

A study of Production and Marketing of Pepper in Matale District



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ABSTRACT

Pepper is an important spice crop grown in the Matale District mainly for export purpose and domestic consumption. Varieties of pepper being grown are mainly Sri Lankan local variety and a less extent under 'Panniyur'. Pepper production had shown variations over the years due to poor management and low productivity. This study was conducted to analyze the production levels, income and profitability of pepper cultivation in Matale District. A sample of 100 farmers were selected for the study.

The results indicated that the average extent of land under pepper cultivation was 4.78 acres, with 66% of these lands under local varieties, while the rest had a mixture of local and 'Panniyur' varieties. Labor use consisted of both family and hired workers and the hired labour came mainly from the same villages. They were used for harvesting and for trimming support trees and was paid on a weight basis of raw pepper harvested or on a daily basis. Fertilizer was the only input applied by of farmers. The average cost of production was Rs.39, 700 per acre and the mean yield of pepper was 618 kgs per acre.

Few of farmers were involved in processing raw pepper into dried pepper which fetched a higher price compared to for raw pepper. Majority of farmers sold their pepper harvest to wholesalers directly or to traders in town markets.

Full time involvement in the pepper cultivation, farmers experience, total cost per acre, Contacts with the extension officers, participating in training programs and membership in a farmer organization had significant impacts on the pepper yield harvested per acre.

There is no significant differences on farm gate prices they received by small scale and large scale farmers. There is a significance difference of the total cost of production of pepper per acre between small scale farmers and large scale farmers.

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