
Costs, Returns and Determinants of Oyster Mushroom Production for Promising Enterprise in West Garo Hills of Meghalaya

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Mushroom farming is one of the most profitable agri-business enterprise for enhancing farm income, generating additional employment and subsistence to nutritional security. An attempt has been made to estimate the cost and returns of growing oyster mushroom in different farm-size categories, to identify various determinants affecting its value of mushroom productivity and to suggest policy measures towards entrepreneurial development in Rongram block in West Garo Hills of Meghalaya. For the purpose of study a sample of 60 oyster mushroom growers are selected and classified into three categories based on their number of polybag beds spawned. The findings of the study revealed that the total cost indicated a declining trend with increase in the size of beds spawned due to economies of scale. The scale of economies are apparent for both fixed and operational costs. On overall basis, the total cost is estimated to be Rs.467 per 5 units of polybag beds spawned and the total operational cost worked out to 83.94 per cent and fixed cost was 16.05 per cent of the total cost. Both the returns over variable cost as well as net returns from mushroom cultivation are directly related to the farm size. It also revealed that the cost of mushroom production decreases with increase in farm size. Thus, larger farmers appear to be using the resources more efficiently as compared to the small farms. The returns from mushroom cultivation showed a positive association with farm size; these being Rs.58/kg, Rs.76/kg and Rs.120/kg for small, medium and large mushroom farms respectively. The coefficients of expenditure on plant protection chemicals and labour for picking and packing operations are positive and significant at one per cent level of significance indicating that with increase in expenditure on these variables by one per cent, the resultant value productivity of mushroom would increase by 0.19 per cent and 0.17 per cent, respectively. It shows that efficient use of plant protection chemicals and labour can further enhance the value productivity of mushroom in a significant way. Efforts should be made to appraise the mushroom growers regarding the usage of appropriate techniques and application of modern inputs for better production of oyster mushroom. Single window approach of input delivery system needs to be encouraged. Mushroom cultivation in Garo Hills region of Meghalaya is found to be economic feasible and can be made more beneficial to reducing the costs of production through implementation of modern techniques, value addition at producer level and necessary steps for efficient marketing of this most promising enterprise.

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Prospects of Emerging Indian Grape Market

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The objective of the present study is to assess the export competitiveness of Indian grapes and policy recommendations for improvement in their export and the destinations as well. To achieve the objectives various tools such as net terms of trade, revealed comparative advantage and Markov chain analysis were applied to export data from 1999-2019 collected from APEDA and FAO. The estimations of net terms of trade and revealed comparative advantage indicated that India has comparative advantage of exporting table grapes to the world. It is evident from the transitional probability matrices developed through Markov chain analysis that Germany is the most loyal buyer for Indian grapes as it retains about 60.28 per cent of its previous years export. Efforts are also needed to improve the efficiency of production and quality of grapes in order to stabilize the markets and also to make the product acceptable and price competitive in other importing countries. Therefore keeping in the lower yield level of Indian grapes as compared to world yield estimates attention should be focused on the market requirement and specifications of stable markets for Indian grapes, namely, Germany and Bangladesh.

Public-Private Partnership for Food Grain Storage: An Opportunity or a Challenge

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India being an agrarian economy 70 per cent of its rural households is dependent primarily on agriculture for their livelihood, with 82 per cent of farmers being small and marginal. As per latest estimates, foodgrain production is likely to rise by 2.66 per cent to a new record of 305.43 million tonnes in the current crop year 2020-21 and in the 2019-20 crop year (July-June), the country's foodgrain output (comprising wheat, rice, pulses and coarse cereals) stood at a record 297.5 million tonnes. Only producing a large quantity of foodgrains is not sufficient to eradicate the hunger of a country with population of 139 crores but it is equally important to distribute it efficiently and for this purpose, proper storage of the foodgrains is required. As foodgrains play an essential role in nourishing the country's population. Therefore, it needs special care like proper storage and transportation. The major problem of food security in Indian agriculture is inadequate infrastructure and lacks an efficient supply chain management. Food grain wastage is an important issue that needs to be addressed in India. According to the United Nations development programme, up to 40 per cent of

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the food produced in India is wasted. Furthermore, India also faces a low percentage (84 per cent) of capacity utilization of total installed capacity of warehouses. As a result 1930.36 tonnes of foodgrains were damaged in 2019-20, which is an issue of major concern. Though the government is trying to provide appropriate storage facilities but it needs some inputs from the private players in the related field with a vision to fill the infrastructural gaps. But the situation is not that good even after the inputs from private players like Adani Agri Logistics Limited, which is a pioneer in bulk handling, storage and transportation (distribution) of food grains, and in providing an end-to-end bulk supply chain solution to Food Corporation of India and various state governments as the silo set up by AALL is proving to be a costly affair for Food Corporation of India (FCI), which has rented it for Rs 3.3 crore on an average for every month (Rs 2,000 per ton per year). It is recommended that the government should set up highly developed silos on the APMC market yards in order to cut the financial costs that are a burden on farmers as well as FCI's pockets.

Financial Feasibility of Investments in Selected Projects under the AC & AMP; ABC Scheme in Gujarat

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The paper attempts to study the financial feasibility of investments in selected projects under the AC and ABC schemes in Gujarat. The study was conducted in entire Gujarat State by taking all the four zones of the Gujarat, namely, Saurashtra, North Gujarat, Middle Gujarat and South Gujarat. Using proportionate random sampling technique a total of 100 established agripreneurs under the AC and ABC scheme were selected and data were collected during the year 2018 to 2020 from established agripreneurs using a structured questionnaire. For analysing the financial feasibility, the five ventures of the each agri-enterprise were selected on the basis of the scale of initial investment and those projects that completed minimum five years of the establishment. The results of the study indicate that majority of the agripreneurs established agriventures by their own investment and were made in the range of "less than or upto 5 lakh". Majority of the selected agriventures like nursery, dairy farming, custom hiring centers and seed processing and marketing were found profitable, economically feasible and financially sound. The study infers that these agriventures provides good income opportunities at various levels of investment.

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