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AGROECONOMIC VIABILITY OF IRRIGATED COMMON BEAN PRODUCTION BY SMALL FARMS IN THE MICRO-REGION OF CERES, GOIAS STATE, BRAZIL

Silva, Osmira Fátima da¹, Glays Rodrigues Matos¹ and Alcido Elenor Wander^{1,2,3}

¹ Embrapa Rice and Beans, Rodovia GO-462, Km 12, 75375-000 Santo Antonio de Goias-GO, Brazil. Email alcido.wander@embrapa.br.

² Federal University of Goiás (UFG), Goiânia-GO, Brazil.

³ Centro Universitário Alves Faria (UNIALFA), Goiânia-GO, Brazil.

OBJECTIVE

To establish a break-even price for common beans, based on a survey of the factors that make up the irrigated production system of the "winter" crop, in the Ceres microregion, specifically in the municipalities of Ipiranga de Goiás, Rialma and Ceres, in the state of Goiás.

METHODOLOGY

Common beans are grown in three different seasons. The 3rd season has the greatest ability to increase production, since area is available, and irrigation enables production in several areas of Cerrado region in Brazil. Ceres micro-region in Goiás state represents one of those potential expansion areas to grow common beans. Therefore, within the Ceres micro-region, including the municipalities of Ipiranga de Goiás, Rialma and Ceres, we monitored the cropping systems used by three farmers (one in each municipality).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Those farmers actively interact with researchers doing on-farm research in their farms. The information about cropping systems allowed us to assess the economic viability of those cropping systems using indicators like production costs (total and average), profitability and break-even point. All farmers received US\$ 60 to 65 per 60 kg bag of common beans.

The results indicate that:

- The drip irrigated common bean production system, interspersed with the production of green maize, developed by the farmer of the municipality of Ipiranga de Goiás, led to an increase of family income. The common bean break-even price was US\$ 51.39/60 kg bag.
- For common bean producers in the municipality of Rialma who used the conventional irrigation system to distribute sprinklers in the production system, the break-even price for common beans was US\$ 21.28/60 kg bag.
- The irrigated common bean producer, in the municipality of Ceres, who used the no-tillage system to grow irrigated beans, obtained the break-even price of US\$ 37.66/60 kg bag.



CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

All three farmers had a positive profit with common bean production under irrigation during the winter season, since the break-even prices estimated were below real market prices for common beans.

Research will continue in order to identify new market opportunities and new products.

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