

Production and Marketing of Red Onions in Kuchchaveli DS division, Trincomalee District

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to analyze red onion production, supply chain and factors affecting the crop value of onions in Kuchchaveli DS division, Trincomalee District. The present study was conducted in three major onion growing GN divisions in Nilaveli AI range. Simple random sampling technique was used to draw the sample. Data were collected through pretested questionnaires and were analyzed using statistical software SPSS for frequencies, cross-tabulations and regression analysis.

Aspects of socioeconomic characteristics of farmers, input supply, marketing channels, factors affecting the crop value and Marginal Value Product were studied. The average area of land cultivated by an onion farmer was 1.68 acres. Main source of planting materials were bought from Jaffna. Most of the farmers were selling their red onions to wholesalers, retailers and middlemen. The main marketing channel from producers to consumers was through wholesalers at urban and rural markets and retailers.

All the onion farmers had got profit in *Maha*. But a considerable percent of red onion farmers had got profit in *Yala*. Farm gate price, net income, production of red onions and marketed quantity were significantly higher in *Maha* than *Yala*. The unit cost of the production of onions was significantly higher in *Yala* than *Maha*. Heavy rain, climate changes and pest and disease attack were the major problems faced by onion farmers. A Cobb-Douglas production function was applied to find the factors affecting the crop value of onions in *Maha* season. Planting material and marketed quantity had significant effects on crop value of red onions in *Maha*. The Marginal Value Product for planting material was higher compared to other inputs used in *Maha* season. Some policy recommendations are suggested.

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