

# A STUDY ON CULTIVATION PRACTICES OF TURMERIC FARMERS IN ERODE DISTRICT

**V.MAHESH**

Ph.D. Research Scholar  
Department of Commerce  
Annamalai University  
Annamalainagar – 608 002

**Dr.B.MANIVANNAN**

Assistant Professor of Commerce  
Arignar Anna Government Arts College  
Villupuram – 605 602

## Abstract

The study deals with the cultivation practices of turmeric farmers in Erode district. The turmeric growers suffering with various problems like non-availability of labours, less technical knowledge about diseases management, non-availability of agricultural research station for turmeric crop, absence of improved farm mechanization technologies and unavailability of quality seed. The results indicated that the agricultural development strategy for developing countries need to be geared towards increasing the productivity of land under cultivation, with reduced cost, higher efficiency use of inputs with little or no harm to both human and the environment.

**Key words:** Cultivation, turmeric marketing, agricultural marketing, sustainable agriculture, etc.

## 1. Introduction

India is the world kingdom of spices and largest producer as well as consumer of turmeric in the world. It is known as the 'Golden Spice of Life' and is one of the most essential spices used as an important ingredient in culinary all over the world. It is an important commercial spice grown in India. Turmeric is grown only in 6 per cent of the total area under spices in India. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world and accounts for 78 per cent world's total production. Further, turmeric in second largest foreign exchange earner among Indian spices..The main turmeric producing states in India are: Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Orissa, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala. Andhra Pradesh is the single largest producer of turmeric accounting for more than 60 per cent of total turmeric produced in the country. Tamil Nadu is the second largest producer contributing for about 17 per cent of output in the country followed by Odisha, West Bengal and Karnataka.

## 2. Review of literature

Jayasubramanian (2015) studied the problems related to various factors cost, return, advantages, net return and prospects for their turmeric products in the study area. The objectives are: to examine the demographic profile of the small farmers in Erode district; to find out the problems perceived by the small farmers in turmeric market; to identify the prospects for the turmeric products perceived by the small farmers; and to contribute suggestions for policy implications.

Jayanthi (2015) studied the cultivation practices of turmeric farmers in Erode district. The turmeric growers suffering with problems on various aspects like monsoon failures, lack of technology, storage problem, problems with private vendors and intermediaries. The study indicated that the agricultural development strategy for developing countries need to be geared towards increasing the productivity of land under cultivation, with reduced cost, higher efficiency use of inputs with little or no harm to both human and the environment.

## 3. Statement of the problem

Traditionally turmeric cultivations were developed only by small growers. The turmeric cultivation in Tamil Nadu does generate more employment opportunities in rural areas. Right from the stage of nursery formation to the harvesting stage, a lot of manual labour is required. Introduction of machines in turmeric cultivation is almost impossible due to its peculiar nature and hence a turmeric grower has to rely mainly upon human labour for preparation of land, mulching, weeding, manuring, spraying of pesticides and harvesting. The grower faces problems in cultivating turmeric, such as non availability of labourers, non availability fertilizers and pesticides during peak time, high cost of labour, absence of improved farm mechanization technologies and unavailability of quality seed.

## 4. Objective of the study

1. To assess the problems of turmeric cultivating farmers in Erode district.
2. To offer suggestions to overcome the problems in cultivation of turmeric.

## 5. Research methodology

The research design adopted in the study was descriptive design, which is concerned with the descriptive of a group. The area of the study is in Erode district. The study is based on primary data and the data were collected from the turmeric cultivators in Erode district. The secondary data were collected from articles, journals, newspapers and websites. The researcher has selected 150

turmeric growers. This selection was made on a convenient sampling method. The primary data are collected with the help of schedule.

## 6. Problems of turmeric cultivation

The control and management on cultivation aspects using that in available resources may sometimes be more feasible for the farmers compared to the next stage. Turmeric is shipped in the form of dry turmeric, fresh turmeric, turmeric powder, curcuminoids, dehydrated turmeric powder, oils and oleoresins. But, the per hectare output, cost of production, returns and profitability in the cultivation of turmeric is decreased due to inadequate labour, insufficient fertilizer and high cost of transportation. In addition, farmers are facing non-availability of quality seeds and credit facility. The researcher analyses these problems through simple percentage techniques.

**TABLE 1**  
**Reasons for the Preference of the Turmeric Cultivation**

Sl.No	Reasons	No of growers supporting the reason	Percentage	Rank
1	Possibility of inter cropping	131	87	II
2	Cash crop	142	95	I
3	Profitability	120	80	III
4	Attractive price	113	75	V
5	Soil suitability	105	70	VII
6	Availability of water	101	67	VIII
7	Easy marketability	106	71	VI
8	Long- term crop	118	79	IV
9	Easy loan facility	90	60	X
10	Good storage facility	96	64	IX

Source: Primary data

Table 1 reveals that 95 per cent of the farmers are highly supporting by cash crop, 87 per cent of the farmers are highly supporting by possibility of intercropping, 80 per cent of the farmers are highly supported by profitability of the turmeric cultivation followed by long-term crop, attractive price, easy marketability, soil suitability, availability of water, good storage facility and easy loan facility.

**TABLE 2**  
**Major Problems Faced by Turmeric Growers**

S.No	Problems	No. of Growers	Percentage	Rank
1	Non- availability of labours	129	86	II
2	Unavailability of quality seed	110	73	VI
3	Less technical knowledge about seed treatment	97	65	X
4	Lack knowledge about diseases management	113	75	V
5	Lack knowledge about pest management	109	73	VIII
6	Inadequate credit facility	125	83	III
7	Absence of improved farm mechanization technology	105	70	IX
8	High cost of pesticide and fertilizer	117	78	IV
9	High transportation cost	138	92	I
10	Storage losses of seed rhizomes	108	72	VII

Source: Primary data

Table 2 reveals that 92 per cent of the turmeric farmers are highly supporting by transportation cost, 86 per cent of the farmers are highly supporting by possibility of non-availability of labours, 83 per cent of the farmers are highly supported by inadequate credit facility. The turmeric farmers faced by the cultivation problems followed by high cost of pesticide and fertilizer, lack knowledge about diseases management, unavailability of quality seed, storage losses of seed rhizomes, lack knowledge about pest management, absence of improved farm mechanization technology and less technical knowledge about seed treatment.

## 7. Suggestions

1. Extension contact and mass media participation was found to be significantly associated with the technological gap in turmeric cultivation practices. The line department in collaboration with Spice Board and State Agriculture Universities should essentially organize extension activities during off season followed by regular field visits and interaction meetings to promote increased adoption of turmeric production technologies.

2. Government has to create better infrastructure to counter the problems faced by the turmeric growers like proper electricity supply, good varieties, planting material and chemical fertilizers in the turmeric growing areas.
3. There is need to have a consortium of progressive turmeric growers, scientists from different institutes, representatives of turmeric growers associations and lead input providers to tackle the problems of turmeric growers in an organized manner and develop appropriate strategy for turmeric production.
4. Proper storage facilities to be arranged and proper training may be given to improve their storage practice in order to get remunerative price for turmeric.

## 8. Conclusion

The study has been conducted to assist the turmeric farmers to achieve profitable return for their hard work and also encourage them to continue their agricultural operations. It is found that the maintaining labours by turmeric growers are having level of impact in their business when not retained the turmeric growers had to meet unnecessary and unexpected losses. Hence, it is important to encourage the turmeric growers and help them to achieve greater heights in the years to come.

## 9. Reference

- Anantkawlas (2014). A Study of Turmeric Processing and Its Export from India. *Research Font*, 2 (3).
- Babu, et al. (2015). Traditional Cultivation Practices of Turmeric in the Tribal Belt of Odisha. *Journal of Engineering Computers & Applied Sciences*, 4 (2), 52-57.
- Muthusamy, A. (2013). A Study on Export Performance of Indian Turmeric. *Indian Journal of Applied Research*, 2 (4), 54-56.
- Naresh Babu (2015). Traditional Cultivation Practices of Turmeric in the Tribal Belt of Odisha. *Journal of Enjineering Computers & Applied Science*, 4 (2).
- Natarajan, C., & Kumar, M. (2013). Perception of the Farmers towards Working of Salem Regulated Market. *Indo Global Journal of Applied Management Science*, 1(3), 52-55.
- Sasikumar (2015). Problems, and Prospects for Turmeric Products Perceived by Small Farmers in Erode District. *Indian Journal of Applied Research*, 1 (13), 306-311.
- Srinivasa, K., & Dhandapani, C. (2013). Turmeric the “Golden Spices” - The Market Survey, *Facts for You*, 15 (3), 12-14.