

**PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF GROUNDNUT
IN THIRUKKOVIL DS DIVISION OF AMPARA
DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

A study on production and marketing of groundnut was carried out in the Thirukkivil DS division of Ampara district. Using the random sampling procedure, a sample of 75 groundnut farmers was selected and a structured interview schedule was used to collect the information through personal interview. Data were analyzed using the SPSS package.

From the study, it was found out that the average age of groundnut farmer was 48 years, 77.3% were males, and 92% were married. The average family size of a household was 4 members, and only 3 were involved in groundnut farming, about 93.3% of farmers worked as part time groundnut farmers. The average family income was Rs. 15,800 per month. Majority of the farmers had farming experience of 11 years. Most of farmers (89%) had cultivated in their own land in *Maha* season compare with other two seasons and most of farmers (36%) had cultivated in leased land in mid season compare with other two seasons. Most of farmers (66%) had cultivated in highland extent of 164 ac in *Maha* season. About 65% of farmers were cultivated in *Maha* and *Yala* seasons in study areas. Average groundnut cultivated extent was 2.4 ac, 1.83 ac and 2.53 ac in *Yala*, mid and *Maha* season respectively.

Most of the groundnut farmers (97.3%) hired both male and female labourers for ploughing, planting, weeding and fertilizer/pesticide application and harvesting. Around 43% of the hired labours were obtained in the same village. Female hired labours were used for harvesting at a wage rate of Rs 5 per kg. The wage rate for a male hired labour

was varied between Rs 800 and Rs 1000 per day. About 51% of the farmers had bought seeds from village farmers. About 95% of farmers had bought fertilizer and pesticides from Agrochemical shops in the same village and nearby towns.

Cost of cultivation was high (Rs. 50,705/ac) in *Yala* season compare with other two seasons. Farmers were spent more money for irrigation and labour cost during groundnut cultivation. Farmers were spending more money for fuels than using electric pumps. Average income from groundnut was Rs 109,189/ac, Rs 68,506/ac and Rs. 82,761/ac in *Yala*, *Maha* and Mid season respectively. Average net profit from groundnut was Rs. 56,175/ac, Rs. 34,975/ac and Rs. 34,296/ac in *Yala*, *Maha* and Mid season respectively. Average net profit was high in *Yala* season because groundnut seeds demand was high and good market price during the season. Average yield of groundnut was around 690kg/ac in *Yala* season while it was around 533kg/ac in *Maha* season and average yield of groundnut was around 519kg/ac in mid season. Average yield of groundnut was high in *Yala* season compare with other seasons because fewer pests and disease attack and no flood risk.

About 33% famers were selling their groundnut seeds to wholesalers. There was no any permanent marketing system available in the study area. Farmers sold their products according to their preferences. Farm gate price for groundnut was around Rs. 159/Kg, Rs 126/Kg and Rs. 155 /Kg in *Yala*, *Maha* and mid season respectively. Around 33% of farmers had taken credit from different sources. Farmers did not do any value addition activities on groundnut in study areas who did not take any crop insurance scheme

Around 75% farmers got extension services from Agricultural Instructor. Around 83% farmers had membership in registered organizations.

According to the survey results, most of farmers were diversified their cultivation from vegetable to groundnut cultivation in Thirukkovil area mainly because of they have got assistance from government and non government agencies for groundnut cultivation and received high profit from groundnut cultivation than vegetable cultivation.

Correlation analysis indicated that average net profit in *Yala* season was significantly affected by the educational level of the respondent ($p < 0.05$), average monthly income ($p < 0.01$) and cultivating season ($p < 0.01$). Also it was found that there was a significant relationship between average net profit in Mid season and the age of the respondent ($p < 0.05$), average monthly income ($p < 0.01$) and cultivating season ($p < 0.01$). Chi-square analysis indicated that there was a significant association between average groundnut yield obtained in *Yala* season and educational level of groundnut farmers, type of farming and use of IPNS techniques by the groundnut farmers in the study area.

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