

**a) Researcher's Identity**

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**b) Objectives**

The objectives of the study are:

- i. To identify the cultural practices of banana cultivation;
- ii. To find out the costs and returns of banana cultivation; and
- iii. To identify the marketing channel.

**c) Executive summary**

Banana is one of the most well known fruit and cash crop grown commercially in Bogra. The farmers of the banana growing area are very much interested in cultivating banana rather than any other crops. Because, firstly, the gestation period of the crop is relatively long thus there is flexibility of time in doing intercropping operation which is not possible for short duration crops like paddy or winter crops. Secondly, per acre returns of banana is much higher than any other crop and income is received at a time which help them purchasing land, building house and covering the expenditure of marriage ceremony.

Large farmers of Sagar, Anupam and Champa growers got the highest kandi per acre in the 1st and 2nd crop with the exception of Anupam in the 2nd crop. Small farmers got the highest number of kandi per acre in the 2nd crop of Anupam. In case of per quintal costs Champa was higher than Sagar and Anupam as the variety gave lower yield than other varieties and it need bamboo to support the plant which involved extra cost while in case of per quintal returns Anupam variety gave higher returns among the three varieties of banana because of its higher market price. But in case of per acre

costs and returns Sagar variety gave higher returns than other varieties. Comparative analysis of costs and returns among banana, chilli and brinjal that are produced in lands which is suitable for banana cultivation showed that banana gave higher returns.

Farmers are motivated in cultivating banana by neighboring farmers and when they face any problem they usually contact the local fertilizer and insecticide dealers and follow their instructions rather than consulting an agricultural specialists. Therefore, while designing any training course on banana cultivation, participation of local fertilizer and insecticide dealers should be considered along with the farmers. The farmers should be motivated to consult with the agricultural specialist.

This study recommended that researches are to be done to solve the identified problems especially on irrigation. Because, banana field is relatively a high land and that is why a special arrangement is required to lift water otherwise the land could not be irrigated as done in the paddy field. Therefore, if a suitable technology which is financially cheap and convenient to make and use, could be developed that can irrigate both high and low land simultaneously then there is a possibility of increasing the area under banana and its production. Further researches are to be done to solve the problems like red spot inside the banana and hardening of its flesh, rough and black spot on the skin of banana.

