

# AN IMPACT OF BANANA CULTIVATORS IN ERAL TALUK

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## Abstract

In India banana has been cultivated from time immemorial. There are at least fifty varieties being commercially cultivated in more than 7,09,000 hectares throughout India. India ranks first in the production of banana in the world and accounts for about 28 percent of the total world banana production. Today the need for meeting the minimum nutritional level of the diet of a common man is assuming greater importance. The cultivation of fruits and vegetables is increasing because they provide much needed nourishment supporting vitamins, minerals and also help in improving the protein value in food.

Key words: Banana production, marketing and opinion

## Introduction

The growth in the production of fruits and vegetables assumes critical importance now-a-days due to the increase in the demand generated by the rapid increase in a population and has been accelerated by the rise in the levels of income of the people and the consequent changes in the pattern of consumption. Fruits play a unique role in developing countries like India both in economic and social sphere for improving income and nutritional status particularly of rural masses. Among fruits and vegetables banana is a prominent and special crop with its peculiarities such as non-seasonal character, one-year gestation period, single bunch output and perishable in a short period of seven to ten days. Banana is the most nutritious fruit among all fruits. Owing to its greater socio-economic significance and multifaceted uses, it is referred as 'kalpatharu'. Banana fruit is a wonder berry, which forms the staple food of millions of people across the globe, providing more balanced food than any other fruit or vegetable. It contains eleven vitamins and the important ones are A, B and C. although fat and protein contents are very low, the fruit is rich in minerals. Banana is the common name for herbaceous plants of the genus *musa* and for the fruits they produce. Bananas come in a variety of sizes and colours including yellow, purple, and red. Almost all modern edible parthenocarpic bananas come from the two-wild species *musa acuminata* and *musa balbisiana*. The old scientific names *musa sapientum* and *musa paradisiaca* are no longer used. Banana is also used to describe Enset and Fei bananas, neither of which belong to the *musa* genus. Enset bananas belong to the genus *Ensete* while the taxonomy of fei-type cultivars is uncertain. They are native to tropical south and southeast Asia, and are likely to have been first domesticated in Papua New Guinea. Today, they are cultivated throughout the tropics. They are grown in at least 107 countries, primarily for their fruit, and to a lesser extent to make fibre, banana wine and as ornamental plants.

## Banana Cultivation in EralTaluk

In Eral taluk are three regions sawyerpuram, srivaikundam and Eral, agriculture is the main occupation on which 70 per cent of the people depend. The important food crops in this area paddy and banana. In this area the important varieties of banana such as robusta, poovam, red banana, rasthali, karpurvali and karthali are cultivated. Bananas are marketed mostly in Thoothukudi, Nagercoil, erode, Chennai, and Coimbatore. Moreover, transportation by road to the markets of neighbouring states like Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan is also quite sizeable and also exported to foreign countries through brokers like U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

### Scope of the Study

The scope of the study has been restricted to the production and social welfare of the cultivators of banana in Eral Taluk. It is essential to know the economic conditions of cultivators in the study area. It suggests measure to solve the problems of banana marketing. It helps to get a statistical view of the particular region.

### Statement of the problem

India is the largest banana producer in the world and the cultivators are facing many problems during cultivation. The productivity of banana in India is low when compared to other countries. India economy is an agrarian economy with more than 80 per cent of the total population depend on agriculture as their main occupation. The reasons for taking up a study of the production of banana at EralTaluk, Thoothukudi district are summed up below. The selected areas EralTaluk with more than 80 per cent of the total population depend on agriculture. Further nearly 75 per of the total cultivate on is banana and lot of marketing business goes in the village. Daily banana market is also available in this region. The village is solely depending on agricultural.

### Objectives of the study

1. To analyze the production of banana in Eraltaluk.
2. To identify the size of banana surplus for banana marketing.
3. To pinpoint the problems in banana cultivation.
4. To give appropriate suggestions for policy makers.

### Methodology

The study is based on secondary data and primary data. Secondary data have been collected from books, journals, newspaper and panchayet office..

## Data and sampling

Primary data are collected from the people of the region. Random sampling technique was applied to collect information regarding banana cultivators. There are 30 sample are taken for this study at random. To collect information, the questionnaire was prepared relating to the nature of marketing and the economic conditions of the people.

## Tools of Analysis

Percentages and tables are used to study the socio-economic status of banana producers, to identify the available and negotiable market, infrastructure facilities, banana surplus for agriculture marketing and the problems of banana marketing in the study area.

## Limitations of the study

Every research study suffers from constraints and limitations. The present study has the following constraints and limitations.

1. It is a micro study suffers which relates to a small region,
2. The investigator experiences difficulties in contacting the cultivators during day times. Only during evening and nights, they been interviewed, and
3. The respondents are mostly illiterates. They have given manipulated information. Efforts have been to elicit true and accurate information.

## Review of Literature

**Dr. M.S. Ranjithkumar, Dr. U. Gokila (2017)** due to its high economic gains throughout the year compared to other crops like rice and wheat. Apart from the imputed value of family effort, the other effects lice of cost of production. On the whole income etc. one not favorable to the small farmers. Their agricultural lands depend on torrential rains the greater parts of the lands are Rain fed areas. If the monsoon fails then the farmers will be in hitch. By examining various research results as one the government generates awareness among the farmers concerning banana cultivation and may push more farmers to cultivate this precious food which is greatly vital in our habitual diet system.

**K. Vanilaras, J. Suresh, K. Soorianathasundaram, T. Ragu chander, K. Deurajan and K. Kumar (2018)** this study demonstrated that use of liquid formulatiosn of bioinoculants along with commercial fertilizers through fertigation enhanced the growth and yield of banana other than soil application and reduced ill effects on soil fertility by the increased nutrient uptake from soil through the application of pseudomonas fluorescents, bacillus subtilis, Azospirillum and AM fungi.

**C. Mahalakshmi, S. Vinothkumar, P. Maneesh, J. Syed fathima (2016)** the natural factors affecting the banana crop production include water storage, soil fertility, problems of soil, insects, weeds and crop

variety. Water storage and weeds were reported by majority of cultivations as a major problem affecting crop productivity. Among the economic factor affecting banana cultivations, 88 percent of the respondents reported that fluctuations in price as the major reason. Inadequacy in credit and capital are the second major causes affecting crop productivity.

**S. Ghimire, B. Koirala, S. Devkota and G. Basnet (2019)** this survey was conducted to assess the economics of commercial banana cultivation and to study the supply chain in the eastern Chitwan in 2018. The study was conducted in Rathnesandquar and Khairani municipalities. A household survey of 100 banana growers which includes 50 from each municipality and of total 20 traders were interviewed for collection of primary data. Data obtained from semi structural questionnaire were subjected to descriptive analysis. The result showed that, the cost of banana cultivation per hectare was N Rs. 45587.80 and average profit to be N Rs. 197853.23 per hectare.

**E. Vadivel. The R&D (2018)** efforts of national research Centre for banana at Trichy and Tamil Nadu agricultural university. Coimbatore had resulted in generation of potential technologies for improved yield and quality; there was no substantial promotion of banana trade. The banana festivals I, II, III and IV were organized to sensitize the producers and consumers in collaboration with CII, TN chapter. All stall holders were brought under one roof for exchange of views based on their expertise. The real issue that checks the promotion of trade and market. The study chain concept was well driven in the minds of all stall holders.

### Classification of Banana

The edible fruit Bananas a Herbaceous plant belonging to the Genus Musa can be classified according to nature of texture of the fruit which is called as Plantains which is used for cooking and the soft sweet fruit is called Desert sweet bananas. The edible banana which is seedless is classified into two main species called Musa acuminata and Musa balbisiana. Read the following section and get to know the types of bananas with 1. Ice Cream Banana Tree, 2. Cavendish Banana, 3. Manzano Banana 4. Dwarf Cavendish Banana, 5. Dwarf Plantain, 6. Gros Michel, 7. Red Banana 8. Nendran, 9. Grand Naine Banana, 10. Robusta Banana.

### Analysis and Interpretation

**Table: 4.1 Gender of the respondents**

S.No	Gender	No. of . respondents	Percentage
1	Male	26	87
2	Female	04	13
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.1 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to male 87 percent in study area and only 13 percent of the respondents are female in the banana cultivators.

**Table 4.2 Age of the respondents**

S.No	Age	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Below 20	06	20
2	20-40	15	50
3	40-60	08	27
4	Above 60	01	37
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.2 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to between 20-40 age group 50 percent in study area. Next 60 percent of the respondents are above 60 years, between 40-60 age group of respondent are 27 Percent, and only 20 percent of the respondent are below 20 in the banana cultivators. **Table: 4.3 Marital status**

S.No	Marital	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Unmarried	12	40
2	Married	13	43
3	widows	03	10
4	Divorced	02	07
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.3 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to 43 percent in study area. Next 40 percent of the respondents are unmarried, widows of respondent are 10 Percent, and only 7 percent of the respondent are divorced in the banana cultivators. **Table: 4.4 Size of the family**

S.No	Family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 2 Member	05	17
2	Between 3-6	18	60
3	Between 6-9	06	20
4	above 9	01	03
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.4 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to between 3-6 members are 60 percent in study area. Next 20 percent of the respondents are between 6-9 members, below 2 members of respondent are 17 Percent, and only 3 percent of the respondent are above 9 members in the banana cultivators.

**Table: 4.5 Qualification Respondents**

S. No	Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	04	13
2	Primary	07	23
3	Higher Secondary	08	27
4	Degree	09	30

5	Diploma	02	07
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.5 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to literate level of degree education are 30 percent in study area. Next 27 percent of the respondents are higher secondary, primary of respondent are 23 Percent, un educated of respondent are 13 Percent and only 07 percent of the respondent are diploma in the banana cultivators. **Table: 4-6 -Religion**

S.NO	Religion	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Hindu	20	67
2	Christian	07	23
3	Muslim	02	07
4	Others	01	03
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.6 reveals that majority of the respondents are hindu 67 percent in study area. Next 23 percent of the respondents are Christian, muslim of respondent are 07 Percent, and only 3 percent of the respondent are others in the banana cultivators.

**Table 4-7 occupation Respondents**

S.no	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Self Employed	10	33
2	Private sector	06	20
3	Govt Sector	02	07
4	former	12	40
	total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.7 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to 40 percent are former in study area. Next 33 percent of the respondents are self-employed, private employed of respondent are 20 Percent, and only 07 percent of the respondent are government employed in the banana cultivators. **Table 4.8 -**

**Annual Income**

S.No.	Annual Income	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Below Rs.10000	02	06
2	Between Rs.100000 – 200000	18	60
3	Between Rs.200000 - 400000	08	27
4	Above Rs.400000	02	07
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.8 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to between Rs.100000-200000 of the annual income 60 percent in study area. Next 27 percent of the respondents are between Rs.200000-400000, above Rs.400000 annual income of respondent are 7 Percent, and only 6 percent of the



respondent are below Rs.100000 in the banana cultivators annual incomes. **Table 4-9 Experience Respondents**

S.No	Experience	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Blow 3 years	11	37
2	Between 3-6 years	10	33
3	Between 6-9 years	08	27
4	above 9 years	01	03
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.9 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to below 3 years' experience 37 percent in study area. Next 33 percent of the respondents are between 3-6 years, between 6-9 years of respondent are 27 Percent, and only 03 percent of the respondent are above 9 years in the banana cultivators. **Table: 4-10 Acres Respondents**

S.No	Money acres	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 1 acres	07	23
2	Between 3-4 acres	12	40
3	Between 4-6 acres	06	20
4	Above 6 acres	05	17
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.10 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to between 3-4 acres banana cultivated 40 percent in study area. Next 23 percent of the respondents are below 1 acres, between 4-6 acres of respondent are 20 Percent, and only 17 percent of the respondent are above 6 acres in the banana cultivators.

**Table: 4-11 –Types of banana cultivate of the Respondents**

S.No	Type	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Poovan	16	53
2	Rasthali	02	07
3	Negatron	07	23
4	Others	05	17
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.11 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to poovan banana 53 percent in study area. Next 23 percent of the respondents are negatron, others of respondent are 17 Percent, and only 07 percent of the respondent are rasthali in the banana cultivators. **Table: 4-12 Reasons Respondents**

S.No	Reasons	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Suitability to land conditions	01	03
2	Less Expenditure conditions	05	17

3	Profitability	03	10
4	Continuous element	02	07
5	Marketability	19	63
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.12 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to marketability 63 percent in study area. Next 17 percent of the respondents are less expensive conditions, profitability of respondent are 10 Percent, continuous elements conditions of respondent are 07 Percent and only 03percent of the respondent are suitability to land conditions in the banana cultivators. **Table 4-13 Problem Respondents**

S,No	Problem	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Banana Unit	04	13
2	Rhizome rot	03	10
3	Nutrient Deficiency	01	03
4	Leat Sport Disease	02	07
5	Other if any	20	67
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.13 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to others if any 67 percent in study area. Next 13 percent of the respondents are banana units, rhizome rot of respondent are 10 Percent, 07 percent of the respondent are leat sport disease in the banana cultivators, and only 03 percent of the respondent are nutrient deficiency the problem faced in the banana cultivation.

**Table: 4-14 opinion Respondents**

S,No	Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Higher Satisfied	04	13
2	Satisfied	13	43
3	Moderate	06	20
4	Dissatisfied	02	07
5	Highly Dissatisfied	05	17
	Total	30	100

(Source: Primary Data) The Table: 4.14 reveals that majority of the respondents belong to satisfied 43 percent in banana cultivate of the study area. Next 20 percent of the respondents are moderate, highly dissatisfied of respondent are 17 Percent, highly satisfied of respondent are 13 Percent, and only 07 percent of the respondent are dissatisfied in the banana cultivators.

## Findings

- 87 percent of the respondents are male and 43 percent of the respondents are married.
- 50 percent of the respondents are age group of between 20-40 and 60 percent of the respondents are between 3-6 members of the family members.



- 30 percent of the respondents are qualification degree and 77 percent of the respondents are Hindus.
- 40 percent of the respondents are formers and 37 percent of the respondents are below 3 years experience.
- 40 percent of the respondents are between 3-4 acres of banana cultivations.
- 60 percent of the respondents are annual income between Rs.100000- 200000.
- 53 percent of the respondents are cultivate banana poovan and 63 percent of the respondents are marketability.
- 67 percent of the respondents are faced by problems of rain, others and 43 percent of the respondents are satisfied of the banana cultivate.

### Suggestions

- Crop insurance scheme can be introduced by the government of Tamil Nadu in order to protect the farmers in critical situation, like crop loss due to natural disorders. Farmers may be providing with crop insurance knowledge through advertisement in mass Medias.
- Soil testing lab can be made accessible to the farmers in the study area.
- Subsidized rate of pesticides and fertilizers have to be given to small farmers.
- Bank can be play effective role in extending credit to the entire farmer in the study area.
- Government can be minimum stable price for banana. The government provides subsidies to the small farmers for adopting the new technology (i.e.) drip irrigation, soil testing etc.

### Conclusion

India is known for its best agricultural activities, with lot of valuable natural resources and human resources. The agricultural growth strategy of the past has intensified the interclass inequalities. The study reveals that the banana cultivation is most profitable to the small and large farmers. The government can pay attention by providing transports facilities, good facilitated market and providing subsidies for fertilizer, and also providing the organic manure at the appropriate time. This will enable the farmers to get a good yield of banana.

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