal pattern and constraints in pineapple production in Konkan region of Maharashtra

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Paper History :

Received : 11.07.2017;

Revised : 24.01.2018;

Accepted : 08.02.2018

ABSTRACT : This paper has analysed the disposal pattern of pineapple fruit (*Ananas comosus* L.) and constraints in their production and disposal using primary data pertained to the years 2013-16 collected from a sample of 20 tenant growers of five villages in Dodamarg tahsil of Sindhudurg district. The study has found that more than 90 per cent of the produce were marketed in all the three years. The problem of high cost of planting material, non-availability of hired labour are felt by majority of the pineapple growers as constraints in production followed by fluctuation in market prices, post harvest losses in case of disposal of produce.

KEY WORDS : Disposal, Constraints, Pineapple

HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER : Mathew, Shilpa, Wadkar, S.S. and Kshirsagar, P.J. (2018). Study on disposal pattern and constraints in pineapple production in Konkan region of Maharashtra. *Internat. Res. J. Agric. Eco. & Stat.*, 9 (1) : 137-140, DOI : 10.15740/HAS/IRJAES/9.1/137-140.

INTRODUCTION :

Pineapple (*Ananas comosus* L.) is a high-value crop commercially cultivated worldwide. It is one of the choicest fruit all over the world because of its pleasant taste and flavour. Pineapple fruits are primarily used in three segments, namely, fresh fruit, canning and juice concentrate with characteristic requirements of size, shape, colour, aroma and flavour (Joy, 2010). In India pineapples are processed into a number of value added products like jam, jelly, cheese, chutneys and canned halves. The fruit is a store house of huge health benefits, due to its wealth of nutrients like vitamins and minerals including potassium, sodium, phosphorus, magnesium, zinc etc. It is an excellent source of vit A, vit C, manganese,

dietary fibre, folates and the enzyme Bromelain that digests food by breaking down proteins. It also has anti-inflammatory, anti-clotting and anti-cancer properties. World trade on fresh pineapple has shown 100 per cent increase during the last one decade. Globally the most widely grown varieties are Smooth Cayenne, Queen and MD2. In India, it is abundantly grown in North-East region, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar and Goa. In Maharashtra, Pineapple is mainly cultivated in the Konkan region and the present study was conducted in the Dodamarg tahsil of Sindhudurg district of the Konkan region.

An attempt has been made in this study to examine the disposal pattern of pineapple fruits and the constraints in production as well as disposal.

MATERIALS AND METHODS :

Dodamarg tahsil of the Sindhudurg district was selected purposively as pineapple cultivation is concentrated in the study area and area under this crop is rapidly increasing since the last seven years. Five villages of the tahsil namely, Bhike-Konal, Konalghatta, Kudase, Parme and Sateli Bhedsi were selected. A total number of available 20 tenant growers cultivating pineapple were included in the sample for study. After plantation of suckers of pineapple, it is possible to continue as ratoon crop during second and third year, hence, the results of the study are presented separately for three years.

RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSIS :

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Disposal pattern of pineapple and suckers :

To know the final quantity of farm produce marketed after meeting other requirements of the farmer, the per hectare disposal pattern of pineapple for the three years were studied and the results of the same are presented in the Table 1. From the table it could be observed that, the total quantity of pineapple produced in the first year was 264.40 q. Out of the total produce, a

Table 1: Per hectare disposal pattern of pineapple

Sr. No.	Particulars	1 st year		2 nd year	3 rd year	
		Pineapple (q)	Pineapple (q)	Sucker (No)	Pineapple (q)	Sucker (No)
1.	Total quantity produced	264.40 (100.00)	286.93 (100.00)	40513 (100.00)	191.01 (100.00)	38685 (100.00)
2.	Disposal					
	Family consumption	0.09 (0.03)	0.14 (0.04)	-	0.20 (0.10)	-
	Gift to relatives and friends	0.41 (0.15)	0.80 (0.27)	-	1.01 (0.52)	-
	Wages and kinds	0.71 (0.26)	1.31 (0.45)	-	1.39 (0.72)	-
	Losses in the farm	1.93 (0.72)	1.87 (0.65)	-	2.07 (1.08)	-
	Retention of suckers as ratoon	-	-	19074 (47.08)	-	-
	Suckers of poor quality	-	-	860 (2.12)	-	1780 (4.60)
	Marketable surplus	261.26 (98.81)	282.81 (98.56)	20579 (50.79)	186.34 (97.55)	36905 (95.39)
	Total	264.40 (100.00)	286.93 (100.00)	40513 (100.00)	191.01 (100.00)	38685 (100.00)

Figures in the parentheses indicate percentages to total

Table 2 : Constraints in production of pineapple

Sr. No.	Problems	No. of tenant growers
1.	High cost of planting material	15 (75)
2.	Non-availability of hired labour	13 (65)
3.	High cost of fertilizers	10 (50)
4.	Non-availability of water for irrigation	8 (40)
5.	Non-availability of quality suckers	7 (35)
6.	Lack of technical know how	6 (30)
7.	Attack from animals	5 (25)

Figures in the parentheses indicate percentages to total number of tenant growers

Table 3 : Constraints in disposal of pineapple

Sr.No.	Problems	No. of tenant cultivators
1.	Fluctuation in market price	19 (95)
2.	Improper weighment of produce	12 (60)
3.	Post harvest lossess at farm level	9 (45)

Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to total number of tenant growers

negligible quantity was used for family consumption (0.03%), gifts (0.15%), wages and kinds (0.26%). The post harvest losses in farm was 1.93 q (0.72%). The final quantity sold was 261.26 q (98.81%). In second year, there was production of suckers from the mother plant. The total quantity of pineapple and suckers produced were 286.93 q and 40513 numbers. Similar to first year, the quantity used for family consumption and others were less. Out of the total number of suckers produced, 47.08 per cent were used in farm as ratoon and 2.12 per cent of them were discarded due to poor quality. The quantity of pineapple sold was 282.81q (98.56%) and 20579 (50.79%) number of suckers were sold. In the third year total quantity of pineapple and number of suckers produced were 191.1 q and 38685. The post harvest losses of pineapple was 2.07 q which was comparatively higher than the previous years. An average of 4.6 per cent suckers were removed due to poor quality. The final quantity of pineapple sold was 186.34 q (97.55%) and 36905 suckers (95.39%). The above analysis indicates that the marketable surplus for the produce is higher in all the three years which is a major reason for the profitability of pineapple growers in the study area.

Constraints in production and disposal :

The pineapple tenant growers in the study area expressed the constraints faced by them in production as well as disposal of the pineapple fruits. The information pertaining to the problem faced by the growers are presented in Table 2 and 3.

Constraints in production :

The problem of high cost of planting material was the major constraint faced by 75 per cent of the pineapple tenant growers. Since the planting materials were availed from Kerala, the cost per sucker varied from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 due to high transportation cost. Non-availability of hired labour was another constraint reported by 65 per cent of the respondents. They opined that labour availability was not in par with the actual labour requirement. The problem of high cost of fertilizers especially that of mixed fertilizers were reported by 50 per cent of the tenants. About 40 per cent of them faced the problem of non availability of water for irrigation during the months of March, April and May. This problem was experienced by the growers only in the summer period.

Non-availability of quality suckers in the study area was another constraint faced by 35 per cent of the respondents. It is also observed from the Table 2 that 30 per cent of the tenant growers experienced the problem of lack of technical know how. They reported that they lack scientific knowledge and the cultivation was done according to the methods and practises followed by other leading farmers in the study area. About 25 per cent, faced the problem of attack from animals. This constraint was in the case of those growers who lacked solar fencing in their field due to its high establishment cost.

Constraints in disposal :

Majority of pineapple tenant growers (95%) in the study area expressed that wide fluctuation of prices in market hindered their profitability in certain seasons. The price per kg of a fruit varied from an average of Rs.15 to Rs. 25 and the price was reported to be at the bottom during glut in the market. Improper weightment of the produce was another problem indicated by 60 per cent of the growers. The reason for the same is attributed to the involvement of unskilled labour hired by market intermediaries as well owner farmers, for weightment and grading. About 45 per cent pointed out the problem of post harvest lossess at farm level which occurred mainly due to the perishable nature of the pineapple fruits (Subbaraj and Singh, 2003).

Rani *et al.* (2005); Saha (1989) and Singh *et al.* (1990) also worked on the related topic and the results found were more or less similar to present investigation.

Conclusion:

Pineapple is an important commercial fruit crop with high export value. Its food value is high as it contains vitamins A, B and C and minerals like calcium, potassium, magnesium and iron. The high percentage of marketable surplus and better price fetched for the quality produce resulted in high profitability for the sample respondents and this has resulted in increase in area under pineapple cultivation in the study area in recent days. Even though constraints are faced by the tenant growers in production as well as disposal like high cost of suckers, non-availability of hired labour, high cost of fertilizers, fluctuation in market prices, the produce have got high consumer demand mainly in markets of Goa, Mumbai and Delhi.

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