

Economics of organic Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) Cultivation in Kandhamal district of Odisha

ABSTRACT

Kandhamal is the major turmeric growing district of the state. It is the main cash crop for their economic development. Kandhamal Turmeric is an important product and now become popular in the organic food market of Europe and North America. It has gained a good market share in International and Local market. The local variety grown from time immemorial is having 2-3 per cent cur cumin, 12-15 per cent of oleoresin and 5.3 per cent of volatile oil. The current study was carried out in three blocks of the district to analyze the profitability in organic Turmeric cultivation and to document various constraints faced by the turmeric growers in the study area. The data pertained to the agricultural year 2016-17. The yield per ha of fresh Turmeric was 100 quintals where as dry was 20 q. The average price received by the sample farmers per quintal of dry Turmeric was Rs 4800. The total cost of cultivation was Rs 52,200, where as for dry turmeric production it was Rs 55,800. The net returns per hectare of Turmeric cultivation was found to be Rs 40,200 leading to a benefit to cost ratio of 1.72. The sample respondents ranked high cost of labour as the greatest constraint in organic turmeric cultivation with a Garrett score of 76.40. The problems ranked as second, third and fourth fifth, sixth and seventh place were Personal obligation with traders, Financial weakness, Lack of technical knowledge, Lack of storage facilities, Low productivity and Non availability of quality seed respectively. Efforts should be made to introduce labour saving techniques in the study area. To address this problem, mechanization of various operations such as ploughing, sowing, harvesting and drying should be done.

KEY WORDS: Organic, Turmeric, Marketing, Economics, Technology

INTRODUCTION

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L), the ancient and sacred spice of India known as ‘Indian saffron’, is an important commercial spice crop grown in India. It is known as the “golden spice” as well as the “spice of life.” and is one of the most essential spices used as an important ingredient in culinary all over the world. The plant is propagated from rhizomes. The rhizomes are ready for harvesting in about 8 to 10 months after planting.

32 **Table 1. Seasonality of Turmeric Production in India**

MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Sowing		Growth Stage					Harvesting		Market Arrival		

33 Source: Karvy Comtrade Ltd., - Seasonal Report on Turmeric, PJ Commodity vent

34 India is the largest producer and exporter of spices in the world and so called the spice
 35 bowl of the world'. Turmeric occupies about 6 percent of the total area under spices and
 36 condiments in country. In India turmeric mainly grown in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil nadu,
 37 Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal and Maharashtra .Odisha contributes about 21 per cent of
 38 India's turmeric cultivation in terms of area and Kandhamal makes up for over 50 percent of
 39 the state's share. Over the years the tribal community cultivate the crop organically. Now a
 40 days demand for organic commodities is growing and farmers are trying to diversify their
 41 production systems accordingly. On the other hand, consumers are becoming more
 42 demanding in terms of quality and safety of food commodities. Further there can be huge
 43 market for organic instant food products like 'ready to cook' containing the perfect blend of
 44 organic spices. But due to various constraints the productivity of the crop is not to the
 45 expected level. With this backdrop, the current study was carried out in Kandhamal district
 46 with the following objective

- 47 • To study the socio-economic profile of the sample farmers
- 48 • To analyse the labour and input utilization pattern in Turmeric cultivation.
- 49 • To analyze the profitability in Turmeric cultivation
- 50 • To document various constraints faced by the Turmeric growers in the study area.

51 MATERIALS AND METHODS

52 Three major turmeric growing blocks of Kandhamal district i.e., Daringbadi, Raikia,
 53 K. Nuagaon were selected for the purpose of study. The data collected was on general
 54 characteristics of farmers, land holding, costs, returns, yields, constraints faced in cultivation
 55 of Turmeric etc. The primary data from 120 sample respondents pertained to the agricultural
 56 year 2016-17. Multistage purposive cum random sampling method was used for selection of
 57 districts, block village trader and farmer. Four major Turmeric growing villages from each
 58 block were selected for the study. Thus, a total of twelve villages from three blocks were
 59 selected for the study. From each village ten farmers were randomly selected. Both Farm
 60 budgeting and partial budgeting technique was used to estimate the cost and return structure
 61 of Turmeric cultivation. The documentation of the constraints in cultivation of turmeric in the
 62 region was done using Garrett's ranking technique. Garrett's formula for converting ranks
 63 into % was given by

N_j = Number of factors ranked by j th individual

Sl. No.	Particulars	Unit	Number of farmers	Percentage of total
I	Age group of the farmers	Number		
	Below 35 years		17	14.16
	36 - 45 years		53	44.16
	46 – 55 years		38	31.66
	Above 55 years		12	10

	Average age		43	
II	Education Literate Primary Secondary	Number	76 24 20	63.33 20.00 16.66
III	Family Type Nucleus Joint	Number	65 55	54.16 45.83
IV	Family size Small (2-4) Medium (4-6) Large (>6)	Number	26 78 16	21.66 65 13.33
	Average family size		6	
VI	Agriculture as occupation Main Subsidiary	Number	72 48	60.00 40.00
VII	Average Annual Income Main Subsidiary	Rupee	62598 38695	
VIII	Average area under Turmeric Traditional farmer	Hectare	1.57	

Labour utilization Pattern in Turmeric Cultivation

The labour utilization pattern in Turmeric cultivation in the study area is presented in Table 3. Land preparation was done by 5 man days of man labour and 10 pair of bullock labour. Sowing operation was carried out by using 22 man day of man labour and 8 man-days of woman labour. Mulching material collection was done by 17 man days of man labour and 7 days of woman labour. After that mulching was done by 7 days of woman labour and 3 man days of man labour. Weeding was done by 4 man days of man labour and 6 man-days of woman labour. Harvesting was carried out by 10 man days of man labour. Cleaning and grading were done by utilizing 2 man days of man labour and 4 days of woman labour. For production of dry turmeric finger an extra 20 days of man labour are required. For fuel material collection 4 man days of woman labour and for boiling and drying operations a total of 10 man days of man labour and 6 man days of woman labour are utilized. Thus, a total of 135 man days of labour were utilized per ha of Turmeric cultivation. Out of the major cost in the production of fresh turmeric, the highest cost is incurred in labour cost with 73.19% share of total cost of production of fresh turmeric, this is due to lack of modern technology and labour saving techniques.

Table 3. Labour utilization pattern in Turmeric production (per Hectare)

Description	Man days	Total days
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Land preparation	5	5
Ploughing(by bullocks)	10	20
Sowing	10 X 3 Days	30
Mulch collection	12 X 2 Days	24
	500 bundle	
Mulching	10 X 1 Day	10
Weeding	5 X 2 Days	10
Harvesting(digging)	1250(10)	10
Cleaning and grading	3 X 2 Days	6
For production of raw turmeric		115
Fuel	4	4
Boiling	5 X 2 Days	10
Drying	2 X 3 Days	6
For production of dry turmeric		135

108 **Input Utilization Pattern in Turmeric Cultivation**

109 The resource poor farmers in the study area don t use any input except seed (20 q/ha) of the
 110 previous year. This might be due to lack of technical knowledge. Even they don t use any
 111 irrigation for their crop, they only depend upon rain water, which ultimately reduces the
 112 fingure yield. They are unaware about use of any organic input like organic manure, bio
 113 fertilizer, pesticides etc which can boost their yield.

114 **Cost and Returns Structure in Turmeric Cultivation**

115 The cost and returns structure in Turmeric cultivation (per ha) is presented in Table 4. Of the
 116 total cost, the expenditure incurred on labour accounted for about 73.19 per cent of the total
 117 cost of cultivation, followed by seed cost 26.81 per cent. Among the fixed costs, the highest
 118 share was contributed by rental value of owned land .The total cost of cultivation of the
 119 turmeric growers was found to be Rs 52200. the total cost of dried Turmeric production of
 120 the sample traditional farmers was (Rs. 522 /q). Yield of Turmeric crop in case of traditional
 121 Turmeric farmers was 100 quintals per ha. After processing (boiling and drying) which yields
 122 into 20 q / ha .But the average price received by them were Rs48/kg. The net returns per
 123 quintal of dried Turmeric production was found to be Rs 40200.Similar results were obtained
 124 by Radha and Choudhry and Santosh in their study on cost of commercial production and
 125 seed production of cotton in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

Table 4 Cost and returns structure in Turmeric cultivation (per Hectare)

Sl No	Description	Quantity	Total	Type Of Labour		Unit	Rate	Total	Paidout Cost
Cost of production of fresh turmeric									
A	Land renting							0	
B	Inputs								
1	Seed	20	20			quintal	700	14000	
C	Labour			HIRED	OWN				
1	Land preparation	5	5	0	5	Man-days	100	500	0
2	Ploughing(by bullocks)	10	20	20	0	Pairs	150	3000	3000
3	Sowing	10 X 3 Days	30	6	4	Man-days	100	3000	1800
3	Mulch collection	12 X 2 Days	24	8	4	Man-days	100	2400	1600
		500 bundle		8	2	Per bundle	4	2000	1600
4	Mulching	10 X 1 Day	10	5	5	Man-days	100	1000	500
5	Weeding	5 X 2 Days	10	1	4	Man-days	100	1000	200
6	Harvesting(digging)	1250(10)	10	5	5	Per container	20	25000	12500
7	Cleaning and grading	3 X 2 Days	6	0	3	Man-days	100	300	0
		Total production of fresh turmeric						100 q	
		grand total cost of fresh turmeric						52200	21200
		loss in percentage						1.5%	
		cost of production (per kg) of fresh turmeric						Rs 5.20	
Additional cost for making dried turmeric (by boiling and drying) at farm level									
9	Fuel	4	4	0	4	Per acre	400	1000	0
10	Boiling	5 X 2 Days	10	2	3	Man-days	200	2000	400
11	Drying	2 X 3 Days	6	0	2	Man-days	100	600	0
		Total production of dried turmeric from 1 ha (in q) land						20 q	
		Grand total cost for dried turmeric						3600	400
		Loss in percentage						1.5%	
		Cost of production (per kg) of dried turmeric						Rs 5.58	
		Price of dry turmeric per quintal						4800	
		B: C Ratio						1.72	

Constraints Faced in Turmeric Cultivation in the Study Area

The major constraints faced in cultivation of Turmeric in the study area are presented in Table 5. The study revealed that the major problems faced by the growers in production are high cost of labour, non-availability of quality seed, lack of technical knowledge, financial obligation, inadequate market information and low productivity. The sample respondents ranked high cost of labour as the greatest constraint with a Garrett score of 76.40. The problems ranked at second, third and fourth place were personal obligation with traders, financial weakness, lack of technical knowledge and lack of storage facilities with Garrett scores of 71.24, 70.20, 56.90 and 48.03 respectively.

Table 5. Constraints faced by Turmeric growers in the study area

SL.NO	CONSTRAINTS	SCORE	RANK
1	High cost of labour	76.40	I
2	Personal obligation with traders	71.24	II
3	Financial weakness	70.20	III
4	Lack of technical knowledge	56.90	IV
5	Lack of storage facilities	48.03	V
6	Low productivity	39.97	VI
7	Non availability of quality seed	38.13	VII
8	Inadequate market information	37.70	VIII

CONCLUSION

Turmeric is one of the most important spice crops grown in Kandhamal district; however the productivity is continuously decreasing year by year. Thus, there is need to increase the productivity to fulfill the domestic requirement and for export. Turmeric cultivation is capital intensive and needs more investment. The tribal farmers of the study area are incapable to invest the required inputs and unable to bear more risks. It has been observed that technological interventions like rhizome treatment, soil application of bio control agent, crop rotation, mulching, and plant protection measures increased rhizomes yield by 20- 25per cent at farmer's field and with the application of irrigation, yield increased by 20-30 percent, but the farmers are not applying irrigation to the crop. To enhance the productivity, eco friendly production technologies among the farming community are the need of the hour. The indigenous technical knowledge acquired by the farmers need to be

tested and refined with the modern techniques of crop cultivation. Organic turmeric cultivation in Kandhamal was found to be economical with a B:C ratio of 1.72. Efforts should be made in the selection and production of improved seed from local cultivars having high curcuma content, identification of appropriate quantity and time of irrigation, training on application of organic input should be provided. From the study it was revealed that price of dry turmeric with minimal processing fetches more price than raw turmeric. Therefore, the farmers need to be encouraged to take up processing by themselves by giving them subsidy and/or loan for establishing the small scale processing units. Government should help the farmers to establish small scale mini processing plant, so that farmer will get maximum share in consumer rupee.

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