when they purchased directly from the producer. It was concluded that informal source of finance had direct bearing on marketing channels and adversely affected the producers as well as consumers interest.

Lotter (1991) made a study on marketing of turmeric in Western Maharashtra. The study estimated that total per quintal marketing cost of turmeric was estimated at Rs. 44.29. The main items of marketing cost in the order of importance were commission charges (40.08 per cent), transportation charges (23.75 per cent) and the value of gunny bags (19.69 per cent). Octroi shared the minimum (1.42 per cent). The arrivals were concentrated between the months of February and May. The highest arrivals were observed in the month of March and the lowest in the month of November indicating the seasonality of the arrivals. The arrivals showed a typical behaviour of concentration within a period of three months after harvests. Though the indices of prices showed a correspondence with a peak of arrivals in March, the variations was not observed to be larger between the lean arrival period and peak arrival period.

Sreerama et al. (1992) in their study reported that the previous year's acreage significantly influenced the farmers decision regarding area allocation to turmeric in Guntur. Area was not responsive to prices. The coefficient of area adjustment indicated scope to increase the area under the crop in the district. Yield of the crop was not influenced by the prices. The elasticity of prices indicated that the response of yield to price was less.

The study revealed that neither acreage nor yield was responsive to prices. Hence this study suggested for providing incentive price to turmeric growers and farmers participation which is now declining in the regulated market yard. The study also suggested to forecast the prices every day and no person other than turmeric growers should be allowed to sell the produce in the market yard.
Chacko Jose (1994) made a study on production and export of cardamom in India. The study indicated that India was the world's largest producer of cardamom until 1979-80 and its position diminished in the subsequent years due to a number of factors. There has been occasional small hikes and frequent sharp slumps in production. The fluctuations in the production of cardamom over the year was mainly attributed to the vagaries of nature over which there can be no control. Due to the low production of cardamom, the exports have been decreased. However in 1990-91 and 1992-93 there has been significant increase in the export.

Giri (1994) who examined the marketable surplus of spices and condiments reported, it was very high, in general. Cardamom and black pepper have 100 per cent marketable surplus, whereas chillies, ginger, turmeric, garlic, coriander etc., have marketable surplus less than 100 per cent but greater than 80 per cent.

Singh et al. (1994) conducted the study on chillies in Bihar. The price spread worked out in this study indicates that the intermediaries present in the marketing channel charged high margin of profit as compared to the services rendered. Hence, this study suggested the necessity of improving the marketing efficiency of present marketing system.

Peter (1994) in his study reported that in India chilli is grown in almost all states. Andhra Pradesh had the highest area followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka. Productivity of chilli was the highest in Andhra Pradesh (1.55 tonnes per hectare) followed by Punjab (1.53 tonnes per hectare). Productivity was the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.22 tonnes per hectare). India is a major exporter of chillies and it had exported chillies worth Rs. 252.8 million during 1990-91. Still chilli occupies only 0.73 to 5.77 per cent share in India's total export in quantity and 0.30 to 7.27 per cent in value. A large number of production constraints limit chilli
production in the country. The marketing channels for chillies were of nine types. The cooperative type of marketing is yet to take a start in chilli and the commission agents still take a major share of consumers price.

_Sucharita et al._ (1995) in their study on resource use and productivity of turmeric crop in Nizamabad District of Andhra Pradesh observed that the sum of production elasticities were 0.9772, 1.1093, 1.1159 and 0.9342 for small, medium, large all farms respectively. The study indicated constant returns to scale in all the three groups as well as for the whole sample in turmeric farms since Σbj has not deviated significantly from unity.

_Adil Lakshmi et al._ (1995) in their study conducted on chillies in Andra Pradesh indicated that farm harvest price of chilli and irrigated area were the key factors influencing the area and resource allocating decisions of the chilli growing farmers in coastal Andhra region. The price of competing crop and total rainfall played negative role on area under the crop. In Rayalaseema, the previous years price showed negative impact on yield while time trend showed positive influence on production. In Telengana rainfall and irrigated area played a significant positive role on chillies production and negative price effect on area in Telangana. The area and resource allocating decisions are also influenced by lagged area, production and yield. The estimated price elasticities in three regions indicated that the growers in coastal Andhra were more price conscious than the other two regions. The area adjustment showed that the farmers in Telangana region are required less number of years for production and yield adjustments, while area adjustment is quick in Rayalaseema region.

_Adilaksmi et al._ (1995) conducted a study to examine spatial and temporal variations in prices and marketing efficiency of chillies in Andhra Pradesh. Five markets viz., Hyderabad, Guntur, Vijayawada, Kurnool and Warangal
were selected for the study. The study observed that by and large a close unison in price movements between each pair of selected regulated markets indicating that all the selected markets were well integrated.

A study conducted by Singh (1995) on production and marketing of turmeric in Bihar indicated that area, production and productivity of turmeric in the state of Bihar is expected to increase and the state is likely to become a surplus state with respect to turmeric production by the end of the century. The study recommended for extending improved technology of turmeric production in a big way to the farmers in order to increase the production level of turmeric in the state through increased level of productivity.

The study also observed that turmeric marketing was not properly organized and turmeric growers need to be encouraged for organising co-operative marketing. Even in the existing system the turmeric growers may fetch better price for their produce by selling it directly through the wholesalers.

Jesy Thomas and Sundaresan (1996) analysed the export performance of cardamom in India which revealed that high export instability. Production was found to be a significant factor to determine export with domestic prices. Price analysis using market integration model revealed the integration between Tamil Nadu market and Kerala market on the prices.

The study suggested that price risk is an important problem for small farmers which has to be tackled effectively so as to avoid exploitation. A proper and dynamic marketing system is absolutely essential for sustaining proper price structure for cardamom and also for ensuring remunerative returns to growers.

Mani and Chako Jose (1996) conducted a study on export of cardamom. The study found that the cardamom yield was low and there was frequent fluctuations in yield in the study period. The study found that the trends in the export of cardamom has come down alarmingly due to high cost of production,
low quality and effective entry of Guatemala in this trade. The major problems faced in the Indian cardamom exports were domestic problems such as low productivity, tax-related issues, replantation problems, etc. and export problems such as high rate of export duty, preshipment problems and the limited storage facilities in the ship.

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Sathees Babu et al. (1996) made a study on area, production, and productivity of pepper in Kerala. The study reveals that the area under pepper was increased whereas the productivity was decreased. The growth in pepper output was accompanied by instability in production which caused by instability in both area and productivity.

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Kasar Raut and Rasane in their study (1996) on the behaviour of prices and arrivals of red chillies in Maharashtra found that in Dondaicha market the arrivals of red wet chillies were maximum during December to March. By and large, there exists a significant negative correlation between arrivals and prices of red chillies. The arrivals and prices of red wet chillies and prices of red dry chillies depicted a significant increasing trend and the rate of increase in the prices of dry chillies was quite higher than the prices of wet chillies in Dondaicha market.