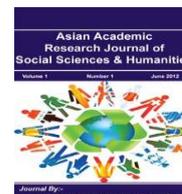




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**CONTRACT FARMING OF GHERKIN CULTIVATION REDUCES MIGRATION–
ITS PERFORMANCE AND CONSTRAINTS IN MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT OF
ANDHRA PRADESH**

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Abstract

Andhra Pradesh, migration from rural areas is an important issue that is gaining more significance year after year. Gherkin is an export oriented vegetable crop. Gherkin cultivation is largely driven through contract farming. The present study was undertaken to study the performance of contract farming of gherkin on previously migrated farmers and to examine the constraints of gherkin contract farming. The study was carried out in two randomly selected mandals of 'Bejinipalli' and 'Kalwakurthy' of purposively selected 'Mahabubnagar' district of Andhra Pradesh state. Performance of farmers was measured using structured interview schedule on five dimensions such as contract farming, extension, market, economic and social dimensions. Constraints of gherkin contract farming was measured using Principal Component Matrix on six dimensions such as soil and environmental management, lack of Government support in contract management, disease pest complex management, difficulty in management, timely input and technical know-how support and high input cost. The overall analysis revealed that rank wise earlier migrated farmers were now highly satisfied with assured income, timely availability of quality inputs, assured price and ready market, getting transport arrangement and increased employment at village level by gherkin cultivation. Soil and environmental management ranked first, Lack of government support in contract management ranked second. Disease pest complex management and poor risky management of the crop rank high and almost equal in importance, Timely input and technical know-how support and High input cost were far behind in order of importance. The finding emanating from study makes a strong case for promoting the model of contract farming of gherkin on a wider scale to reduce seasonal migration.

Keywords: Contract farming, Constraints, Gherkin, Performance, Migration