

AN ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION AND PRICE TRENDS OF TOMATO CROP IN BALOCHISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Tomato is major vegetable crop produced in all areas of Balochistan. But due to high productivity gap and price uncertainty, its farming is considered as a gambling. The main purpose of this paper is to describe and analyze the production and price trends of tomato in the province. The principal findings emerged from the study include (a) Both cropped area and production of tomato have increased during 1986-96. In the same period productivity has also increased but with less percentage. (b) Productivity is higher under Rabi season due to more market absorption capacity. (c) Changes in the cropping pattern of vegetables indicate that tomato has become relatively less important (d) on average, its whole sale price has been increasing but with greater variations and wide fluctuations. Finally, improvements in the storage facilities, information, quality of seeds and better utilization of land are suggested for stabilizing the price behavior of tomato.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the dominant Economic activity of Balochistan. Its contribution to the GDP of Province is more than 50 percent and it provides almost 70% employment. (Agriculture statistics of Balochistan 1992-98) . The region has a great potential for Agriculture development especially for fruit and vegetables. At present, the contribution of these two Areas in the total value of crops are 42 percent. Though the shares of vegetable in the total crops value is less significant (4 percent), Its economic importance cannot be neglected due to its relatively short growing period and high productivity. Vegetable growing is also suited for small farmers and is highly labour intensive (Development and Cooperation (D+C) No.5 1998 Germany). Moreover, changing pattern of consumption and increasing population have increased the use of vegetables. To meet the growing demand, it is now being cultivated at large scale both in rural and peri urban Agriculture Sectors. To confine the study, only tomato crop is chosen for analysis. The question