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Abstract: The present study entitled “Economic Analysis of Production and Marketing of Lac in Ranchi District of Jharkhand State” was undertaken to study the input use patterns, cost and returns of production of lac, marketing channels for marketing of lac and processing aspects of lac and constraints in production as well as marketing of lac. The study covered 3 blocks and 6 villages with 90 farmers culturing lac. Based on the number of lac host trees owned by the household, the data were categorized into small (0 – 33 trees), medium (34 – 46 trees), large (47 – 59 trees) and very large (60 – 216 trees). The data pertained to agricultural year 2015-16 were collected through survey method with the help of pretested schedules. Conventional analysis was used to analyse the data and to arrive at valid conclusions. The cost of cultivation of lac on small, medium, large, very large and pooled was estimated at ` 20807.36 for 14 host trees, ` 25185.37 for 20 trees, ` 29542.46 for 27 host trees ` 39676.24 for 50 host trees and ` 28323.03 for 26 host trees respectively and thus exhibiting direct relationship with the size of the farm. The net income obtained from lac production varied from ` 9025.51 per 14 host trees in small farms, ` 25213.34 per 20 host trees in medium farms, ` 44370.86 per 27 host trees in large farms, to ` 103430.47 in very large farms with overall average of ` 41952.10 on pooled farms. Thus, net income has positive relationship with the size of the farms. In the marketing of lac only one channel were identified. They were, producer village merchant (Paikar) town merchant (wholesaler) Processor. The analysis of marketing costs and margins revealed that the producer was getting a share of consumer’s rupee of about 81.76 per cent. The total cost incurred to produce one tonne of seedlac was ` 142339.79 consisting of variable cost amounting to ` 139010.90, fixed cost ` 287.73 and marketing cost of ` 3041.10 sharing about 97.66 per cent, 0.20 per cent and 2.14 per cent respectively. The gross return obtained from the lac processing unit amounted to ` 146356.16 and the net return obtained from the lac processing unit were ` 4016.37.

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