

Singh, K. R. 1988. A Study of Marketing of Pineapple in Central Districts of Manipur. Assam Agricultural University; Jorhat. *Major Adviser* : K.C. Talukdar.

An attempt was made in the present study to examine the pattern of production and marketed surplus of pineapple, relative efficiency in marketing of pineapple among the growers, interrelationship between marketing institutions and agrarian structure, and constraints in the marketing of pineapple.

The study was conducted in the Central district of Manipur during 1986-87. Thoubal and Churachandpur Development Blocks were selected purposively from Central and South districts of Manipur. Five villages were selected randomly from each block. Farmers were selected by applying multistage stratified random sampling taking the household as the ultimate unit. The growers were classified into four major groups; viz., marginal, small, medium and large farmers. The growers who planted pineapple for home consumption were not considered in the sample. A total of 100 marginal, 36 small, 36 medium and 16 large farmers were selected based on proportion of area under pineapple.

The productivity per hectare of pineapple for marginal, small, medium and large farmers in Thoubal Development Block were 15.0, 19.42, 14.77 and 16.81 tonnes, while in Churachandpur Development Block these were 20.81, 21.42, 19.01 and 16.54 tonnes, respectively. The productivity for pooled farmers in Thoubal and Churachandpur Development Blocks were 16.17 and 17.47 tonnes per hectare and these were higher than the average yield of 15 tonnes per hectare in the state.

The marketed surplus for marginal, small, medium, large and pooled farmers in Thoubal and Churachandpur Development Blocks were 93.77, 96.21, 97.38, 96.86 and 6.82, and 98.96, 97.73, 99.42, 98.86 and 98.76 per cent, respectively. The marketed surplus was lower in Thoubal Development Block due to higher domestic consumption. The significant factors that directly affected the marketed surplus of 'Queen' variety were total production and area under pineapple while the 'Kew' variety was directly affected by total production, area under pineapple and level of farm income but was adversely affected by non-marketed transaction of pineapple. The elasticities of marketed surplus with respect to total production and area under pineapple for 'Queen' variety were 0.95 and 0.96, respectively. The elasticities with respect to total production, area under pineapple, non-marketed transaction and level of income for 'Kew' variety were 0.70680, 0.18301, - 0.07406, respectively.

The most popular and efficient channel in marketing of 'Queen' and 'Kew' varieties for medium and large farmers was producer-market wholesaler-distant retailer-consumer while producer-local trader-distant retailer-consumer was the most popular and efficient channel for marginal and small farmers in marketing of 'Kew'

variety. The highest cost (Rs. 331.77) was incurred by market wholesaler while the highest margin of 59.54 per cent of purchased price was earned by pre-harvest contractor. The net share of producer in the consumer's rupee varied from 36.07 to 58.82 per cent for 'Queen' variety and from 26.05 to 66.61 per cent for 'Kew' variety. The price spread was directly related to the levels of margins, costs and wastages, number of middlemen involved in the channel and the type of market used by growers. The highest price spread (73.94 per cent) was observed when produce was sold to processors. The lowest (33.38 per cent) was observed when produce was sold to local traders for 'Kew' variety.

Lack of organisation among the growers, absence of storage facility, inadequate credit, transport and communication bottlenecks and malpractices in the market by intermediaries were not only responsible for lower producer share (26 to 66 per cent) of the consumer rupee but also made marketing system of pineapple inefficient, inequitable and exploitative in the state.

Rahman, S. 1988. An Analysis of Parity Prices for Major Crops in Assam State. Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. *Major Adviser* : K.C. Talukdar.

The present study seeks to examine the parity prices for major crops, inter-crop price and income parity and income parity of the farmers. Five major crops, viz., rice, wheat, jute, mustard and sugarcane were selected for the study. Data required for the study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Time series data from 1970-71 to 1985-86 were analysed by simple tabular analysis to study the price structure. The prices for major crops were projected for the year 1986-87 and 1987-88. Two stage stratified random sampling was used as sample design taking village at first stratum and household at ultimate stratum. ten per cent each of marginal, small and medium and all the large farmers of the villages were selected for primary data collection.

The prices were estimated for the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 by different methods, viz., Fixed base method, Average parity method, Adjusted base method, parity between prices received for farm products and prices paid for farm inputs and parity between prices received and prices paid. Averages of different approaches were estimated and were adjusted with cost-gross return ratio. It was found that the adjusted parity prices for rice, wheat, jute, mustard and sugarcane during 1986-87 should be Rs. 167.59, Rs. 223.31, Rs. 316.06, Rs. 487.33 and Rs. 483.12, respectively and for 1987-88 should be Rs. 172.86, Rs. 226.22, Rs. 321.94, Rs. 520.15 and Rs. 534.43, respectively. It was found that procurement prices fixed for the selected crops were much lower than the adjusted parity prices in both the years. However, the projected farm harvest prices for only rice and mustard in both the years were higher than the adjusted prices. Thus, farmers were getting favourable prices for rice and mustard in the state.