

Economics of pomegranate in two Villages (Kariz and Qala E Bost) of Lashkergah District, Helmand, Afghanistan**Ali Ahmad¹, Shah Mahmood Baray², Naqibullah Mujadidi³, Mohammad Naim Kakar⁴, Sifatullah Ashna⁵**¹ Assistant Professor and Chief of Research and Publication, Faculty of Economics, Bost University, Helmand Province Afghanistan² Professor, Department of Agronomy, Kandahar University, Kandahar Province Afghanistan³ Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, Kandahar University, Afghanistan⁴ Assistant Professor and Dean, Faculty of Economics, Helmand University, Afghanistan⁵ Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics, Bost University, AfghanistanCorresponding Author: **Ali Ahmad****Abstract**

This research was conducted in 2020, to study the “Economics of pomegranate in two Villages (Kariz and Qala E Bost) of Lashkergah District, Helmand, Afghanistan” with the sample size of 30 respondents. The main objectives of the research were, to analyze the cost of production, to find out the net revenue and comparison of two villages. On an average, both villages, total cost incurred by the small size farms, medium size farms and

large size farms were (Af.97150), and (Af.160500) and (Af.346230) respectively. The average Net Returns obtained by small size farms, medium and large size farms were (Af.76900), and (Af.148050), and (Af.353070) respectively. This was conformed from the finding of the study that Kariz village cost of production were lower than Qala e Bost Village and considering the net returns among these two villages, Qala E bost was higher than Kariz Village.

Keywords: Cost of Production, Net Returns and Problems**1. Introduction**

It is native of Iran and Afghanistan. A handsome deciduous and somewhat thorny large shrub or small tree (*Punica granatum*) belonging to the family Punicaceae, native to semi tropical Asia and naturalized in the Mediterranean region in very early times. Plant grows to the height of 5-8 meters tall. It has long been cultivated as an ornamental and for its edible fruit. The fruit about the size of an apple bears many seeds, each with a fleshy crimson seed coating, enclosed in a tough yellowish to deep red rind. Popular in eastern as well as western parts of the world. Mediterranean region, Spain, Iran, India, Turkey, South East Asia, Afghanistan, tropical Africa, parts of USA etc. It is grown for its fully luscious grains called Arils; the fruits are very attractive with sweet acidic taste. The fruits are mainly used for dessert purposes. The fruits are also processed to make juice, syrup, jam, jelly, wine, to flavour cakes, baked apples, etc. of late, its nutritional and medicinal values are given ample importance. Pomegranate was considered as a minor fruit in India till the year 1986, but gained importance due to its economic and nutraceutical value. In 2010-11 the area 107 thousand ha and production 743 thousand tones. In 2011-12 the area 122 thousand and production 772 thousand tones. In 2014-15 the area increased to 181 thousand ha and production 789 thousand tones. (Indian Horticulture Data Base 2015). In Karnataka pomegranate is being grown on commercial scale and occupies 19040-hectare, production 204640 tons in 2014- 15. The area under pomegranate in the Vijaypur district is 1530 hectare and production in the district is 15250tonnes in 2015-16 Study of the economics of pomegranate production is in dispensable since there is no proper farm business data on its cost of production. The accurate figures on establishment cost, operating cost and input requirement of pomegranate orchard could be of great help to the pomegranate growers of Vijayapur district in particular (Parameshwar, Kumar, Rai, Ahmad and Rafi, 2018).

1.1 Research Objectives

1. To analyze the Cost of Production of Pomegranate.
2. To find out the Net Returns of Pomegranate.
3. To compare the Cost of Production and Net returns of Pomegranate among two villages.

2. Materials and methods

Pomegranate cultivation is practiced largely in these two (Kariz and Qala E Bost) Villages. The information on area under pomegranate crop and number of pomegranate growers was obtained from the selected villages heads and Extension workers of Agriculture Department. A proportionate sample of (30) respondents from these two villages was selected randomly. The pomegranate growers were categorized into three groups on the basis of their size of land holding as in table 1 below.

Table 1

S. No	Type of Farms (Jerib)		
	Small Size Farm	Medium Size Farm	Large Size Farm
1	1 – 3 Jerib	3 – 5 Jerib	Above 5 Jerib

Note: 1 Jerib is 0.2 hectare or (2000) square meter

3. Result and discussion

Cost of Production, Net Returns and Comparison of two Villages:

The cost of cultivation of pomegranate of sample farms is worked out and presented in Table 2. It reveals that overall cost of cultivation of pomegranate was Af. 97150, Af.

160500 and Af. 346230 in small, medium and large farm size respectively. The cost of cultivation in Qala E Bost Village was higher than Kariz Village and the difference in small, medium and large size farm is Af. 1200, Af. 900 and Af. 620 respectively. On an average, the net returns obtained in small, medium and large size farm were, Af. 76900, Af. 148050 and Af. 353070 respectively. It was clearly noticed that the net returns of Qala E Bost Village were higher than Kariz Village and the difference sum obtained in small, medium and large size farms were Af. 6032, Af. 8080 and Af. 15400 respectively.

Table 2: Cost of Production, Net Returns and Comparison of two Villages of Pomegranate

S. No	Village	Cost of Production (Af)			Net Revenue (Af)		
		Small Farms	Medium Farms	Large Farms	Small Farms	Medium Farms	Large Farms
1	Kariz	96550	160050	345920	79916	152090	360770
2	Qala E Bost	97750	160950	346540	73884	144010	345370
	Average	97150	160500	346230	76900	148050	353070
	Difference between the two villages	1200	900	620	6032	8080	15400

4. Conclusion

The research was conducted in two villages of Lashkergah district, Helmand Province Afghanistan entitled Economics of Pomegranate in two Villages (Kariz and Qala E Bost) of Lashkergah District, Helmand, Afghanistan in 2020. The main focus of the research was on the relevant villages of Lashkergah district so that's why selected 30 respondents randomly on the mentioned Villages in order to collect the required information for the research. The pomegranate farms were categorized into three groups based on their landholding. The main findings of the study revealed that overall cost of production for both villages in small, medium and large size farms were Af. 97150, 160500 and 346230 respectively. The average net returns that were obtained in small, medium and large size farm were Af. 76900, Af. 148050 and Af. 353070 respectively. This research clearly indicate that the cost of production and net returns were higher in Qala E Bost Village in comparison to Kariz Village.

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