

Original Research Article

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Resource Use Efficiency in Production of Dry Chilli in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh, India

Y. Ramana Kumari* and Sunil Nahatkar

Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, College of Agriculture,
Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Jabalpur, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

Keywords

Chilli, Input cost, output price, Profit, Resource use efficiency

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An attempt has been made to examine the resource use efficiency in dry chilli production in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Research was based on randomly selected 99 chilli growers who belong to 3 villages of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. The results revealed that cost of seed, manure and fertilizer and price of chilli were significantly affecting profit. On the other hand cost of plant protection chemical was moderately affecting profit. Human labour and fixed cost were insignificant but positively influencing the profit. Bullock labour and machine labour (power use) was negatively significant at one percent level indicating that the farmers incurred more cost on power use and over utilized it. R^2 was 0.96 indicates that 96 per cent variation in profit was explained by those variables which were included in the function representing a goodness in fitting the regression equation. The over utilized resource (power use) was found to be 63 per cent, and therefore the study recommended that if the farmers use the bullock and machine power (X_5 variable) efficiently by 37 per cent more than they could save Rs 11628.00 per hectare (Rs 204 per hour).

Introduction

India is the 'land of spices' and it is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of chillies in the world. Indian share in global production is 50 to 60 per cent. In India chilli occupies an area of 844 thousand hectares with an annual production of 2106 thousand metric tons (Spices Board of India-www.indianspices.com). The production of Chilli in India is dominated by Andhra Pradesh which occupies an area of 119 thousand ha with an annual production of 618

thousand t (Agricultural Statistics at Glance-A.P., 2017-18) which accounts for nearly 30 % to the total production. The major chilli growing districts in Andhra Pradesh are Guntur, Krishna and Prakasham. Guntur is the biggest chilli producing region with an area of 60 thousand ha and production of 351 thousand t (Agricultural Statistics at a Glance-A.P., 2017-18) contributing 50 % to the total production of Andhra Pradesh. Area and production of Chilli in this area decides the prices at National level. Looking to the importance of this crop in the district the

present study on resource use efficiency of dry chilli production was undertaken.

Materials and Methods

The data used in this study pertain to a sample of 99 chilli growers who belongs to 3 villages namely Sirigiripadu, Phanidam and Gummanampadu, from Veldurthi and Sattenapalli and Bollapalli mandals respectively of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. The Cobb-Douglas production function and profit functions were used for estimation of the resources use efficiency of chilli growers. Resource use efficiency can be defined as the ability to derive maximum output per unit of resource. Resource allocation and productivity is an important aspect to increase agricultural production, which is associated with the management of the farmers, who employ the resources in production. The Cobb-Douglas production function was used for the estimation of the resource use efficiency of inputs used in chilli production of different sizes of chilli growers. The Cobb-Douglas production function of following form is used:

$$Y = a X_1^{b_1} X_2^{b_2} X_3^{b_3} X_4^{b_4} X_5^{b_5} X_6^{b_6} py_7^{b_7}$$

Where,

- Y= Profit (Rs/farm) dependent variable
- X₁ = Price of seed (Rs/g)
- X₂ = Prices of manure and fertilizer (Rs/t)
- X₃ = Price of plant protection chemicals (Rs/kg)
- X₄ = Labour wages (Rs/person)
- X₅ = Bullock and machine labour wages (Rs/hr)
- X₆ = Fixed cost (Rs/farm)
- py₇ = Price of chilli (Rs/quintal)
- a = Constant
- b₁ to b₇ =Regression co-efficient of concerned variables

A profit (or cost) function relates maximized profits (or minimized costs) to the prices of product(s) and input(s), as also to the other exogenous variables such as fixed inputs, or agro-climatic and social variable. The parameters of a profit function contain all information about the underlying production function. The range of excessive usage of variable has been analyzed through a method called Profit function analysis. The profit function represents a particular factor prices to the maximum profit levels achievable at those output prices and factor prices. Mathematically it is denoted as following

$$\pi = \pi(P, W)$$

Where, Greek symbol π denotes profit, P is a vector of output prices, W denotes vector of input prices.

$$\pi(P, W) = A\pi_{i=1}^n P_{xi}^{-\alpha_i} P_y^\beta$$

Where, $\pi(P, W)$ is the profit from chilli enterprise, P_{xi} is the price of ith input P_y is the price of chilli per quintal.

$$\pi(P, W) = P_y - \sum_{i=1}^n wxi - TFC$$

Where,

P_y is a gross income of farmer (Rs/farm)

W_{xi} is variable cost incurred for the production of chilli (Rs/farm)

TFC is total fixed cost incurred in production of chilli (Rs/farm)

After regression being run for Cobb-Douglas production function, resource use efficiency of inputs was calculated. According to theoretical considerations for Cobb-Douglas

profit function, it is expected that coefficient price of input (variable) must be negative to find out the resource use efficiency of inputs. In the present investigation X₅ (bullock and machine power) variable was found to be negatively significant. (P.L. Sankhayan, Introduction to the Economics of Agricultural production.)

$$\frac{Xi^*}{Xi} = \frac{\text{Optimum quantity of } i^{\text{th}} \text{ input}}{\text{Actual quantity of } i^{\text{th}} \text{ input}} \times 100$$

where, xi* is optimum quantity of ith variable and xi is actual quantity of ith variable.

Optimum quantity of xi variable (Xi*):

$$Xi^* = -\beta \frac{\pi^*}{Xi}$$

Where, β is coefficient of ith variable, π* is estimated level of profit from Cobb-Douglass profit function. First order partial derivation of profit function with respect to price of input provides negative of optimum quantity of input.

$$\frac{-\partial\pi}{\partial pi} = +Xi$$

Estimated profit (π*)

Estimated profit was calculated by using following formula after log transformation of data on input and output.

$$\pi^* = \ln \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln X_1 + \beta_2 \ln X_2 + \beta_3 \ln X_3 + \beta_4 \ln X_4 + \beta_5 \ln X_5 + \beta_6 \ln X_6 + \beta_7 \ln Py_7 + E$$

Where,

- π* = Estimated profit (Rs/farm)
- β₀ = Coefficient of intercept
- β₁ - β₇ = Coefficients of concerned variables
- Other variables are same as specified for Cobb-Douglas function.

Results and Discussion

The summary statistics of variables for the estimation of Cobb-Douglass production function are presented in the table 1 which shows that the average area under chilli was 2.99 ha per farm, average price of seed was Rs 34.92 per g, the average cost of fertilizer and manure use was Rs 3758.39 per t, the average price of plant protection chemical was Rs 2150.02 per kg, unit cost of labour was Rs 206.65 per man, unit cost of machine power was Rs 319.36 per hr, average fixed cost was Rs 58114.14 per farm, average price of dry chilli was Rs 7965.48 per quintal and mean of gross margin was Rs 879841.78 per farm and standard deviation of Rs 586936.84 per farm. The larger variability in gross margin indicates that farmers cultivate different hectares of farmland under chilli crop with different proportion of input use.

The coefficients of different resources used are presented in table 2. According to the results from the data given in table the coefficient of multiple determination (R²) was 0.96 it indicates that about 96 per cent of variations in the profit was explained by the model using explanatory variables (X₁ to Py₇). The high values show the good representation of the relationship between farm profit and the included variables. The estimated coefficient for variables X₁, X₂ and Py₇ i.e., seed, manures and fertilizers, and price of chilli, respectively are significantly different from zero at one per cent of significance. Plant protection chemical (X₃) is significantly different from zero at five per cent level of significance. Human labour wages (X₄) is not significant but positively influencing the profit. Machine labour wages (X₅) has significantly different from zero at one per cent level influencing the profit negatively and fixed cost (X₆) is not significant but positively influencing the profit. The analysis revealed that one percent

increase in the price of chilli results in 1.99 % increase in profit. One % increase in machine labour results in 0.93 % decrease in profit.

(keeping other resources constant). Similar findings were also given by Thakare and Shende (2015).

Table.1 Summary statistics of variables for the estimation of Cobb-Douglass production function model for dry chilli production on sample Farms (N=99)

S.No.	Variables	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Farm size (ha)	1.00	8.00	2.99	1.56
2	Average price of seed per gram	33.10	39.00	34.92	1.08
3	Average price of fertilizer and manure per ton	2984.55	4277.23	3758.39	252.26
4	Average price of plant protection chemical per kg	1774.40	2474.89	2150.02	169.57
5	A unit cost of labour per man day	197.00	221.68	206.65	5.23
6	A unit cost of machine power per hour	279.74	406.36	319.36	18.57
7	Fixed cost per farm	1800.00	192200.00	58114.14	46143.31
8	Average price per quintal	6900.00	9222.17	7965.48	562.09
9	Gross margin per farm	175364.18	3074950.00	879841.78	586936.84

(In Rupees)

Table.2 Coefficients of Cobb-Douglass production function for dry chilli production on sample farms

S.No	Variables	Coefficient
1	Intercept	-81.839* (-18.337)
2	X ₁ Seed	18.806* (23.498)
3	X ₂ Manure and fertilizer	0.949* (3.948)
4	X ₃ Plant protection chemical	0.455** (2.396)
5	X ₄ Human labour	8.27 (1.343)
6	X ₅ Bullock and Machine labour	-0.925* (-2.968)
7	X ₆ Fixed cost	0.022 (1.520)
8	Py ₇ Price of chilli	1.992* (6.102)
9	F statistical value (F critical value)	313.006* (3.279)
10	R ²	0.960
11	Adjusted R ²	95.70
12	Number of observations (N)	99

*indicate significant at 1% level, **indicate significant at 5% level

Table.3 Profit function analysis

Particular	Actual value(Rs)	Estimated value(optimum Rs)
Profit or Net income(per ha)	193911.98	205539.98
Power use cost (per hr)	322.76	119.34
Resource use efficiency	= $322.76/119.34 \times 100 = 37\%$	

Estimated profit and estimated X_5 (power use) were calculated and presented in the table 3. From the given data it can be concluded that chilli farmers are using excess amount of machine power (X_5) by 63%, which equals Rs 204 per hr. Therefore the above analysis revealed that through optimization of power use on sample chilli farms the profitability would be increased by about six per cent but important point is that the cut in power use would save the fuel and will reduce the environmental pollution. These findings were confirmed by Nwachukwu and Onyenweaku (2009).

From profit function analysis we can conclude that chilli farmers are using excess amount of bullock and machine labour (power use) by 63 % which equals to Rs. 204 per hr cut can be saved by efficient use of same by 37 % thus the hypothesis of efficient resource use is rejected.

Thus optimization of these resources can save 37% energy use. Agriculture extension agencies should conduct the training programmes for chilli growers, so that inputs can be used more efficiently for reducing the cost and increasing the profit per unit area and per unit of input use.

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