

Economic Analysis of Moringa (*Moringa pterygosperma*) Production in Tamil Nadu

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ABSTRACT

Moringa (*Moringa pterygosperma*) is a multipurpose tree with five years of economic value. The per hectare human labour utilization for moringa cultivation over a period of five years was 463.21 man days, while the cattle labour and tractor power utilization were 55.52 cattle pair days and 18.45 hrs respectively. The land preparation activity, which involved digging of pits and preparation of basins was the important labour intensive operation during first year with 39.42 per cent share of the total establishment cost of Rs. 21248/ha of moringa production. The human labour employed for irrigation and harvesting was found increasing from second year. The expenditure incurred on fertilizer application took major share of maintenance cost of moringa orchard during second, third and fourth years, while harvesting took the major share during fifth year. The total cost and gross income recorded over a period of five years were Rs. 94169 and Rs.250500/ha respectively, with a benefit-cost ratio of 2.41 and pay back period of 1.47 years, proving that moringa cultivation was economically viable.

Key words : Benefit-cost ratio, Maintenance cost, Pay back period.