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An analytical study on banana cultivation on employment generation and poverty alleviation of Bihar

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Abstract

Banana cultivation sector Play an important role in the state economy and socio economic upliftment of the state. A large number of farmers of farmers in India depend on banana cultivation for their livelihood. Banana cultivation has been an important source of livelihood for small farmers. They contributed about 5-7% to their income, more so in states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar. Naturally there is a large scope banana cultivation. A part of agriculture banana cultivation is one of the key sectors which play an important role in employment generation and poverty alleviation for the rural masses of Bihar. Though, banana cultivation is the prime source of livelihood in rural Bihar, it is characterized by subsistence, low input low output, technologically lagged mixed farming systems and is dominated by small farmers. The major challenge of animal husbandry sector in Bihar is that a huge amount of banana cultivation are environmentally unproductive or less productive.

Keywords: Banana cultivation, employment generation, income, livelihood, agriculture development, rural area

Introduction

Banana is the best-known, healthy, delicious and tropical fruit. It contains several essential nutrients and has benefits for digestion, heart health and weight loss. The banana of India is variable in size usually elongated and curved. It is variable in size, color and firmness usually elongated and curved, with soft flesh rich in starch covered with green, yellow, red, purple, or brown in colour when ripe. It is a wealthy source of carbohydrate with calorific value of 67 calories per 100 g fruit and is one of the well-liked and widely traded fruits across the world (Anonymous, 2011) ^[1] It is a rich source of human nutrition bearing carbohydrate, potassium and vitamins, including A, C and B6. They are a good source of fat-free dietary fiber and the first solid food fed to infant. It is one of the economically important fruit crops grown in India in both homestead and commercial farms (Government of Bihar, 2014-201) ^[4]. It is the fourth most important staple food of the world after rice, wheat and maize. In Banana production India has first rank in the world. In agriculture, the production of fruits and vegetables are of so vital importance that it provide three to four time more income than cereals per unit of land. The fruit crops hold a great promise for accelerating income of the farmers. Realizing the importance of fruit cultivation many farmers are diverting their resources towards plantation of fruit crops. Area under fruit crops is, therefore, increasing day by day (Srivastava, P. K, 2000) ^[7] Banana could be considered as poor man's apple and it is available throughout the year unlike seasonal availability of other fruits. Bihar is located in the Northern-Eastern part of the country between latitude 24°-20'-10" N ~ 27°-31'-15" N and longitude 82°-19'-50" E ~ 88°-17'-40" E. It is an entirely land-locked state, in Sub Tropical region of Temperate zone. Bihar lies mid-way between the humid West Bengal in the east and the sub humid Uttar Pradesh in the west which provides it with a transitional position in respect of climate, economy and culture. It is bounded by Nepal in the north and by Jharkhand in the south. Bihar is cold in the winter, the lowest temperatures being around 0-10 degrees Celsius. Winter months are December and January. It is hot in the summer with average highs around 35-40 Celsius. April to mid June are the hot months. The monsoon months of June, July, August, and September see good rainfall.

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October & November and February & March have pleasant climate.

Bihar is the leading state in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. Hazipur and Bhagalpur districts in Bihar are famous for the banana cultivation due to the interest of farmers as well as the soil configuration along with favorable climatic condition. Among the states, Maharashtra is the largest producer followed by Tamil Nadu. Productivity of Maharashtra is 65.7 ton/ha, which is more than the average national production of 34.1 ton/ha. Banana is grown in Bihar in around 27.2 thousand hectare, production is around 550 thousand tons and average productivity is 20.0 ton/ha, which is very less than the national average. Bihar state rank in banana production in India is seven where area is 34.31 thousand hectare and production is 1435.78 thousand M.T. the banana in the state has been reportedly being cultivated under traditional manner (NHB, 2017-18). By and large, the farmers are cultivating only the traditional varieties of banana. The profitability of the banana products has not been quite substantial. In addition to several problems in production of banana, some other problem poses a severe threat to banana producers. These are regional variations in costs, returns and resource use efficiency. Further, within the regions there is variation among different farm size groups. Perishability is one of the important constraints in banana production and marketing. Processing opportunities are absent to a great extent. Therefore the value addition is not achieved and further the quality of banana deteriorates so fast and hence remunerative prices for banana are not obtained. The price behavior in banana crop has been violently fluctuating and the farmers are put to great loss and the consumer is also not benefited. The major share of the consumer's price is reportedly taken away by middleman and other intermediaries. Co-operative efforts are lacking in marketing and processing. A thorough review of status of banana production, marketing and exports has revealed that there exist several gaps in the knowledge and information on all the above issue.

Banana Cultivation and Employment Generation: The profitability of banana production depends upon the income generating capacity and cost structure of the enterprises. However, much information is not available on the economic aspect of banana cultivation at micro level. So far no systematic studies have been conducted on the economics of production and marketing of banana in Bihar. Hence a study encompassing the above-mentioned issues is a felt need and it is quite justified in taking up such a study. In order to find the solution to some of the problems discussed above, the present study will be completed in Bihar. Banana is quite a remunerative horticultural crop which is mostly grown in northern Bihar. In southern Bihar (south of Ganges), commercial cultivation of banana is generally not in practice. Drip irrigation in banana has also been reported to be economical (Ray, P.K, 2007)^[8]. Hence, Banana (*Musa sp.*) was selected as target crop for introduction and assessment of drip irrigation. Success of such intervention can open new vistas not only for crop diversification but also for improvement in livelihood of the farmers (Singh, H.P., and Uma, S, 2007)^[9].

Review of Literature: History of Banana growing is intimately connected with man's struggle for food. Indeed,

many consider the banana to be one of earliest food of the man. The earliest known written references are from India in the Pali Buddhist Canon of 500-600 B.C. Banana entered into World commerce in the later part of the nineteenth century. Systematic research on the subject commenced in the 1930's but it was not until fifties that any substantial volume of reliable information emerged. Since Central and South American countries, the Caribbean Islands, In India, research on- improvement of fruit crops may be said to have commenced from 1929 when the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (I.C.A.R.) sanctioned a number of schemes for operation in different parts of the country. Investigations were taken up in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala which were important banana growing areas (Vigneshwara, V, 1988)^[10]. Later such activities were extended to other areas.

Objectives of the study

- To ascertain the present economic status of Bihar.
- To observe marketing strategies to increase sales volume of banana.
- To observe strategies for increasing the production of banana.
- To determine behavior of farmers, customers, retailers about banana for employment generation.
- To assess the importance of banana cultivation in the poverty alleviation of Bihar.
- To determine strains and factors affecting the banana cultivation.
- To analyze all the aspects of Market strategies.
- Market analysis and to give conclusion on all above given subject matters.

Research Methodology: Tools and research methodology in order to complete the study would be adopted taking into primary and secondary data tools which are as follows:

(i) Primary data tools: Its source are Producers (farmer) customers, retailers and distributors. The data would be collected through the survey and observation. The survey method would be used because it is the most useful method to know the availability of the banana against the others. The customer would be chosen randomly for this purpose. The structural interviews are to be conducted with the help of questionnaire. The separate questionnaire are to be designed for the farmers and labourers after asking questions in a proper sequence. A part for this keen observation would also help in the compilation regarding the poverty alleviation.

(ii) Secondary Data Tools: It is to be collected from The data about the Agro-Biological factors, economic factors, marketing factors, suitability of soil, profitability, ready market, regular market, income from by-product were collected from the sample growers. The information regarding the state, districts, blocks and villages were obtained from the published data of the Directorate Economics and Statistics, National Horticultural Board, District Horticultural Office and Block Office. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically.

Selection of Site: Bihar is India's third largest state with a

population of 10.4 crores. It's economy has grown at 11% per annum between 2004-05 and 2010-11 with agriculture and related activities growing at 4% p.a. Primarily rural and agrarian, with high levels of landlessness and land fragmentation, high dependency on agriculture and high levels of seasonal migration. Three-fourths of the state prone to seasonal flooding. Bihar, State has recorded impressive rates of growth i.e. 10% since 2005. In spite of exemplary growth between financial years 2004-05 and 2009-10, there was hardly any reduction in poverty. But that in recent years poverty declined by 20%. Agricultural output declined by 11% in 2009-10 as the state faced a serious drought. Selection of respondents in Hajipur and Bhagalpur district will be selected on the basis of highest quantity of banana production in and employment generation. Selection will be based on multi-stage-technique and pre-tested schedules / primary data.

Hypothesis: Perception and exception of the consumer towards banana has become an important area for being explored because this is one section where organization unit is primarily concerned. The hypothetical assumption of this study is that the consumers have a positive perception and linking towards the cultivation of banana which is very much helpful in the employment generation and poverty alleviation of Bihar. This area could be explored further for the purpose of gaining engagement of laboureres and large market share. Hence this is one section which could be explored for the employment generation and economic upliftment of this state. The others are as follows:

- To study the banana marketing in the national and international market.
- To study the customers as well as venders perception towards the market.
- The study is to be conducted based on assumption/ beliefs the banana farmers have a strong means of poverty alleviation due to appropriate rate of banana of different varieties.
- Entire study to be designed to test the level of employment and poverty in this state i.e. Bihar.

Limitations of the study

There may be some limitations which are as follows:

- The survey work will be confined to Bihar specially Hajipur and Bhagalpur district which is the main quality producer of banana in Bihar
- They may be time constraint since this survey has to be completed in a limit period of time (2019-2021).
- With large population covering Bihar the sample size will be not more than 50 to complete the data from each district.
- The survey period will cover limited domestic and national market. It is not possible to cover the international market to have a desired result.
- We have to rely on the information provided by the primary and the secondary data and its accuracy can not be judged at digital level.
- Some people may hesitate to give the answer.
- Internal and external interference conditions may be faced during the data collection with the customers interviews.
- Varieties of banana could be popularized and promoted at a broad level in view of larger demand.

Plan of the Study

1. Introduction- This chapter will cover present demography, economic status and banana cultivation areas of Bihar after the survey of different banana growing area of Bihar.
2. Review of Literature- It will cover the History of banana cultivation in India, Bihar and in the Hajipur and Bhagalpur.
3. Research Methodology: This chapter will cover the detailed methodologies to be adopted for the compilation of data.
4. Banana business and Employment generation- it will cover the present employment status of Bihar and the . impact banana cultivation on rural economy.
5. Cultivation, Harvesting and Marketing of Banana.
6. Banana cultivation and poverty alleviation of farmers and the labourers.
7. Results and Discussion.
8. Present problems and future challenges of banana cultivation in Bihar
9. Conclusion and Recommendations.
10. References.

Genesis and dealing out

- The edible banana is believed to have genisised in the hot, tropical regions south-East state of india. Bihar is believed to be one of the centers of genesis of banana.
- It's farming is distributed throughout the warmer states and is confined to regions between 30'N and 30'S of the equator.
- Banana is also grown, in many other states of the India namely Tamil Nadu, Keral, Andhra etc.

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