

Profitability Analysis of Vegetable Growers vis-a-vis Farm Size in Punjab

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ABSTRACT To conduct the study primary data was collected from sixty vegetable growers through multi-stage sampling technique of the crop year 2008-09. For sample selection, two top ranking districts, namely Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar, in terms of vegetable acreage and production were selected. Further, two blocks from each district and later two villages from each block, giving a total of eight villages were selected. While the final stage represented a sample of 60 farmers categorized into small (<2 hectares \pm 5.0 acres), medium (2-4 hectares \pm 5.0-10.0 acres) and large (>4 hectares \pm 10 acres). It was found that small farmers were more into vegetable farming with 66.3 per cent area under vegetables as percent of operational area which resulted in significant high farm income per acre of GCA, to be Rs. 20305 per annum, in comparison to medium (Rs. 15748) and large (Rs. 14863) farmers. As vegetables are short duration crops mostly grown by small farmer, the cropping intensity of small farmers was 281 per cent giving them higher farm income per acre of NSA which was recorded as Rs. 57771 per annum, which was significantly higher ($p < 0.01$) than that observed in the case of medium (Rs. 35607 per annum) and large (Rs. 33945 per annum) farmers. The small farmers had larger proportion (78.3 %) of income from vegetable farming in total farm income which commensurate with the large share of vegetable crops (58.1 %) in GCA. However, a difference was observed in absolute terms with respect to variable cost and net returns for different vegetables but the application of analysis of variance confirmed non-significant differences between different categories of farmers.