



PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF BANANA CROP IN INDI TALUKA: A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SALUTAGI VILLAGE

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ABSTRACT

The history of Agriculture in India dates back to Indus Valley Civilization Era and even before that in some parts of Southern India. Today, India ranks second worldwide in farm output. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry and fisheries accounted for 13.7% of the GDP (gross domestic product) in 2013, about 50% of the workforce. The economic contribution of agriculture to India's GDP is steadily declining with the country's broad-based economic growth. Still, agriculture is demographically the broadest economic sector and plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic fabric of India. Banana is a popular fruit that is highly nutritious and delicious. It can be eaten either raw as a daily fruit, as a dessert, or cooked as a tasty tropical dish. Usually, ripe bananas are soft and sweet, and are consumed raw while unripe bananas contain lots of starch and fiber, and are used as a cooking ingredient. . The main objectives of present research work 1) To study the problems and prospects of the banana cultivators. In addition, the cultivation of bananas creates job opportunities for local people, and also plays a vital role in the economy of exporting countries. Most of the bananas used in developed countries are imported.



KEY WORD: Horticulture crops, Banana, Significance, Problems, Suggestions, Marketing.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The history of Agriculture in India dates back to Indus Valley Civilization Era and even before that in some parts of Southern India. Today, India ranks second worldwide in farm output. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry and fisheries accounted for 13.7% of the GDP (gross domestic product) in 2013, about 50% of the workforce. The economic contribution of agriculture to India's GDP is steadily declining with the country's broad-based economic growth. Still, agriculture is demographically the broadest economic sector and plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic fabric of India.

India exported \$38 billion worth of agricultural products in 2013, making it the seventh largest agricultural exporter worldwide and the sixth largest net exporter. Most of its agriculture exports serve developing and least developed nations. Indian agricultural/horticultural and processed foods are exported to more than 120 countries, primarily in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, SAARC countries, the EU and the United States.

Banana is a popular fruit that is highly nutritious and delicious. It can be eaten either raw as a daily fruit, as a dessert, or cooked as a tasty tropical dish. Usually, ripe bananas are soft and sweet, and are consumed raw while unripe bananas contain lots of starch and fiber, and are used as a cooking ingredient.

Banana is originally grown in South and Southeast Asia. It is cultivated in numerous tropical and subtropical countries. Bananas rank second amongst fruits and vegetables that are exported worldwide; the

first being citrus fruits, and followed by apples and frozen vegetables. The top ten countries which grow and provide substantial quantities of banana are India, the Philippines, China, Ecuador, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Thailand (FAO, 2009). The cultivation of bananas is important to developing countries in tropical and subtropical areas, since it provides a promising food source for the domestic market to meet local nutritional requirements, as well as for people around the world.

In addition, the cultivation of bananas creates job opportunities for local people, and also plays a vital role in the economy of exporting countries. Most of the bananas used in developed countries are imported. The two largest importers are the United States of America and the European Union where each region imports an average of 32% of the total world production of bananas. Japan (9%), Eastern Europe (6%), South America and Canada (8%) are the other major importing countries.

Banana is a nutritious fruit with many health benefits. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA, <http://www.nal.usda.gov/>), every 118 grams portion of raw edible banana (medium size), contains 105 calories, 27 grams of carbohydrates, and very low fat. Banana is also a good source of vitamin B6 (22%), potassium (12%), vitamin C (17%), magnesium (8%), etc. The nutritional content may vary based on the soil and weather conditions at the planting sites, the ripening stage of the fruit, and on the cooking methods. From the nutrition data shown above, bananas are a good source of energy, and help in weight management since they are rich in carbohydrates and low in fat. Thus, bananas are recommended to people such as sports players and manual labourers, who require high energy to work. Also, people who suffer from obesity and high blood pressure are advised to consume banana because the potassium and mineral content aids in lowering the blood pressure.

Climate: Being a tropical crop, banana requires warm, humid and rainy climate. The optimum temperature range is 10 to 40 o C and the relative humidity is 90% or above. It is highly susceptible to frost and cannot tolerate arid conditions. Strong desiccating winds cause considerable reduction in the growth of the plant and yield and quality of fruits.

Soil: Banana is a heavy feeder crop. Therefore, fertility of soil is very important. Rich, well drained, fertile, free working, soils with plenty of organic matter is best suited for cultivation. The optimum range of pH of soil should be 6 to 8.

Propagation: Commercial edible bananas do not produce viable seeds. So, the banana is commonly propagated by suckers and sword suckers with narrow leaves. Rhizomes whole or in bits from fruited and non-fruited plants with at least one sound bud can be successfully used as propagating material.

Planting: Planting of banana is done by two methods viz. Pit method and furrow method. Planting is done from February to May in North India, it is done during July – August. In South India, it can be done any time except summer. Tall varieties should be planted at 3X3 m where the dwarf is ones at 2X2 m apart.

2. NEED OF THE STUDY:

More studies covering numerous problems of agriculture and Indian farmers are available. However, studies pertaining to a specific horticultural crop in Vijayapur district are not available. Horticultural crops such as banana, grapes, etc., add to the income of agricultural households. They also provide year long employment. It is in this context that there is need to study the problems and prospects of banana crop cultivation in Indi Taluka.

3. OBJECTIVES:

Following are the important objectives of the present research work

- 1) To understand the significance of banana cultivation in Study area.
- 2) To study the problems and prospects of the banana cultivators.
- 3) To suggest remedial measures to improve further the productivity of banana cultivation.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:-

Vijayapur district is chosen for the purpose present study among one village's i.e., Salutagi from this village; 20 respondents were selected on the simple random sample basis.

The present study is based on both from primary and secondary data, primary data were generated with the help of survey method. A suitable questionnaire developed and collected the required information. Secondary data collected from published reports, journals, district at a glance etc.

5. DISCUSSION:

Socio-economic profile and other parts of concept discussed as under. The following tables related to problem and prospects of Banana crop in Salutagi village.

Table No-01
Age-group of Respondents

SI.NO.	Age groups	Salutagi	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 25	2	10
2	26 to 35	3	15
3	36 to 45	4	20
4	46 to 55	7	35
5	Above 55	4	20
	Total	20	100

Source: Filed survey

Table No.: 1 reflects that age group of respondents in Salutagi village, here researcher have classified it in five categories that is., below 25, 26 to 35, 36 to 45, 46 to 55, and above 55. The majority of 7 respondents consisting 35 percent come under age groups of 46 to 55, followed by 4 in 36 to 45 and lowest 2 respondents below 25 in salutagi village.

Table No -02
Occupations of Respondents

Sl.No.	Occupation groups	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agriculture	13	65
2	Business	3	15
3	Govt. Employee	2	10
4	Other	2	10
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey

Occupation of respondents in Salutagi village is shown in table No.2 Most of 13 (65 percent) respondents having background of agricultural followed by 3 (15 percent) are business remaining 2 from government employees and other in Salutagi village.

Table No. 03
Education Levels of Respondents

Sl. No.	Education	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Uneducated	7	35
2	Primary	4	20

3	Secondary	5	25
4	P. U. C.	3	15
5	Degree & Above	1	5
Total		20	100

Source: Field Survey

The table No. 3 gives information about the education level of respondents in Salutagi village. Highest numbers of respondents are uneducated i.e., 7 consist 35 percent of respondents followed by 25 percent respondents having Secondary level education and only 1 respondent is degree holder out of 20 respondents in Salutagi village.

Table No: 04
Annual Income of Respondents

Sl. No.	Annual Income	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Rs. 10, 000	1	5
2	Rs. 20, 000	3	15
3	Rs. 50, 000	2	10
4	Above 50, 000	14	70
Total		20	100

Source: Field Survey

Highest 70 percent of respondents have income Rupees above 50, 000 followed by 15 percent of respondents have income which got only 1 respondent consists 5 percent in Salutagi village. It is clear from above table majority of respondents have income above 50, 000 in Salutagi village, due to well agricultural background and produce different types of crops as a result farms or respondents have more than 50, 000 income.

Table No: 05
Land use Pattern under Banana of Respondents

Sl. No.	Land Use	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 5	9	45
2	5 to 10	5	25
3	11 to 15	4	20
4	Above 15	2	10
Total		20	100

Source: Field Survey.

Here we have classified land in four category i. e., less than 5, 5 to 10 and 11 to 15 and above 15 acres. Majority 45 percent of respondents used land less than 5 under Banana followed 25 percent in between 5 to 10 acres and lowest 10 percent of respondents cultivate on above 15 acres of land in Salutagi village.

The following table No.6 reflects that why the most of respondents produce the Banana or what is the reasons to produce more Banana is selected village live Salutagi.

Table No: 06
Reasons for Cultivate of Banana of Respondents

Sl. No.	Chosen to Cultivate	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	High Income	20	100
2	Low Labor Force	18	90

3	Low Cost of Production	19	95
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Source: Field Survey.

It has been classified it at three category, purpose for high income, low labor force and cost of production is less. Majority of respondents produce the banana for income purpose in both Salutagi village followed by low labor force and less cost of production is very less to produce the banana. Therefore majority of respondents chosen the banana to production and these are three factors is very important to everybody who wish to cultivate banana.

Different type of brand used for production of banana by the respondents in Salutagi village.

Table No: 07
Uses Different Types of Brand for Production

Sl. No.	Type of Brand	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Javari	20	100
2	G – 9	18	90
3	Hanuman	16	80

Source: Field Survey.

The 100 percent of respondents are used Javari seeds to production of banana which has been growing since long time in general and particular in Salutagi village, followed by G – 9 seeds 90 percent in Salutagi, village and lowest Hanuman brand 80 percent in Salutagi village respectively. Javari brand grows commonly and highest in Salutagi village that sell at higher price and given more income to producer therefore it is produce at high.

Table No: 08
Source of Irrigation of Respondents

Sl. No.	Source of Irrigation	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Wells	18	90
2	Canals	10	50
3	Bore wells	20	100
4	Tank	10	50

Source: Field Survey.

The table No. 8 highlights that source of irrigation of respondents in Salutagi village here it is classified in four categories that is Wells, Canals, Bore well and Tank.

The 18 respondents he use wells for the source of irrigation, 10 respondents use canal water along with wells and 20 respondents have bore well remaining 10 respondents used through tank water in Salutagi village.

Methods of ripening of banana crop by selected respondents in Salutagi village; here it has been classified in two types that are artificially and naturally.

Table No: 09
Methods of Ripening of Banana

Sl. No.	Ripening	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Artificially	17	85
2	Naturally	3	15
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey.

The majority 17 respondents consist 85 percent follow artificial method for ripening of banana and 15 percent respondents used natural method for ripening in Salutagi village.

The sample respondents are asked to state the method of selling banana. They may sell the products directly in the local market or may sell them through by middleman or APMC. The data are collected and shown in Table No. 10 for analysis.

Table No: 10
Mode of Sale for Production of Respondents

Sl. No.	Mode of Sales	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Local Market	4	20
2	By Middleman	12	60
3	APMC	4	20
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey.

Table No.10 shows that mode of sales for their production of respondents in Salutagi village. Here mode of sale has been classified in three categories that is local market, sales by middleman and APMC. Highest 60 percent of respondents sales the banana through the middleman followed by 20 percent in local market and APMC market in Salutagi village. It is notice that from above table majority of respondent's sales the banana through the middlemen in Salutagi village where regulated market is not available in Salutagi village. As a result farmers do not get more profit from their product.

Return is very important concept in business and production of goods or services. Ultimately farmers also want to get more return from their products.

Table No: 11
Returns from Banana Production of Respondents

Sl. No.	Reponses	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	20	100
2	No	0	0
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey.

It is seen from above table No 11. 100 percent of respondents have reported that they got return from banana production in Salutagi village.

Table No: 12
Increase in Income Level After Production

Sl. No.	Reponses	Salutagi	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	06	30
2	No	14	70
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey.

The above table No.12 shows that Income level increased after production of Banana in Salutagi village i.e., 30 percent. Where as 70 percent respondents have reported that do not increased in income level in Salutagi village. Due to less production of the Banana less price and other transportation charged is high.

The sample respondents are asked to express their opinion on the cost of labour for ploughing, applying pesticides and for cutting. Their opinions are shown in Table No.13 for analysis.

Table No: 13
Opinion about Cost of Labour

Labour	Very High	High	Normal	Low	Very low	Total
Ploughing	4	7	4	3	2	20
Apply Pesticide	3	6	3	4	4	20
Apply Fertilizer	2	5	3	5	5	20
Cutting	4	4	5	3	4	20

Source: Field Survey.

Table No.13 shows that respondents expressed their opinion about cost of ploughing, applying pesticide, fertilizer and for cutting. In this table the cost of labour for ploughing is very high or high for 11 respondents, whereas it is low or very low for 5 respondents; cost of labour for applying pesticide is very high or high for 9 respondents, whereas it is low or very low for 8 respondents; cost of labour for applying fertilizer is very high or high for 7 respondents, whereas it is low or very low for 10 respondents and cost of labour for cutting is very high or high for 8 respondents, whereas it is low or very low for 7 respondents;

It is inferred that the prime cost of labour is for cutting; then comes ploughing and the third one is for applying pesticides.

Table No: 14
Opinion about Human Problems

Problems	Very High	High	Normal	Low	Very low	Total
Labour	8	5	3	2	2	20
Revenue officials	4	4	6	4	2	20
Transport officials	4	3	7	2	4	20
Agents Etc	3	7	4	3	3	20
Financiers	2	7	2	3	6	20

Source: Field Survey.

Table No.14 shows the details of problems faced by human beings to the respondents. In this table shows that labour problem is very high or high for 13 respondents where as it is low or very low for 4 respondents. Revenue officials' problem is very high or high for 8 respondents where as it is low or very low for 6 respondents. Transport officials' problem is very high or high for 7 respondents where as it is low or very low for 6 respondents. Agents' problem is very high or high for 10 respondents where as it is low or very low for 6 respondents and financiers' problem is very high for 9 respondents where as it is low or very low for 9 respondents.

It is inferred that the major human problem is due to agents and then comes labour problems.

6. FINDINGS:

The majority 7 respondents consisting 35 percent come under age groups of 46 to 55 in Salutagi village. It is found from our study highest numbers of respondents have age groups above 36 years in Salutagi village.

Education level of respondents in Salutagi village highest numbers of respondents are uneducated i. e., 7 consist 35 percent, 25 percent respondents having Secondary level education and only 1 respondent is degree holder out of 20 respondents in Salutagi village.

Majority of respondents have income above 50, 000 in both Salutagi village highest 70 percent of respondents have income Rupees above 50, 000 and 15 percent of respondents have income Rs. 20,000 in Salutagi village.

Majority 45 percent of respondents used land under Banana less than 5, 25 percent used between 5 to 10 acres and lowest 10 percent of respondents cultivate on above 15 acres of land in Salutagi village.

Majority of respondents produce the banana for income purpose in Salutagi village, less labor force and cost of production is very less to produce the banana. Therefore majority of respondents chosen the banana for production

The 100 percent of respondents are used Javari seeds to production of banana which has been growing since long time in general and particular in Salutagi village, followed by G – 9 seeds 90 percent in Salutagi, village and lowest Hanuman brand 90 percent in Salutagi village. Javari brand grows commonly and highest in Salutagi village that sold at higher price and given more income to producer.

The 18 respondents he use wells for the source of irrigation, 10 respondents use canal water along with wells and 20 respondents have bore well remaining in Salutagi village. It is notice that majority of 70 percent respondents have well and bore well is major source for their irrigation while canal water used in Rainy and winter season other hand tank water used in summer season when scarcity of water is seen in Salutagi village.

The majority 17 respondents consist 85 percent follow artificially method for ripening of banana and 15 percent respondents used natural method for ripening in Salutagi village.

The 100 percent of respondents have reported that they got return from banana production in Salutagi village.

Income level increased after production of Banana in Salutagi village that is 30 percent. Where as 70 percentage of respondents have reported that do not increased in income level in Salutagi village.

7. SUGGESTIONS:

- India has very fertile lands and growing banana can be a profitable cultivation to the growers, if other aspects exist. The governments can think in terms of promoting separate organizations such as 'Banana Cultivation Research Centre' in many areas and develop banana cultivation.
- Middlemen play a vital role in the marketing of banana products. There are pre-harvest and post-harvest agents. The cultivators lose heavily in their hands. Financial agencies may come forward to assist financially so that the exploitation is minimized. Common godowns to store and preserve banana may help the marketing people to minimize their risk to a certain extent.
- Proper procedure of training for rural entrepreneurs and workers needs.
- Many young people have entered into marketing of banana. The Governments may come forward to buy the fruits in bulk and supply in noon meal centres so that the risk of cultivators is minimized and the health of children is improved at a lesser cost.
- Social security measures through government policy measures.
- Equal opportunities to male and female employees.
- Semi urban and rural areas of Karnataka should be promoted and positioned through all type of agro based industries.
- Launching of newer and newer schemes for promoting banana cultivation.
- Simplification of procedure for the sanction of subsidy and timely release of subsidy.
- Information about types of banana, its medicinal value and price movement etc., should be given in time.
- To create employment opportunities, home industries producing chips. Banana juice, jam, Jelly and other food products should be started and the District Industries Centre (DIC) should take initiative

8. CONCLUSION:

Fruits have become the part and parcel of human food items. The taste, vitamins, minerals, carbohydrates and ingredients are highly needed for human beings. The efficient marketing of banana improves the health and welfare of the people, growers, agents and related people and hence the growth in this field is highly required. Studies also reveal that the use of fruits in our day to day food will be highest in the near future and hence the marketers have to come forward to market fruit products to the entire satisfaction to the consumers through different methods of marketing.

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