

Foreword

India is the largest producer, consumer, importer and processor of pulses in the World. Pulses are a principal source of protein in India. The Government of India and State Governments have initiated several programmes such as Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), Integrated Development of Sixty Thousand Pulse Villages Scheme, and National Pulses Development Board for enhancement of pulse production in India. The productivity of pulses is increasing at a high rate as compared to the area cultivated mainly because of the development of high yielding varieties, control of pest attacks through on-time spraying of pesticides, application of nutrients on regular basis and the effective involvement in farming. Pulses such as Red gram, Horse gram, Green gram and Bengal gram are largely cultivated in Karnataka state. Uneven distribution of rainfall and erratic climate conditions are affecting the yield levels. In this backdrop, the objectives of this study were to analyse the concerns of growers and consumers at various levels, besides market interventions needed in price fixation and possibilities for improved management. Further, the study also analyses the issues related to commercialization of pulses and beans in the international markets and appropriate pricing options. Besides, the study also addresses the nutritional significance across pulses. In the Indian context, the cultural significance of various pulses and beans plays an important role, and the study details out the significance attached to pulses with specific reference to Karnataka State. The researchers have gathered information and data related to pulses and beans grown or marketed in Karnataka from multiple stakeholders across various levels including the officers of agriculture department, small and large growers, traders, merchants, consumers and Krishi Pandits. The analyses based on their information and data are important to address the multi-dimensional issues on pulses from the past to the present and future.

This study, undertaken by the researchers Dr Sunil Nautiyal, Dr S Manasi, Dr M S Umesh Babu and Dr K S Rao, provides valuable insights from the field. The results and recommendations of this study will be beneficial to the policymakers. However, the recommendations are specific to management which makes the outcomes relevant and useful for all the stakeholders.

I am confident that this monograph will be quite useful to the Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Marketing Produce Committee (APMC) in Karnataka to address the issues in improving the pulses availability and implement most of the suggestions from this study.

*April 2015
Bangalore*

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