



Agricultural Development in Maharashtra – A Temporal Analysis

Dr. Haider-e-Karrar, Principal & HOD, Department of Geography, Burhani College of Commerce & Arts, Mazagaon Mumbai - 10.

Abstract

Agriculture is the main stay of the people of Maharashtra but it constitutes only 11.4% of the total state income. Forest covers about 16.9% of total land area of Maharashtra. In spite of all efforts for the development of agriculture in Maharashtra, there is no sign for overall improvement in these sectors. In the present study, six indicators pertaining to agriculture have been selected i.e. net Sown area, area sown more than once, gross cropped area, net irrigated area, consumption of fertilizers and number of electrified pumps, for temporal analysis to find out agricultural development since 1961 till 2011, the study shows that there is no significant change in the net sown area due to landscape of the region. However, there is little change in gross cropped area i.e. 61% (1961) to 75.7% (2011) of total area. The consumption of fertilizers has drastically increased from 0.16 kg (1961) to 30.30 kg (2011) per hectare due to increased in net irrigated area i.e. 6% (1961) to 18.4 % (2011). The number of electrified agricultural pumps has also increased due to financial help and to provide electricity for agricultural purpose on a concessional rate. There were only one pump on 2528 hectares net Sown area but in 2011 there is one pump on half hectares net sown area. Keeping in mind soil fertility and farmers conditions of the region appropriate planning are to be made and implemented with sincerity and honesty to increase the agricultural acreage and output to stop farmers from committing suicide.

Key words – Agriculture, net irrigated area, net sown area, gross cropped area, hectares.



Scholarly Research Journal's is licensed Based on a work at www.srjis.com
4.194, 2013 SJIF © SRJIS2014

Introduction

Though agriculture is the main stay of the people of Maharashtra, yet its share is only 11.4% of the total state income. The agricultural landscape in Maharashtra is very complex because of differences in soil fertility and other resources such as irrigation facilities, relief and climatic conditions. Forest covers has slightly decreased from 17.5 % (1961) to 16.9 % (2011) due to expansion of commercial activities in the state. Net sown area is more or less same from 1961 to till date i.e. 57.2% of the total area due to landscape of the region. However gross cropped area has increasing trend i.e. 61% (1961) to 75.7% (2011) as percent to total area. The consumption of fertilizers has increased drastically from 0.16 kg (1961) to 30.30 kg (2011) per hectare due to increased in net irrigated area i.e. 6% (1961) to 18.4% (2011). This has ultimately affected the agriculture output. In the present study, six variables have been selected to find out the levels of agricultural developments i.e. net sown area, area sown more than once, gross cropped area, net irrigated area, consumption of fertilizers and number of electrified agricultural pump per hectare net sown area.

Study Area

Maharashtra is located on western and central part of India. It covers an area of about 307713sq.km, having 3rd rank in India. It is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west, Gujarat to the North West, MP to the North, Chhattisgarh to the east, Telangana to the south east, Karnataka to the south and Goa to the south west. Its coast line is 530km long along the Arabian Sea, State has six division, 35 districts, 109 sub divisions and 357 talukas, It is second most populous state in India i.e. 112372333 population as per census 2011 (58243056 Males and 54131277 Females) which is about 9.28 % of total population of India.

Objective

The main objective of the present study is for temporal analysis of agricultural development in Maharashtra by analyzing six variables pertaining to agriculture since 1961 to 2011.

Database and Methodology

The present work is completely based on secondary data which is obtained from Directorate of Economics and Statistic, Government of Maharashtra 2013, the data pertaining to agriculture have been analysed to find out level of agricultural development since 19861 to 2011.

Net Sown Area As Percent to Total Area

Availability and proportion of net sown area are the key factors for agricultural development in any area. Generally increased in the net sown area results in the improvement in the level of agricultural development. The study area has about 17406000 hectares (2011) of net sown area which is about 57.2 % of the total area of Maharashtra. Low percentage of net sown area may be ascribed to the physical constraints of relief and climate. It is very significant that the net sown area in Maharashtra has slightly decreased from 1961 (58%) to 2011 (57.2%). it may be due to change of land use pattern i.e. urbanization, Industrialization and expansion of other commercial establishment.

Net Irrigated Area as percent of net Sown Area.

Indian Agriculture depends upon the Monsoon which is not uniform in any region. So that net irrigated area play a very vital role in the development of agriculture. It also affects the agricultural output in various ways such as use of fertilizers by farmers. The total net irrigated area is about 4120000 hectares which is about 20% of net sown area. It means that 80% cultivable lands are on the mercy of the Monsoon which may be the main cause of suicide of farmers in Maharashtra. In 1961 net irrigated area was only 6% which has increased 20 % in 2011.

Area Sown More than Once as Percent to Net Sown Area.

Cropping intensity decide the intensive use of cultivable land. It is possible in areas which have a regular water supply, irrigation facilities and fertilizers to maintain the fertility of the soil. In areas which have favorable conditions, farmers use the agricultural land to grow more than on crop in a year or more than one crop at the same time, This percentage is very less due to lack of irrigation facilities and poor economic condition of the farmers, even though it has sown increased in trend i.e. (3%) 1961 to (18.7%) in 2011

Gross Cropped Area as Percent to Total Area.

It is also one of the most important indicator which decide the level of agricultural development in any area. In spite of all efforts, there is slight improvement in gross cropped area i.e. 61% in 1961 to 75.7% in 2011. This area has not increased as desired due to physical landscape of the region and expansion of commercial activities i.e. urbanization, industrialization, settlements, mega projects, transport etc.

Consumption of Fertilizers Per Hectare Total Cropped Area

Next to water, fertilizers constitute the second vital biochemical input contributing to agricultural productivity. The increased in the consumption of fertilizers stimulates the productivity, leading to agricultural development. The use of fertilizer per hectare total cropped area was very low in 1961 i.e. 0.16kg per hectare while in 2001 it was 7.6 kg per hectare and 2011 it increased up to 30.30 kg per hectare, it is due to availability of fertilizers, financial support from the government and farmers mostly are engaged in commercial farming.

Net Sown Area as Per One Electrified Agricultural Pump

The main source of irrigation in Maharashtra is dams, canals, ponds and agricultural pumps. The quantity of underground water is very less due to rock structure of this regions. Even though farmer used to dig well in their farm land to supply water in agricultural field in which electrified agricultural pump are mostly used for this purpose. There is remarkable increased in the number of agricultural pumps i.e. In 1961 there was only one electrified agricultural pump on 2528 hectares net sown Area, In 2001, eight hectares for one pump and in 2011 on half hectare net sown area there was one electrified agricultural pump. It is due to government support and supply of electricity on a very concessional rate which has ultimately change the land use pattern i.e. commercial farming

Agricultural Development in Maharashtra

Sr.No.	Variables	1961	2001	2011
(1)	Net Sown area as percent to total area	58	57	57.2
(2)	Net irrigated Area has percent of net Sown Area.	6	18.20	20
(3)	Area Sown more than once as percent to Net Sown Area.	3	12	18.7
(4)	Gross Cropped Area as percent to Total Area.	61	69	75.7
(5)	Consumption of Fertilizers per hectare Total Cropped Area in Kg	0.16	7.6	30.30
(6)	Net Sown Area as Per One Electrified Agricultural Pump	2528	8	0.5
(7)	Area Under forest as percent to total area	17.5	16.7	16.9

Source: Computed by Author

Conclusion:

Black fertile soil of the study region is more suitable for development of agriculture but it contribute only 14% of the total income of the state. This region has not made any significant development towards agriculture and allied sectors development i.e. net sown area, net irrigate area etc. it shows the neglected attitude and faulty planning for the development of agriculture. Agricultural output either balance or decreased so that there is urgent and sincere and honest need of time to find out the ways and means for the development of the most important sector of the society on which majority of the people directly or indirectly depend and engaged.

References:

- Agricultural Geography , Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd.,New Delhi, 1994, - Majid Husain
- Agriculture and the Economic Development of low Income Countries, Mouton, The Hague, Paris, 1971. – Brener, Y.S.
- Readings in Agricultural Development, (1972) Allen and Unwin, London. – Chaudhary, Primit.
- Agricultural Regionalization in India, 2nd Edition 1973, Allied Publishers Limited, New Delhi. – Sharma, P.S.
- “Growth of Agricultural Production.” Economic and political Weekly, Bombay. Annual Number, January, 1965. – Bagchi, A.K.
- Planning of Agriculture in India, Rotterdam University Press, 1966. – Sarkar, P.C.
- Technological Change and Distributions of Gains in Indian Agriculture, 1975, The MacMillan Company of India Limited. – Rao, C.H. Hanumantha.
- Aspects of Agriculture in India. Allied Publishers, Mumbai. 1973 – Mirchandani, G.G.
- Agricultural productivity in India, Discovery Publishing House, 1985, Rajput, M.S.
- Agricultural Geography , Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd.,New Delhi, 1994, - Majid Husain
- Performance of Indian Agriculture – A District wise Study, Planning Commission, Government of India, Sterling Publishers Pvt.Ltd., New Delhi, 1979. Bhalla, G.S. and Y.K. Alagh.