

Economic Efficiency of Walnut Cultivation in Kashmir Valley, India

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Abstract—*Jammu and Kashmir is the largest producer of walnuts in India and it acts as an important source of livelihood for large section of small and marginal farmers. The present study was undertaken to measure the economic efficiency of sample walnut orchards and subsequently explore constraints hindering the walnut cultivation in the south Kashmir region of Jammu and Kashmir, India. The study is based on the cross sectional database collected from 240 walnut growers in the study area during 2017-18 production period. Research results reveal that walnut cultivation is highly labour intensive as it incurs 80% of total production costs. The average cost-benefit ratio for walnut cultivation/ha in the study area is 1:5.8, indicating better future economic prospects for walnut industry in Kashmir Valley. The coefficients of production analysis, marginal value product and factor cost ratio indicates that there is ample scope for the expansion and development of walnut cultivation in the research area. However, the walnut growers are confronted by number of problems which more or less tend to be location specific. The Garrett Ranking method reveals that risk during harvesting, price fluctuations, lack of credit facilities, small land holding size, lack of extension services and research, extensive non-bearing stage and poor financial conditions are the major constraints faced by small walnut growers. The study, therefore, proposes policy intervention so that walnut growers could be provided with better extension services, greater access to credit and farmer training programs.*

Keywords: *Walnut; Economy; Kashmir valley; Garrett Ranking; Cost Benefit Ratio.*