

Limitations of this Study and Scope for Further Studies

Limitations of the Study

In spite of all the efforts by the author to accomplish the study without any serious limitations, limitations are bound to arise, and this research project is not an exception. The subject opted for research, i.e., “Current Status of Indian Fruit Processing Industry vis-a-vis Brazil – A Case Study of Mango” is by nature a very vast subject, covering all the fruits in general and mango in particular. Vastness of the subject area is the primary source of limitations. Vastness of the geographical, agronomical, and demographical coverage is another important source for limitations. Some of the major limitations of this study can be grouped in to two categories as discussed below:

Limitation Pertaining to Secondary Research

1. The secondary data collected from the reliable and authenticated sources were sometimes not very specific and this has lead to making fair assumptions by the author, which may not be 100 percent valid all the times.
2. Secondary data beyond some period in some cases was not available and hence study has to be limited till that period.
3. Specific secondary data for Brazil in some cases was not available and hence study has to be restricted to available data.
4. Many countries including India and Brazil maintain statistics about production, yield, area of cultivation, post harvest loss, etc., of the ‘fruit and vegetable’ category as a whole. This sometimes, limits the study to available specific data on fruits only.
5. Hundred percent similar, compatible and comparable information about the subject matter for two different countries is very difficult to get. Under such circumstances, researcher is forced to choose the closest information. This will limit the study like this to available closest match.

Limitation Pertaining to Primary Research

1. Advantages of census survey will be lost if researcher opts for alternate survey methods like Probabilistic/non probabilistic sample survey methods. In spite of the practical advantages of sample survey (in terms of cost, time, and effort) such surveys will have their own limitations including:
 - (i) A given sample (chosen using a given sampling scheme) may not represent the entire population completely (i.e., 100%).
 - (ii) There might be biases, judgment errors, sampling errors, etc., while conducting sample surveys.
 - (iii) Results may not be 100 percent valid.
 - (iv) Results may not be 100 percent accurate.

These are the obvious limitations of this particular study also, as it is based on sample survey. Smaller sample size (25 processors and 50 cultivators) is another important limitation of this particular study.

2. The author has to arrive at findings based on the information given by the respondents, which sometimes may be biased/distorted for various reasons. This, to some extent, might have lead to marginal errors in the outcome of the study.
3. A human error is another important source of limitation for any study like this. In spite of repetitive editions, scrutinizing, critical evaluation of the subject matter, error might have happened and hence may limit the study to that extent.

Overall Limitation

As the topic clearly says “Current status of Indian fruit processing industry *vis-a-vis* Brazil – A Case Study of Mango”, this study is limited to fruit processing industry in general and mango processing industry in particular.

Scope for Further Studies

On Similar lines, studies can be undertaken to cover major vegetables that are being produced in India like; Potato, Tomato, chilli, etc., and the processing industry of the same with the leading processors of that particular vegetable in the world.

In a similar fashion, study like this can also be undertaken in the other core food processing sectors of India like; Poultry industry, Sheep rearing industry, Ostrich cultivation industry, Fisheries industry, etc.

Secondly, within mango processing industry, particular major processed mango product produced in India like; Mango pulp, Mango juice, Mango squash, Mango pickle and chutney, etc., can be chosen and an in-depth comparative study about that particular processed mango product can be pursued on similar lines. In other words, an in-depth and well-focused research project can be undertaken on any one of the major processed mango products of India.

Lastly, such type of benchmarking study can be pursued not only in the food processing sector, but also in majority of the other important sectors of India, including; Textiles industry, Sugar manufacturing industry, Steel industry, Electronic appliances industry, etc.

Such benchmarking studies at macro level will throw light on the important CSFs (Critical Success Factors) that have to be set right, in order to thrive in a given industry, globally. Such studies will help the nation in locating major hurdles which prevent the nation from thriving, in that particular sector. Outcome of such research projects will be used to frame/guide the strategies and policies by all the stakeholders involved, in order to overcome the hurdles. Thus such studies will help the nation in strengthening the respective industry though implementing strategies framed and evaluating the same on a continuous basis, so that the industry will remain competitive, globally.

There lies a tremendous scope for Action Research once the descriptive and diagnostic research like this is completed. Such Action Research requires choosing one particular small mango growing area (one village/taluk/district/ state) and to try-out/implement recommended strategies in that particular geographic area. Once strategies are implemented, results can be sought and evaluated. Based on the attractiveness of the results, the strategy may be replicated throughout the nation.

The following quotes clearly demonstrate the importance of benchmarking studies:

1. 'common country learns from her own mistakes, whereas a smart country learns from others mistakes'
2. 'why spin the wheel again'

