

Economics of Vegetable Seed Production in Arghakhanchi, Nepal

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Abstract

A study to estimate the economics of vegetable seed production was conducted in Arghakhanchi district of Nepal. Cost and return analysis showed that the average cost of production per Kg for bean, cowpea and pea seed was NRs. 145.78, NRs. 153.1 and NRs. 135.79 respectively and average revenue per Kg was NRs. 290, NRs. 350 and NRs. 150 respectively. The benefit cost ratio was highest for cowpea (2.96) followed by bean (2.04) and pea (1.10). Human labor was found to be a major cost component. Cost incurred for labor, organic manure and plant protection were the inputs that had statistically significant relationship with the seed productivity. Major problem associated with production was damage by wild animals/ insects/ pests whereas, the necessity to dry several times to attain desired moisture percentage was the major post-harvest problem and preference for imported seed rather than seed produced locally was the major problem in the marketing of produced vegetable seed. Hence, seed producers are recommended to use the input resources in efficient and economical way to increase the productivity and profitability from seed production. In addition to this, quality of locally produced seed should be upgraded to encourage the fresh vegetable seed growers to use seed produced henceforth to substitute import.

Keywords: Cost, human labor, problems, resource-efficiency, vegetable seed