



A Study on Level of Input and Economics of Production of Groundnut in Gujarat

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Groundnut, popularly known as peanut, which is one of the important *kharif* oilseed crop and its botanical name is *Arachis hypogea*. India ranks second next to China in terms of production. During 2019-20, groundnut was cultivated under 31.57 million hectares producing 53.64 million tonnes groundnuts in the world. India ranked first in term of area, with 15.30 per cent share to the world acreage followed by China (14.57%) and Nigeria (12.89%). Keeping all these things in view, the researcher has decided to conduct a study entitled to study level of input and economics of production of groundnut in Gujarat and objective of the study was to study level of input and economics of production for groundnut. A multistage sampling was adopted as appropriate sampling procedure for the study. In the first stage, out of thirty-three districts, seven districts were selected purposively according to the highest command area of groundnut cultivation. In the second stage, two talukas from each selected district were chosen purposively. In the third stage, two villages from each selected taluka were selected randomly. In the fourth stage, twelve respondents were selected randomly from each selected village. Thus, a total of 336 respondents were selected for the study. As regards analytical tools, following techniques were used to analyse the stipulated objectives, *i.e.* calculation of cost and returns, Cobb-Douglas production function and MVP/MC ratio. All type of farm size group used more groundnut seeds than the recommended seed rate except marginal farmers. Nitrogen and Phosphorus usage were higher than the recommended doses by all type of

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farm size group. Manure usage were half of the recommended doses by selected farmers. Medium, semi medium and large farmers return per ha over cost A and cost B was higher than small and marginal farmers. Input-output ratio was observed highest in case of large farmers (1.69) over cost C₂, followed by medium farmers (1.68). Farmers over utilize of inputs for groundnut production like seed, fertilizer, bullock labour and irrigation, Whereas, farmers underutilize of inputs for groundnut production like farm equipment, PPC, human labour and manure. Farmers of the selected area were ignoring recommended package of practices and new technologies. Hence, proper and timely training should be provided to groundnut farmers to create awareness about recommended package of practices and new technologies to the groundnut farmers by involving the extension activities and extension personnel through arranging farmers meetings, field level demonstrations, meeting with progressive farmers etc.

Keywords: Production function; cost of cultivation; efficiency.

1. INTRODUCTION

Groundnut, popularly known as peanut, which is one of the important *kharif* oilseed crop and the botanical name is *Arachis hypogea*. The word "groundnut" is derived from two Greek words, 'Arachis' meaning a legume and 'hypogea,' meaning below ground, referring to the pods in the soil and occupied a significant position in the agricultural economy of the country. Groundnut is thought to have originated in Brazil and is later grown in Peru, Argentina, and Ghana. It was introduced into India during the first half of 16th century [1]. South Arcot district (Madras) was the first place in India where it was originally grown on a significant scale at about 4,000 acres during 1850-51. Thereafter, groundnut gained recognition as popular oil seed in the nation and spread from meager 0.36 million hectares during the decade ending 1909-10 [2] to current 4.83 million hectares in 2019-20, with a maximum of 8.71 million hectares during 1992-93. Likewise, its production increased from 0.39 to 9.95 million tonnes in respective periods, with a maximum of 9.95 million tonnes during 2019-20 (<http://www.fao.org/faostat/en>). In India, Gujarat is the leading groundnut producing state with 4645.50 thousand tonnes (2019-20) accounting for 46.68 percent of total production. Rajasthan ranked second with production of 1619.30 thousand tonnes, followed by Tamil Nadu (1033.00 thousand tonnes) and Andhra Pradesh (848.80 thousand tonnes). Area under groundnut is highest in the state of Gujarat (1688.70 thousand hectare), followed by Rajasthan (739.00 thousand hectare), Andhra Pradesh (661.00 thousand hectare) and Karnataka (504.00 thousand hectare) (<https://eands.dacnet.nic.in/>). Little work done on the economics aspects of cultivation of groundnut. There is a greater variation in the cost of cultivations from one region to another.

Farmers cannot calculate proper cost of cultivations for that they have less information regarding the profit from the cultivation.

Braj and Singh [3] stated that size group 2 ha and above highest cost of groundnut production INR80010.00/ha, followed by 1-2 ha INR71586.22/ha, and 0-1 ha INR62143.81/ha. Causes for these variations include manures and fertilizers, irrigation facilities, intercropping practices, and good farm management differences. Size group 2 ha and above highest net return INR42840/ha, followed by 1-2 ha was INR36213.78/ha, and 0-1 ha was INR26006.19. The per hectare average input output 1:1.49 and highest input output ratio was 2 ha and above 1:1.53 followed by 1-2 ha 1:1.50 and 0-1 ha 1:1.42 and per farm net return 2 ha and above highest INR114382.80 followed by 1-2 ha INR52872.11 and 0-1 ha INR15733.74, input output ratio was 1:1.42, 1:1.50 and 1:1.53, respectively which are so the increasing trend with the increasing size of holdings.

Naidu et al. [4] calculated the cost of production per hectare, gross revenue, net income from farm investments, cost of production and input to output ratio of groundnut were calculated overall farm level. The findings showed that small, medium, and large farmers paid, INR63537.0/ha, INR61115.0/ha and INR59455.0/ha, respectively in costs. Small, medium, and large farmers each received a gross return of INR83130/ha, INR85575/ha and INR89487/ha, respectively. Small (1:1.37), medium (1:1.46), and large (1:1.56) were the input-output ratios per hectare, respectively. The farmer profit estimates were INR86064 per hectare.

Patel (2021) analysed the costs and returns associated with using resources, their productivity, and how efficiently resources were

used. The study found that the average cost per hectare for *kharif* groundnut was INR49562.36. The average per-hectare costs A and B were calculated to be INR30340.84 and INR43457.36, respectively. The rental value of the land, manure, hired labour, and seed were the major components of the cost of agriculture. At the aggregate level, the marginal value product to factor cost ratio (MVP/MC) for human labour (X_1), bullock labour (X_2), seed (X_4), manures (X_5), and plant protection (X_{10}) were found to be greater than unity, suggesting that these input resources should be increased for better response in terms of yield.

Rawal [15] studied an economic analysis of resource use efficiency of groundnut in Chhattisgarh plains. The cost of cultivation of groundnut was found to be INR35560.37 per hectare. The overall yield of groundnut in the study area was 11.10 quintal per hectare. The input – output ratio was 1:1.56. The allocative resource use efficiency for groundnut production under the category of overall farmers MVP to FC ratio was less than unity for land (0.0011) followed by human labour (0.1069), manure and fertilizer (0.0981), irrigation (0.0027), and plant protection chemicals (0.0003) indicated over utilization of these resources, whereas MVP to FC ratio was more than unity for Seed (1.0540) indicated underutilization of resource.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A multistage sampling was adopted as appropriate sampling procedure for the study. In the first stage, out of thirty-three districts, seven districts were selected purposively according to the highest command area of groundnut cultivation. In the second stage, two talukas from each selected district were chosen purposively. In the third stage, two villages from each selected taluka were selected randomly. In the fourth stage, twelve respondents were selected randomly from each selected village. Thus, a total of 336 respondents were selected purposively based on farm category i.e. marginal farmers (<1 ha), small farmers (1-2 ha), semi-medium farmers (2-4 ha), medium farmers (4-10 ha) and large farmers (>10 ha) for the study. The study was mainly based on the primary data. The primary data were collected by personal interview method, using a structured, pre-tested schedule of enquiry. Total production costs comprise of fixed and operational costs. Although the cash expenses such as buying of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, plant protection material, etc.,

were directly observed, but utilization of his fixed assets (like land, machinery, implements, etc.) and owned inputs like family labour (FL) in production are also accounted to give a realistic picture of the total costs incurred. In addition to fixed and operational costs, the cost concepts (Costs A, B, C) used by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is presented in this section. The different cost items that are included under each cost concept are detailed below with their imputation procedures. The cost concepts in brief, are Cost A, Cost B, Cost C1 and Cost C2. Here, Cost A is also referring as operating cost or paid out cost. The farm management cost concept approach is widely used in India for evaluating crop profitability in production.

2.1 Functional Analysis

The Cobb-Douglas type of production function was used to study the effect of various inputs on groundnut output. It being a homogenous function provided a scale factor enabling to measure the returns to scale. The estimated regression coefficients represented the production elasticities. The form of Cobb-Douglas production function used in the present study was as follows.

$$Y_u = a X_1^{b_1} X_2^{b_2} X_3^{b_3} X_4^{b_4} X_5^{b_5} X_6^{b_6} X_7^{b_7} e$$

Where,

- Y = Gross returns (INR /ha)
- a = Intercept (efficiency) term
- X_1 = Expenditure on seeds (INR /ha)
- X_2 = Expenditure on FYM (INR /ha)
- X_3 = Human labour expenditure (INR /ha)
- X_4 = Bullock labour expenditure (INR/ha)
- X_5 = Charges for machineries (INR /ha)
- X_6 = Expenditure on Fertilizer (INR /ha)
- X_7 = Expenditure on PPC (INR /ha)
- e = Error term
- b_i 's = Output elasticities of respective inputs, $i = 1, 2, 7$

The Cobb-Douglas production function was converted into log linear form and parameters (coefficients) were estimated by employing Ordinary Least Square Technique (OLS).

The logarithmic form of equation was given below.

$$\log Y = \log a + b_1 \log X_1 + b_2 \log X_2 + b_3 \log X_3 + b_4 \log X_4 + b_5 \log X_5 + b_6 \log X_6 + b_7 \log X_7 + u$$

The regression coefficients (bi's) were tested using 't' test at chosen level of significance. Marginal physical productivity of inputs from the most appropriate groundnut production function i.e. Cobb-Douglas in the present case was worked out by the following formula,

(i) Marginal Physical Product (MPP):

$$MPP = b \frac{\bar{Y}_i}{\bar{X}_i}$$

Where,

\bar{Y}_i = Arithmetic mean of output Y
 \bar{X}_i = Arithmetic mean of i^{th} input
 b_i = Regression coefficient of i^{th} input

(ii) Marginal Cost (MC):

MC = Price per unit of input

After estimating the MVP, the resource use efficiency of different resources was evaluated with the help of MVP to factor price (Px) ratio as under

MVP/MC = 1 Optimum use of resource
 MVP/MC < 1 Excess utilization of resource
 MVP/MC > 1 Underutilization of resource

Henry Garrett's ranking technique was used to evaluate the problems faced by the respondents. The orders of merit given by the respondents were converted in to rank by using the formula. To find out the most significant factor which influences the respondent, Garrett's ranking technique was used. The factors having highest mean value is considered to be the most important factor.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Level of Input Used for Groundnut Production

Input management assumes critical importance in groundnut production and makes use of critical inputs which was essential for the optimum production of groundnut. The quantitative figure of inputs used by selected groundnut farmers, directly affect the cost of cultivation and therefore, the use of various inputs viz; Human labour, bullock power, charges for machineries,

seeds, manures, fertilizers, irrigations, micronutrients and plant protection measures studied and presented in the Table 1.

It is shown from the Table 1 that, overall farm level per hectare utilization of groundnut seeds were 126.99 kg. Among the different category of farmers, it was the highest in the case of large farmers (133.33 kg) followed by semi medium farmers (129.24 kg), small farmers (127.52 kg), medium farmers (125.88 kg) and marginal farmers (116.79 kg). The human labour per hectare used by small farmers were 59.64 man-days, followed by Marginal farmers (56.80 man-days), semi medium farmers (53.51 man-days), medium farmers (52.45 man-days) and large farmers (50.86 man-days). The overall farmers per hectare human labour use was 48.23 man-days. From the total human labour, family labour man-days was decreased with increase land holding of farmer and hired labour man days was increased with increase land holding. The use of bullock labour in pair days was for the medium farmers was 3.19 days, followed by large farmers (2.98 days), small farmers (2.79 days), marginal farmer (2.62 days) and semi medium farmer (2.57 days). It was observed that medium and large farmers were used bullock labour more than small, marginal and semi medium farmers. 2.83 pair days bullock labour was used by overall category farmers. The charges for machineries incurred by small farmers were observed highest with 10284.48 INR followed by semi medium farmers (INR9617.54), small farmers (INR9560.26), medium farmers (INR9528.66) and large farmers (INR9332.81). The charges for machineries incurred by overall category farmers were INR9740.36. In general, for obtaining high yield of groundnut application of well decomposed farmyard manure @ 10 tonnes/ha at least 21 days before sowing. The manure used by semi medium farmers was 5.16 tonnes/ha followed by medium farmers (4.15 tonnes/ha), marginal farmers (3.52 tonnes/ha), large farmers (3.01 tonnes/ha) and small farmers (2.98 tonnes/ha) which was lesser than the half of the recommended manure (10.00 tonnes/ha) resulted in decrease the productivity of groundnut. Groundnut, beings a leguminous crop, is capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen by the root nodule bacteria. Application of nitrogenous fertilizers is not required but lower doses of nitrogen would be sufficient to raise a good crop. For an irrigated crop, nitrogen may be applied in two equal splits at sowing and 30 days after sowing. Nitrogen used by semi medium farmers was 59.39 kg per ha, followed by large

farmers (57.59 kg/ha), medium farmers (55.27 kg/ha), small farmers (53.02 kg/ha) and marginal farmers (48.35 kg/ha) and it was 55.60 kg/ha for overall category farmers. Nitrogen usage was higher than the recommended doses (25-37.5 kg/ha) by all type of farm size group, which indicates that the overutilization of nitrogen and due to this reason increases in the cost of cultivation. Phosphorus fertilizer used by the large farmers was 65.77 kg/ha followed by small farmers (65.57 kg/ha), marginal farmers (64.25 kg/ha), semi medium farmers (63.48 kg/ha) and medium farmers (61.83 Kg/ha) over the recommended dose of 50-60 kg per ha, which indicate that consumption of phosphorus fertilizer was higher than the recommended doses. Potash fertilizer used by the medium farmers was 24.28 kg per ha followed by semi medium farmers (23.50 kg/ha), marginal farmers (22.04 kg/ha) small farmers (20.88 kg/ha) and large farmers (14.43 kg/ha). The use of potash fertilizer was at par with the recommended level (0-30 kg/ha). However, if the fertilizer usage pattern of selected groundnut farmers compared with recommended levels of major nutrients indicates the excess use of phosphorus and nitrogen by sample growers, while manure usage by selected farmers was lower than the recommended level due to higher cost of manure and not timely available of manure. Lower usage of manure and excess usage of N and P resulted in less production per ha of groundnut and reduces the soil fertility of groundnut farmers. Patel [6] found that the use of fertilizer was more than the recommended dose of N and P. The farmers from large size group had used more fertilizers than small and medium size groups.

As observed from the Table 1, per ha irrigation expenses was INR1822.91 by large farmers followed by marginal farmers (INR1737.54), semi medium farmers (INR1718.75), small farmers (INR1715.60) and medium farmers (INR1710.73). Patel [6] conducted study on production and marketing of groundnut and indicated that the charges for irrigation was INR230.14, INR 210.00 and INR197.20 for large, medium and small farmers, respectively.

Plant protection charges of medium farmers was INR3227.90, followed by large farmers (INR3162.51), marginal farmers (INR3049.77), semi medium farmers (INR2863.54) and small farmers (INR2854.19). Kaur [7] conducted study on production and marketing of groundnut and indicated that the number of sprays of plant

protection chemicals performed on large, medium and small farms was 2.57, 2.08 and 1.57 sprays respectively with an average of 1.92 sprays. Also, found that cost of the plant protection chemicals was INR1334.79, INR1105.61 and INR979.96 per acre for large, medium and small farmers, respectively.

It is shown from the Table 1 that at the overall level, per ha total human labour required for groundnut was 48.23 man-days. The use of bullock power, charges for machinery, seeds, irrigation charges and manures for groundnut was 2.83 pair days, INR9740.36/ha, 126.99 kg/ha, INR1722.00/ha and 4.52 tonnes/ha, respectively. Among different fertilizers used, the use of nitrogen (55.60 Kg/ha) and phosphorus (63.69 kg/ha) were more than recommended level. The selected sample farmers used potash fertilizer at par. However, if the fertilizer uses pattern of groundnut compared with recommended levels of major nutrients indicates the excess use of nitrogen and phosphorus by sample farmers. Kaur [7] conducted study on production and marketing of groundnut and indicated that The use of human labour, seeds, irrigation application, and fertilizers for groundnut was 79.95 hours/acre, 42.35 kg/acre, 1.13 No./acre and 107.83 kg/acre, respectively.

3.2 Cost and Returns of Groundnut Production of Selected Farmers in Gujarat'

Table 2 showed that cost of cultivation per hectare of selected overall groundnut farmers i.e., working cost, cost A, cost B, cost C₁ and cost C₂ was worked out to INR42819.05, INR50707.47, INR68448.27, INR75082.20 and INR82590.42 respectively. Working cost, cost A, cost B and cost C₁ were 51.85, 61.40, 82.88 and 90.91 per cent of the cost C₂, respectively.

From the different items of cost, seed was the major item of expenditure in cost A which accounted for INR11872.45 (14.38%) followed by charges for machinery INR9740.36 (11.79%), depreciation on farm building and implements INR5376.71 (6.51%), hired human labour INR7368.80 (8.92%), value of manure INR3731.25 (4.52%), value of pesticides and insecticides INR2948.84 (3.57%) and interest on working cost INR2511.70 (3.04%). The cost of fertilizer, value of bullock labour, irrigation charges and seed treatment cost were INR2245.08 (2.72%), INR2232.97 (2.70%), INR1722.01 (2.08%) and INR118.65 (0.14%), respectively.

Table 1. Level of input used for groundnut production

Sr. No.	Particulars (per ha)	Recommended doses (per ha)	Farm size group					Over all
			Marginal	Small	Semi medium	Medium	Large	
1	Total human labour (Man-Day)		56.80	58.58	53.51	52.45	50.86	48.23
	(i) Family labour		32.00	27.76	22.93	20.94	13.66	18.75
	(ii) Hired labour		24.80	30.82	30.57	31.50	37.19	29.47
2	Bullock (Pair-days)		2.62	2.79	2.57	3.19	2.97	2.83
3	Charges for machineries (INR)		10284.48	9560.26	9617.54	9528.66	9332.81	9740.35
4	Manure (tonnes)	10 tonnes	3.51	4.78	5.15	4.14	3.00	4.52
5	Seed (kg)	100-120 kg	116.78	127.52	129.24	125.87	133.33	126.98
6	Fertilizer (kg)							
	N (kg)	25-37.50 kg	48.35	53.02	59.39	55.27	57.58	55.60
	P (kg)	50-60 kg	64.25	65.56	63.47	61.82	65.77	63.69
	K (kg)	0-30 kg	22.04	20.88	23.50	24.27	14.43	22.50
7	Irrigation charges (INR)		1737.54	1715.60	1718.75	1710.73	1822.91	1722.00
8	Plant protection charges (INR) (₹)		3049.77	2854.19	2863.54	3227.89	3162.51	2948.83

Table 2. Cost and returns of groundnut production of selected farmers in Gujarat

Sr. No.	Particulars	Small INR(%)	Marginal INR(%)	Semi medium INR(%)	Medium INR(%)	Large INR(%)	Overall INR(%)
1	Value of hired human labour	6200.12 (7.74)	7705.20 (9.17)	7644.12 (9.24)	7875.63 (9.54)	9299.04 (10.99)	7368.80 (8.92)
2	Value of bullock labour	2215.19 (2.76)	2240.78 (2.67)	2092.60 (2.53)	2559.63 (3.10)	2389.50 (2.82)	2232.97 (2.70)
3	Value of seeds (kg)	11154.48 (13.92)	12109.68 (14.42)	11968.50 (14.46)	12309.87 (14.91)	12373.92 (14.62)	11872.45 (14.38)
4	Seed treatment (gm)	75.11 (0.09)	103.53 (0.12)	138.15 (0.17)	123.09 (0.15)	113.10 (0.13)	118.65 (0.14)
5	Value of manure (tonne)	3262.26 (4.07)	3872.50 (4.61)	4163.76 (5.03)	3326.03 (4.03)	2391.21 (2.83)	3731.25 (4.52)
6	Value of fertilizer	2248.42 (2.81)	2243.15 (2.67)	2265.90 (2.74)	2203.05 (2.67)	2151.84 (2.54)	2245.08 (2.72)
	N (kg)	302.94 (0.38)	325.59 (0.39)	355.93 (0.43)	329.51 (0.40)	341.17 (0.40)	329.08 (0.40)
	P (kg)	1570.16 (1.96)	1578.42 (1.88)	1527.04 (1.85)	1484.48 (1.80)	1579.41 (1.87)	1551.67 (1.88)
	K (kg)	375.32 (0.47)	339.14 (0.40)	382.92 (0.46)	389.06 (0.47)	231.26 (0.27)	364.34 (0.44)
7	Value of pesticides and insecticides	3049.77 (3.81)	2854.19 (3.40)	2863.54 (3.46)	3227.90 (3.91)	3162.51 (3.74)	2948.84 (3.57)
8	Irrigation charges	1737.54 (2.17)	1715.60 (2.04)	1718.75 (2.08)	1710.74 (2.07)	1822.92 (2.15)	1722.01 (2.08)
9	Charges for machineries	10284.48 (12.84)	9560.26 (11.38)	9617.54 (11.62)	9528.66 (11.54)	9332.81 (11.03)	9740.36 (11.79)
10	Other paid out expenses if any	1020.00 (1.27)	785.00 (0.93)	820.00 (0.99)	760.00 (0.92)	920.00 (1.09)	838.66 (1.02)
	Working capital (Rs.)	41247.37 (51.48)	43189.89 (51.42)	43292.86 (52.31)	43624.59 (52.83)	43956.84 (51.94)	42819.05 (51.85)
11	Depreciation on farm building and implements	3631.01 (4.53)	5932.18 (7.06)	5780.38 (6.98)	5869.23 (7.11)	9740.00 (11.51)	5376.71 (6.51)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Small INR(%)	Marginal INR(%)	Semi medium INR(%)	Medium INR(%)	Large INR(%)	Overall INR(%)
12	Interest on working capital	2409.14 (3.01)	2538.08 (3.02)	2540.08 (3.07)	2564.49 (3.11)	2575.42 (3.04)	2511.70 (3.04)
Cost A		47287.52 (59.02)	51660.15 (61.51)	51613.33 (62.36)	52058.31 (63.04)	56272.26 (66.49)	50707.47 (61.40)
13	Rental value of owned land	15625.00 (19.50)	15599.80 (18.57)	15739.29 (19.02)	15625.00 (18.92)	14791.67 (17.48)	15639.21 (18.94)
14	Interest on fixed capital assets	1925.60 (2.40)	2153.20 (2.56)	2151.97 (2.60)	2149.42 (2.60)	2453.17 (2.90)	2101.59 (2.54)
Cost B		64838.12 (80.92)	69413.15 (82.64)	69504.58 (83.98)	69832.73 (84.57)	73517.10 (86.87)	68448.27 (82.88)
15	Imputed value of family labour	8000.00 (9.98)	6941.53 (8.26)	5733.52 (6.93)	5237.18 (6.34)	3416.67 (4.04)	6633.93 (8.03)
Cost C1		72838.12 (90.91)	76354.68 (90.91)	75238.09 (90.91)	75069.91 (90.91)	76933.76 (90.91)	75082.20 (90.91)
16	Managerial charge	7283.91 (9.09)	7635.62 (9.09)	7523.79 (9.09)	7506.95 (9.09)	7693.33 (9.09)	7508.22 (9.09)
Cost C2		80122.03 (100.00)	83990.30 (100.00)	82761.89 (100.00)	82576.87 (100.00)	84627.10 (100.00)	82590.42 (100.00)

The contribution of rental value of owned land and interest on fixed capital assets in cost B were INR15639.21 (18.94%) and INR2101.59 (2.54%) respectively. The cost of family labour was INR6633.93 (8.03%) and managerial charges for farm was INR7508.22 (9.09%).

Yield of main produce was 25.25 quintal per hectare and by produce was 18.76 quintal per hectare. The return from main produce and by produce were INR128557.12 and INR7502.38 respectively. The total gross return from one hectare of groundnut farm was INR136059.50. These findings were in consonance with Raut [8] and Kaur [7].

3.3 Input-output Ratio of Selected Farmers of Groundnut

Table 3 showed that highest gross return per hectare was INR 143341.2 by the large farmers followed by medium farmers (INR138822.2), small farmers (INR137437.5), semi medium farmers (INR137225.6) and marginal farmers (INR130913). It has been observed that Medium, semi medium and large farmers return per ha over cost A and cost B was higher than small and marginal farmers. Similar observations expressed by Chandraskehar [9]. Return per ha over cost C₁ and C₂ were increased with

increase the land holding of farmers. The variation in different cost and return was high on all type of farmers which has been resulted into vast difference in cost of cultivation and return over different cost of kharif groundnut in all types of farmers under study area and similar result was found by Patel [6].

Input-output ratio was observed highest in case of large farmer (3.17) over working cost followed by medium, small, semi medium and marginal farmers. Highest input-output ratio over cost A and cost B was found in case of marginal and small farmers and lowest ratio was observed in case of large farmers. This result showed that depreciation on farm implements and buildings and interest on working cost was higher in case of large farmers and lower value with decreasing farm size which showed that large farmer had more farm implements and buildings than the small farmers. Input-output ratio was observed highest in case of large farmers (1.69) over cost C₂ followed by medium farmers (1.68), semi-medium farmers (1.66), small farmers (1.64) and marginal farmers (1.63). It is worth noting that because large farmers have readily available cash, they use resources more efficiently, resulting in higher crop productivity than other farmers, according to Choudhary et al. [10].

Table 3. Input-output ratio of selected farmers of groundnut

	Marginal	Small	Semi medium	Medium	Large	Over all
Gross return per ha (₹)	130913.01	137437.50	137225.57	138822.17	143341.18	136059.50
Cost per ha						
Working cost (₹)	41247.37	43189.89	43292.86	43624.59	43956.84	42819.05
Cost A (₹)	47287.52	51660.15	51613.33	52058.31	56272.26	50707.47
Cost B (₹)	64838.12	69413.15	69504.58	69504.58	73517.1	68448.27
Cost C ₁ (₹)	72838.12	76354.68	75238.09	75238.09	76933.76	75082.2
Cost C ₂ (₹)	80122.03	83990.30	82761.89	82761.89	84627.1	82590.42
Return per ha over						
Working cost (₹)	89665.64	94247.60	96213.08	96392.14	99384.34	93996.71
Cost A (₹)	83625.49	85777.34	87892.62	87958.42	87068.92	86108.29
Cost B (₹)	66074.89	68024.35	70001.36	70512.15	69824.08	68367.49
Cost C ₁ (₹)	58074.89	61082.82	64267.85	64778.63	66407.42	61733.56
Cost C ₂ (₹)	50790.98	53447.20	56744.05	57254.84	58714.09	54225.34
Input-output ratio over						
Working cost	3.17	3.18	3.17	3.18	3.26	3.18
Cost A	2.77	2.66	2.66	2.67	2.55	2.68
Cost B	2.02	1.98	1.97	1.99	1.95	1.99
Cost C ₁	1.80	1.80	1.82	1.85	1.86	1.81
Cost C ₂	1.63	1.64	1.66	1.68	1.69	1.65

Table 4. Resource use efficiency in groundnut production of farmers

Sr. No.	Variables	Regression coefficient of variable	MVP/MC
1	Intercept	0.3614 [*] (0.1840)	-
2	Seed (X ₁)	0.0892 ^{***} (0.0153)	0.9660
3	Manure (X ₂)	0.0326 ^{**} (0.0065)	1.1192
4	Fertilizer (X ₃)	0.0104 (0.0210)	0.5859
5	Human labour (X ₄)	0.2000 ^{**} (0.0344)	1.8349
6	Bullock labour (X ₅)	0.0044 (0.0125)	0.2445
7	Charges for machineries (X ₆)	0.4170 [*] (0.0338)	5.4773
8	Irrigation (X ₇)	0.0012 (0.0102)	0.0919
9	PPC (X ₈)	0.0486 [*] (0.0242)	2.1402
10	R ²	0.6019	-

Note: ^{*} and ^{***} indicates significant at 5 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively and figures in parenthesis indicated standard error

The result indicated that at overall farm level cost A, cost B, cost C₁ and cost C₂ were INR50707.47, INR68448.27, INR75082.2 and INR82590.42 respectively. Per ha returns over cost A, cost B, cost C₁ and cost C₂ were realized at INR85352.04, INR67611.23, INR60977.3 and INR53469.08 respectively. Input-output ratio over cost A, cost B, cost C₁ and cost C₂ were 2.68, 1.99, 1.81 and 1.65 respectively. Similar pattern of cost and return was noticed by Lakhana [11].

3.4 Resource Use Efficiency in Groundnut Production of Selected Farmers

The production function analysis was carried out to examine the resource use efficiency in groundnut production using Cobb-Douglas production function with the help of coefficients of elasticity of major resources along with value of R² and F ratio in Table 4.

The result revealed that the co-efficient of multiple determination (R²) was 0.60 it indicates that about 60 per cent for overall farm level. It was indicated that variable inputs have functional relationship contributed as 60 per cent for overall selected farm size of groundnut cultivation. Which indicated that the relationship between farm profit and the included variables had good relationship. The total number of selected

farmers were 336 and degree of freedom was 327 in study area. The estimated coefficient for variables X₁, X₂...X₈ i.e., seed, manure, fertilizer, human labour, bullock labour, machine cost, irrigation and PPC (Insecticides and pesticides), respectively are significantly different from zero [12-14].

The inputs i.e. seed, human labour, charges for machineries, PPC and manure contributed positive significantly to the productivity of groundnut at overall selected farmers and found to be 0.0892, 0.2000, 0.4170, 0.0486 and 0.0326, respectively. However, the contribution of the other remaining variables fertilizer (0.0104), bullock labour (0.0044) and irrigation (0.0012) were noticed non-significant but positively influencing the profit. Similar findings were observed by Rawal [5].

Thus, findings of functional relationship between variable inputs and productivity of groundnut indicates that farmers of the selected area were ignoring recommended package of practices and new technologies by following traditional method for cultivation of groundnut. This needs immediate policy interventions to aware about recommended package of practices and new technologies to the groundnut farmers by involving the extension activities and extension personnel through arranging farmers meetings,

field level demonstrations, meeting with progressive farmers etc.

3.5 Allocative Resource Use Efficiency for Groundnut Production of Selected Farmers

The resource use efficiency of groundnut crop cultivation was calculated and results presented in Table 4. It was observed from the results that in the cultivation of groundnut under category of overall farmers MVP to MC ratio was less than one for seed (0.9660), fertilizer usage (0.5859), Bullock labour used in pair days (0.2445) and Irrigation application (0.0733), this indicates that the over utilization of resources. This indicates that optimum efficiency of resource usage was not achieved in case of these variables so there was need to decrease the usage of these excess inputs to reach at optimum production of selected farmers. The forgoing analysis indicated that MVP to MC ratio of these resources was more than one for charges for machineries (5.4773), PPC (2.1402), human labour (1.8349) and manure (1.1192) indicated underutilization of resources. The profitability of groundnut cultivation at overall level farmers could be maximized by increasing the use of manure, human labour, charges for machineries and PPC. Similar findings in line with Choudhary et al. [10]. Hence, apart from the groundnut, The groundnut farmers could increase their gross return by using all their excess resources to the cultivation of other crop and other farm activities. The groundnut farmers also reduce excess usage of over utilized inputs by adopting recommended package of practices for groundnut cultivation resulted in decrease the cost of cultivation of the groundnut crop.

4. CONCLUSION

Input management assumes critical importance in groundnut production which was essential for the optimum production of groundnut. The quantitative figure of inputs used by selected groundnut farmers, directly affect the cost of cultivation. All type of farm size group used more groundnut seeds than the recommended seed rate except marginal farmers. Nitrogen and Phosphorus usage were higher than the recommended doses by all type of farm size group, which indicates that the overutilization of Nitrogen and Phosphorus. Manure usage were half of the recommended doses by selected farmers. Medium, semi medium and large farmers return per ha over cost A and cost B was

higher than small and marginal farmers. Input-output ratio was observed highest in case of large farmers (1.69) over cost C_2 , followed by medium farmers (1.68), semi-medium farmers (1.66), small farmers (1.64) and marginal farmers (1.63). Farmers over utilize of inputs for groundnut production like seed, fertilizer, bullock labour and irrigation, Whereas, farmers underutilize of inputs for groundnut production like farm equipment, PPC, human labour and manure. There is an ample potentiality of raising groundnut production through optimum utilization of resources like seeds, human labour, farm equipment, PPC, fertilizer and manures with better agricultural package of practices of groundnut. Farmers of the selected area were ignoring recommended package of practices and new technologies. Hence, proper and timely training should be provided to groundnut farmers to create awareness about recommended package of practices and new technologies to the groundnut farmers by involving the extension activities and extension personnel through arranging farmers meetings, field level demonstrations, meeting with progressive farmers etc.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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