

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF PALAS TREE (LAC) IN KORBA DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH

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Abstract: Lac culture is a cash crop of importance and provides valuable income to resource constrained growers inhabiting tribal-dominated forest and sub-forest regions of Chhattisgarh. The State of Chhattisgarh contributes almost 25 per cent of the total Stick Lac produced in India. Almost one hundred thousand household in the state is involved with the cultivation and procurement of this forest produce. However, the production per tree is almost on the lower end in Chhattisgarh. Jharkhand state ranks 1st followed by Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra. Lac growers give more important to regular income from cultivation of lac over the years to one-time income from timber or fuel. The study aims to examine the cost, return, Marketing pattern and constraints in Lac production and marketing in the study area. The study is relied on the response collected personally from 75 Lac growers, selected purposely from two villages of Korba district of Chhattisgarh state. It was found that, most of the respondent belonged to schedule tribes; literacy of family members was observed 89.29 per cent in all categories of farmers. Agriculture is observed as the main occupation. The economics of Lac cultivation in average cost for Palas was worked out as Rs.2419.08 per tree. Major expenditure was incurred in Brood Lac (91.46 per cent) followed by Inoculation of Brood Lac (1.90 per cent). The average production per tree of Lac for Palas was observed as 22.13 Kilogram, Average input-output ratio of Lac was observed as 1:2.29 for Palas Lac tree. There were three marketing channels for the marketing of Lac i.e. channel I producer, wholesaler, retailer and primary processor, channel II producer, wholesaler, and primary processor and channel III producer, and primary processor. It was observed that 54.50 per cent of produced has been marketing in I, II, and III respectively.

Keywords: Economic analysis, Production, Tree, Chhattisgarh

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