

Abstract

This study was based on an economic assessment of the cost of production of tomato under different technologies, the case of tomatoes in Trinidad and Tobago. The production of tomatoes under different technologies in Trinidad and Tobago has been on the rise within recent years. Efforts to pioneer and implement new technology into tomato production have been greeted by a largely vociferous and careful approach. Even more, the cost of production of protected tomato as compared to open field tomato is not widely available in the public domain.

A cost of production table was used to illustrate the variable costs and fixed costs involved in tomato production under both systems (protected / shade house and field) for one hectare (ha). The variable costs were those directly involved in the production process. This included land preparation, fertilizing and harvesting costs. The fixed costs included depreciation and management overhead.

The total production cost of shade house tomatoes was 40% greater than the total production cost of field tomatoes. The cost / kilogram of shade house tomatoes were \$5.31 and \$3.84 for field tomatoes.

The analysis also revealed that market prices are generally highest during the last quarter of the year. Additionally, it was concluded that field tomatoes make a larger profit than shade house tomatoes on the market because of their smaller cost / ha.