

Economic analysis of production and constraints of rapeseed-mustard

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Rapeseed-mustard was planted on over 60.70 million hectares in the country and accounts for about 28.54 percent of oilseed output. It is the main source of supplying the vegetable oils. But the growth performance of rapeseed-mustard has been quite disappointing. About 82 percent of the crop is grown on marginal soils with low input technology and rainfed condition. Further, India being largest cultivated area under oilseeds in the world, is importing large quantities of vegetable oils to meet the domestic demand. This study was conducted with the objectives i) to examine the growth rates and trend in area, production and yield of rapeseed-mustard in Haryana ii) to calculate economics of cultivation and iii) to identify the constraints in production of rapeseed-mustard. The investigation was carried out in Haryana state of Indian Union where rapeseed-mustard constitutes about 7.38 percent of total area. The time-series data pertaining to area of production and yield were scanned from different published sources for the period 1966-2000. The relevant information with regards to cost of cultivation, net returns and constraints in production was collected from 90 sampled growers of major rapeseed-mustard producing area of the state. The analysis reveals that compound growth rates of area, production and yield of rapeseed-mustard were 5.38, 9.01 and 3.42 percent, respectively, for the above period. This indicates that substantial increases in yield over the period. Increases in production were obtained as a result of increases in area and yield of the crop. The benefit cost ratio is greater than one, indicating profitability of the crop. The major constraints to production of the crop are poor germination due to soil moisture stress, use of less quantity of seeds, low and imbalanced use of fertilizers, incidence of insect-pests, infestation of weeds and weather conditions.