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# Economics of production and marketing of chilli in **Kabirdham District of Chhattisgarh**

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#### Abstract

The economic analysis of chilli crop cultivation in Kabirdham district, Chhattisgarh, India, unveiled intriguing insights. Surprisingly, the cost of cultivation per hectare was found to be higher on large farms compared to small ones. The major cost contributors were human labor, seeds, manures, fertilizers, machine power, plant protection, irrigation, depreciation, bullock labor, and land revenue. Despite the challenges, the crop exhibited promise, with a yield of 10.9 quintals per hectare and a cost of production at Rs. 936.68 per quintal. The returns were encouraging, with a gross return of Rs. 218,000 and a net return of Rs. 115,893.13 per hectare, translating into an input-output ratio of 1:2.14.Interestingly, small spice growers predominantly relied on the producer  $\rightarrow$  consumer marketing channel for selling chilli and fenugreek. Other channels, such as producer  $\rightarrow$  commission agent  $\rightarrow$  consumer and producer  $\rightarrow$ wholesaler  $\rightarrow$  retailer  $\rightarrow$  consumer, were also explored. Overall, the study emphasized the profitability of chilli cultivation in the region, suggesting the adoption of improved production practices to curtail costs and bolster profits.

Keywords: chilli, cost of cultivation, marketing, price spread, marketing efficiency

# Introduction

Chhattisgarh boasts a rich spice cultivation landscape, with prominent districts like Kabirdham, Balrampur, Korea, Bilaspur, and Rajnandgaon. The state's spice repertoire includes Chili, Ginger, Garlic, Turmeric, coriander & Fenugreek. Remarkably, in the year 2020-21, the state recorded 67,756 hectares of spice cultivation, yielding an impressive 449,353 metric tons. India, a spice haven, cultivates 63 out of the 109 spices listed by the International Standard Organisation, with 20 classified as seed spices. This diversity underscores the significance of spice production in the region, contributing significantly to the country's spice heritage.

# Methodology

For this particular study, Kabirdham district was chosen purposively, focusing on two blocks with the highest area under spice cultivation: Kawardha and Pandariya. Among the 67 registered spice producers in the district, 37 were from Kawardha and 30 from Pandaria. The researchers utilized the snowball sampling method to randomly select respondents from the sample of 67 spice producers. Various statistical analyses were employed to analyze the data collected from these farmers. This unique approach allowed for a comprehensive understanding of spice production in the region, aiding in valuable insights and recommendations for the farming community.

# **Economics of Chilli Crop**

The analysis of chilli crop economics, as presented in Table 1, reveals intriguing patterns. Notably, the cost of cultivation per hectare of chilli was higher on large farms compared to small and medium farms, with an average of Rs. 102,106.9 per hectare. This trend can be attributed to large farmers investing more in modern farm inputs like quality seeds, fertilizers, plant protection materials, and hired labor. Their access to credit institutions and better economic status also played a role.

Among the various inputs, total human labor emerged as the highest cost factor, amounting to Rs. 59,678.62 per hectare. Following closely were costs for seeds (Rs. 9,306.24) and manures/fertilizers (Rs. 6,966.11). Machine power (Rs. 3,723.06), plant protection (Rs. 3,617.25), and irrigation (Rs. 2,720.03) also contributed significantly to the overall cost.

Depreciation (Rs. 372.31), bullock labor (Rs. 344.01), and land revenue (Rs. 15) constituted relatively smaller portions of the expenditure.

The positive correlation between expenditure and yield

explains the higher returns on large farms. This highlights the importance of investing in modern agricultural practices to achieve better outcomes.

Particular	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
A. Material cost				
Good	8530.02	8990.09	10398.6	9306.24
Seed	8.86	8.82	9.62	9.11
Manuna and fartilizar	6686.12	6869.14	7343.97	6966.41
Manures and lerunzer	6.94	6.74	6.80	6.82
Diant protection	3297.8	3493	4060.95	3617.25
Plant protection	3.42	3.43	3.76	3.54
Invigation changes	2660.83	2763.67	2735.58	2720.03
inigation charges	2.76	2.71	2.53	2.66
Total material cost	21174.77	22115.9	24539.1	22609.92
Total material cost	21.98	21.69	22.71	22.14
B. Human labour cost				
Family Jahoun	7573.24	5522.01	2856.43	5317.23
Family labour	7.86	5.42	2.64	5.21
Ilined Jahoun	48212.74	54703.68	60167.76	54361.39
nifed fabour	50.06	53.65	55.69	53.24
Total human labour cost	55785.98	60225.69	63024.19	59678.62
Total human labour cost	57.92	59.07	58.33	58.45
C. Power use cost				
Bullock power	1032.04	0	0	344.01
	1.07	0.00	0.00	0.34
Machine power	3013.47	3846.13	4309.58	3723.06
	3.13	3.77	3.99	3.65
Total power use cost	4045.51	3846.13	4309.58	4067.07
	4.20	3.77	3.99	3.98
Interest on working capital @ 6%	4617.65	4940.5	5253.8	4937.31
	4.79	4.85	4.86	4.84
(I). Total variable cost	85623.91	91128.22	97126.67	91292.93
	88.90	89.37	89.90	89.41
D. Fixed cost				
Depreciation @ 10%	301.35	384.61	430.96	372.31
	0.31	0.38	0.40	0.36
Land revenue	15	15	15	15
	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Rental value of land	9500	9500	9500	9500
	9.86	9.32	8.79	9.30
Interest on fixed capital (7%)	876.99	935.28	967.72	926.66
	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.91
(II).Total fixed Cost	10693.34	10834.89	10913.68	10813.97
	11.10	10.63	10.10	10.59
Total cost(A+B+C+D)	96317.24	101963.1	108040.4	102106.9
	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages of the total cost

# Yield and cost of production per quintal

Table 2 presents the yield, value of output per hectare, and cost of production per quintal of chilli on the sample farms. The average yield per hectare stands at 10.9 quintals, ranging from 10.2 quintals per hectare on small farms to 11.5 quintals per hectare on large farms. The overall per quintal cost of production is Rs. 936.68, with specific costs of Rs. 944.3, Rs. 926.9, and Rs. 939.5 on small, medium, and large farms, respectively. Interestingly, the cost of production decreases with an increase in farm size, owing to higher yields and cost-efficient cultivation on large farms.

The positive correlation between higher output values on large farms can be attributed to the increased investment in

modern farm inputs.

# Measures of farm profit

The study area exhibited an overall gross return of Rs. 218,000 per hectare, ranging from Rs. 204,000 per hectare at marginal farms to Rs. 230,000 per hectare at large farms. Gross returns were influenced by factors like variety, productivity, and selling price. The net return per hectare averaged at Rs. 115,893.13, with specific values of Rs. 107,682.76, Rs. 118,036.98, and Rs. 121,959.66 at small, medium, and large farms, respectively. The overall input-output ratio was 1:2.14, varying from 1:2.12 at marginal farms to 1:2.13 at large farms.

S. No.	Particular	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
1	Average yield (Qt./ha)	10.20	11.00	11.50	10.90
2	Average price (Rs./Qt.)	20000	20000	20000	20000
3	Gross returns (Rs./ha)	204000	220000	230000	218000
4	Cost of cultivation (Rs./ha)	96317.24	101963.1	108040.4	102106.9
5	Net returns (Rs./ha)	107682.76	118036.9	121959.6	115893.1
6	Cost of production (Rs./Kg)	94.43	92.69	93.95	93.68
7	Input output ratio	2.12	2.16	2.13	2.14
8	B:C Ratio	1.12	1.16	1.13	1.14

Table 2: Per hectare yield, value of output and cost of production per quintal of chilli.

## Cost and returns on the basis of different cost concept

Table 3 outlines the cost and returns based on different cost concepts in chilli production. Cost  $A_1$ , representing variable cost, depreciation, and land revenue of own land, amounts to Rs. 86,363.01 per hectare on average. Cost  $B_2$ , including the imputed value of land at Rs. 9,500, totals Rs. 87,289.67 per hectare. Cost  $C_1$ , at Rs. 92,606.90 per hectare, incorporates Cost  $B_1$  and the imputed value of family labor at Rs. 5,317.23 per hectare. Cost  $C_2$ , at Rs. 102,106.90 per hectare, comprises Cost  $B_2$  and the imputed value of family labor. Lastly, Cost  $C_3$ , at Rs. 112,317.59 per hectare, considers the imputed value of managerial allowances, estimated at 10% of Cost  $C_2$ .

 Table 3: Various CACP costs associated with the cultivation of fenugreek (Rs/ha)

Particulars	Small farmer (<2 ha)	Medium farmer (2-4 ha)	Large farmer (>4 ha)	Over All average
Cost A1	78367.01	86005.82	94716.20	86363.01
Cost A <sub>2</sub>	78367.01	86005.82	94716.2	86363.01
Cost A <sub>2</sub> +FL	85940.25	91527.83	97572.63	91680.23
Cost B <sub>1</sub>	79244.00	86941.10	95683.92	87289.67
Cost B <sub>2</sub>	88744.00	96441.10	105183.92	96789.67
Cost C1	86817.24	92463.11	98540.35	92606.90
Cost C <sub>2</sub>	96317.24	101963.11	108040.35	102106.90
Cost C <sub>3</sub>	105948.97	112159.42	118844.38	112317.59

# **Disposable pattern of spices**

A comprehensive study of the spice marketing system becomes imperative to comprehend its complexities and identify bottlenecks, ultimately leading to the provision of efficient services in transferring farm produce and inputs from producer to consumer. An effective marketing system not only minimizes costs but also benefits all sections of society. Marketing serves as the ultimate stage in any production system, and its efficiency is crucial for ensuring that produce reaches consumers in pristine condition, devoid of damage, at the lowest possible cost, and in the shortest time after harvest. According to Kohls, marketing encompasses all business activities involved in the flow of goods and services, starting from initial agricultural production until they reach the hands of the ultimate consumer. The core objectives of an efficient marketing system include enabling primary producers to maximize their benefits, offering farm-origin products to consumers at reasonable prices without compromising quality, facilitating the upliftment of all produce the farmers are willing to sell at incentive prices, and reducing the price spread between primary produce and the ultimate consumer.

# Marketing channel

The study focuses on three key marketing channels for spice growers in the region:

**Channel-I:** Producer  $\rightarrow$  Consumer This direct method of sale

is widely used by small spice growers for selling their chilli produce. It involves a straightforward approach, where farmers directly connect with consumers, eliminating intermediaries.

**Channel-II:** Producer  $\rightarrow$  Itinerant Trader  $\rightarrow$  Consumer This channel is popular among small and medium farmers due to their limited holding capacity and inadequate facilities. Farmers often lack the means to store produce for extended periods, and their yields might be relatively modest. Itinerant traders step in as intermediaries to purchase the produce from farmers and distribute it to consumers.

**Channel-III:** Producer  $\rightarrow$  Commission Agent/Retailer  $\rightarrow$  Consumer All categories of farmers utilize Channel-III for selling their produce. Large farmers dominate the quantity sold through this channel, followed by medium and small farmers. This method involves farmers engaging commission agents or retailers as intermediaries to bridge the gap between producers and consumers.

# Marketable surplus

Table 4 highlights the estimated marketable surplus of green chilli. While green chilli is highly perishable, making immediate sale necessary, it possesses better storage capacity than other commodities. Although lack of infrastructure may force farmers to sell immediately after harvest, they can benefit from storing chillies at the household level. Storing allows them to wait for better market prices, maximizing their returns. This flexibility in selling offers an opportunity for farmers to optimize their income and make strategic marketing decisions to their advantage.

S. N.	Particulars	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
Total quantity produced (Qty.)					
1	Chilli	10.2	11	11.5	32.7
		100	100	100	100
Quanti	ty used for seed	l purpose			
2	Chilli	0.05	0.11	0.13	0.29
		1.34	0.72	0.46	0.84
Qu	antity used for	home			
3	Chilli	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.2
	Chilli	2.15	1.13	0.52	1.27
To	otal quantity uti	lized			
4	Chilli	0.09	0.18	0.22	0.49
	Chilli	3.49	1.85	0.98	2.11
Marketable surplus					
5	Chilli	9.84	10.80	11.39	32.21
		(96.51)	(98.15)	(99.02)	(98.50)

 Table 4: Marketable surplus of chilli of sampled households.
 (Quintal per farm)

Note: Figure in parentheses indicate percentage to total quantity produced

Table 5: Channels for chilli are observed in study area.

Channel – I	••	Producer	Consumer		
Channel – II	••	Producer	Itinerant Trader	Consumer	
Channel - III	••	Producer	Commission Agent	Retailer	Consumer

# Conclusion

The cost of cultivation analysis highlights the significance of managing labor and seed expenses, being major cost components in chilli cultivation. Optimizing operational costs, exploring cost-effective seed procurement methods, and adopting efficient farming practices can enhance profitability. Marketing is crucial, and addressing market access, price volatility, and information challenges can improve farmers' income and reduce vulnerability. Strategies like collective marketing, value addition, and direct market links are recommended for better market participation and price realization. The overall cost of cultivation per hectare of chilli is Rs. 102,106.9, showing a rising trend with increasing farm size. The input-output ratio is 1:2.14, indicating favorable returns. The overall gross return for chilli is estimated at Rs. 218,000.00 per hectare, varying from Rs. 204,000.00 at small to Rs. 230,000.00 per hectare at large farms.

## **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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