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Abstracts of M.Sc. Theses

M. Lilly (2007), 'An Economic Analysis of Sustainability of Agriculture in Vellore District', Department of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai – 625 104.

Major Advisor: Dr (Mrs) T. Alagumani

The study conducted in Vellore district, has assessed the sustainability of agriculture, based on the primary data relating to the year 2005-06. Conventional analysis such as average, percentage and ratios and economic analysis such as Cobb-Douglas and Stochastic frontier production function have been used to analyse the data. It has been found that more than two-thirds of sample farmers are small and marginal. The paddy has accounted for the maximum (33.6%) cropped area, followed by sugarcane (17.5%), banana (12.2%) and groundnut (11.4%), the other crops being cotton, vegetables, coconut, millets, mulberry and flowers. The overall cropping intensity has been found as 104.75 per cent.

The value of agricultural sustainability index has been found as 0.28 for Alangayam and 0.32 for Kaveripakkam blocks. It has clearly indicated that agricultural was tending towards unsustainability in the area. It has been mainly due to low crop diversity, more use of chemical inputs and yield instability The mean technical efficiency has been found to vary between 77 per cent and 83 per cent, which indicates that on an average, the realized output can be raised by 17-23 per cent without any additional resources.

The problems faced by sample farmers in crop production were natural calamity, water scarcity, problem soil, labour scarcity, non-availability of seeds and fertilizers, pests and diseases, high cost of cultivation and lack of marketing facilities.

The study has revealed that there is a need to promote the application of biological and chemical fertilizers in a balanced way, so as to maintain soil structure and sustain/increase crop yields.

J.B. Tawale (2007), 'Economics of Production and Marketing of Rainfed and Irrigated *Rabi* Jowar in Osmanabad District of Maharashtra', Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani – 431 402.

Major Advisor: Dr B. R. Pawar

The profitability, resource-use efficiency, price spread in marketing and product preferences in consumption of *rabi*-jowar have been studied based on the data pertaining to agricultural year 2006-2007. The results have revealed the productivity of *rabi*-jowar per hectare to be 12.86 q on rainfed and 18.50 q on irrigated farms; with the net profit of Rs 1261/ha on rainfed and Rs 2519/ha on irrigated farms. The estimates of Cobb-Doughlas production function have revealed that in the rainfed *rabi* – jowar production, elasticities with respect to nitrogen, phosphorus and manure were positively significant, while in the case of irrigated *rabi*-jowar, elasticities with respect to bullock labour, nitrogen, phosphorus, manure and irrigation were positively significant.

In the *rabi*-jowar marketing, producer-wholesaler-retailer-consumer has been found the most important channel, with marketing cost of Rs 78 and margin of Rs 74/q. Thus, price spread was Rs 152/q, while price paid by the consumer was Rs 1008/q, revealing that the net price received by producer was Rs 856/q. It has been observed that consumer's preference to ambil, bhakari, chaklya and *papadya* products was in high aggregate cluster which was named as frequently consumption dimension. In the next order, *chick*, *sanjya*, *dhapate*, *ghugrya*, *dirde* and *thalipit* products were preferred in the medium aggregate cluster which was called as occasionally consumption deminsion. And finally, *lahya*, *kanya* and *shengule* were preferred in low aggregate cluster which was designated as rearely consumption dimension.