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Linkage Between Large Cardamom Value Chain and Food and Nutritional Security in Bhojpur District of Nepal

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Abstract

Large cardamom is the second most exported agricultural commodity of Nepal with significant economic, nutritional, social, and religious importance. It is commercially grown in more than 43 districts of Nepal and more than 67, 000 households are involved in this industry. Nepal Trade Integration Strategy 2010 and Agriculture Development Strategy 2015–2035 have recognised it as the most potential cash crop for export with comparative advantages. Bhojpur is one of the large cardamom producing zone as identified by PMAMP. The purpose of the study was to find linkages between the existing value chain of large cardamom with food and nutritional security in Bhojpur district. Also, the study focuses to reveal different aspects of production economics and marketing. A survey study was conducted with 150 farmers. Further, 10 local, 10 medium, 10 large traders and 10 exporters were selected from Bhojpur, Khadbari, and Birtamod market to study marketing aspects and export performance of large cardamom. Microsoft-Excel was used for data assembling and SPSS and STATA were used for the data analysis. Large cardamom cultivation was found to contribute 42.9 % in total household income and 77.8 % in total farm income. The contribution of large cardamom was the highest among the total household income from different professions in the study area. Cash generated from the selling large cardamom was used to buy cereals, pulses, and fruits which ultimately plays a critical role in maintaining food and nutritional security to an extent. The value chain of large cardamom help to improve the food and nutritional security situation by generating greater economic returns to the value chain actors, influencing food affordability, and diversifying the consumed food sources by improving the purchasing ability of value chain actors.

Keywords: Bhojpur, dietary diversity, food security, nutrition