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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

THE CROP PRODUCTIVITY AND MANAGEMENT OF INDIA FROM 1950-51 TO 2007-08 : A STUDY

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Abstract:

The production of crops in India has been increasing day by day since independence. Before the colonization of India, the Indian agriculture was much developed than modern advanced countries of the world. In those days the productivity of land was high. But the policy of the British destroyed the village handicrafts and cottage industries. However, in post-Independent era the production and productivity of crops tends to increase gradually year by year from 1950-51 to 2007-08 due to the planning of the Indian government; and due to the adoption of new technology, increasing facilities of irrigation, launching of high yield varieties of crops, credit and marketing facilities, changing view of farmers from traditional to commercial. But the increasing level is very slow as compared with other developed countries in the world. In this paper an attempt is made to focus the real picture of the crop productivity and management of India from 1950-51 to 2007-08. Besides this, some suggestions are made to improve the present situation of the crop productivity and management of India.

KEYWORDS:

Productivity , Management , Colonization , Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION:

India is one of the largest countries in the world in the production and consumption of food grains. Before the entry of Britishers in India, the agriculture in India was much developed than now advanced countries of the world. In those days the productivity of land was high. But the Britishers persuaded the colonial policy in India and do nothing to develop the agriculture. Besides they destroyed the village handicrafts and cottage industries. However, in post-Independent era the production and productivity of crops tends to increase gradually year by year from 1950-51 to 2007-08 due to the planning of the Indian government; and due to the adoption of new technology, increasing facilities of irrigation, launching of high yield varieties of crops, credit and marketing facilities, changing view of farmers from traditional to commercial.

TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION:

There are two types agricultural production. They are -- a) food grains comprising rice, wheat, jawar, bajra, maize, pulses, etc.; and b) nonfood grains comprising oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute, etc. Of the total agricultural production in India in1981-82, approximately two-third agricultural production was of food grains and one-third was of non food grains. Under food grain category the production of rice and wheat is higher than other food grains, while oil seeds and sugarcane are the major non food grain products.

The following tables give the details of the ratio of the production of various food grains and non food grains from 1950- 51 to 2007-08.

Table no.1: Trends in agricultural production-1950-51to 2007-08

Type of Crop	1950-51	Third FYP 1961-66	Seventh FYP 1985-90	Tenth FYP 2002-07	2006-07	2007-08
Rice	20.60	35.10	65.10	85.60	93.40	96.40
Wheat	6.40	11.10	48.30	70.30	75.80	78.40
Jawar	5.50	8.80	10.90	7.20	7.20	7.80
Bajra	2.60	3.90	5.20	8.20	8.40	9.80
Maize	1.70	4.60	7.60	14.00	15.10	19.30
Pulses	8.40	11.10	12.50	13.30	14.20	15.10
Total food grains	45.20	72.60	149.60	198.60	214.10	226.80
Oil seeds	6.20	7.30	13.90	23.20	24.30	28.80
Sugarcane	57.10	109.20	196.40	277.00	355.50	340.60
Cotton	3.00	5.40	8.40	16.00	22.60	25.80
Jute	3.30	5.70	8.90	10.10	11.30	11.20

According to table no.1 the total food grains production in the year 1950-51 was 45.20, million tones but it gradually increased up to 202.9 tones till the tenth Five Year Plan . This further rose up to 226.80 million tones in 2007-08. In the non food grain group jute and cotton shows slow progress. However, the production of oil seed rose considerably after 1980. Cotton rose from 8.4 million bales in seventh plan to 16.00 million bales in tenth plan. Sugarcane production increases continuously from 1950-51 to 2002-03. But the production in 2003-04 was reduced sharply. However in 2005-06 it bounced back and increased from 281.2millions tones to 340.6 million tones in 2007-08. It is found from the table that the production of both food grains and non food grains has been increasing in gradually. In the food grains the production of rice and wheat has increased in a greater number than production of jawar and bajra. In non food grains the production of sugarcane is higher than the jute, cotton and oil seeds. It is also clear from the table that the production of non food grains is comparatively higher than the production of food grains.

Table No.2: Yield per Hectare of Crops in Kg per Hectare

Crop	1950-51	1980-81	2000-01	2007-08
Rice	668	1336	1901	2203
Wheat	655	1630	2708	2785
Jawar	353	660	764	981
Bajra	288	458	688	1030
Maize	547	1159	1822	2337
Pulses	441	473	544	638
Oilseeds	481	532	810	1086
Cotton	88	152	190	466
Jute	1043	1245	2026	2093

According to table no 2 yield per hectare of all foodgrains has increased three times from 552kg per hectare in 1950-51 to 1854kg per hectare in 2007-08. The yield per hectare of wheat was 655kg in 1950-51 increases to 2785kg per hectare-four times more. But the productivity of jawar and bajra increased slowly.

It is found that the general productivity of Indian agricultural has been increasing slowly but steadily. But after comparing the yield of crops per hectare in different countries it is found that the actual productivity of crops in India is very low compared with other countries.

Table No. 3 Productivity of Land in the Different Countries in 2004-05

Rice		Wheat		Maize		Cotton		Oilseeds	
Egypt	9.80	UK	7.77	USA	9.15	China	11.10	Germany	4.07
USA	7.83	France	7.58	France	7.56	Brazil	10.96	USA	2.61
Korea	6.73	China	4.25	Germany	6.69	USA	9.58	Argentina	2.51
Japan	6.42	India	2.71	China	4.90	Pak	7.60	USA	2.61
India	2.90			India	1.18	India	4.64	India	0.86

As table no.3 shows productivity of wheat is about 35% of the productivity in UK and 64% of china productivity rice in India is 45% of the productivity of Korea and 37% of the USA productivity of cotton in India in 41% of china and 50% of USA and Brazil. Productivity of oil seeds in India 33% of USA and 42% of china.

India is one of the largest producers of agricultural crops but very lowest ranker in terms of yield per hectare in the world. For example, India is second largest producer of rice and wheat in the world but its rank is only 52 in rice and 38 in the wheat in terms of yield. It also world's largest producer of pulses but it ranks 138th in the world.

Productivity of Indian agricultural is also much lower than its potentiality.

Productivity as compared with potentiality

Table no. 4 : Potential and actual productivity (2007-08)

Crop	Potential	Actual
Rice	4000/5810	2203
Wheat	6000/6800	2785
Jawar	3000/4200	981
Maize	6000/8000	2337
Cotton	700/850	466
Jute	2500/3000	2093
Sugarcane	96000/112000	67531

In case of rice we use only half potentiality and in case of wheat we use only one third potentialities. The same story holds for all other crops.

In short there is very low productivity of agricultural in India on domestic as well as world level.

CAUSES OF LOW PRODUCTIVITY

1.Social environment of villages- Indian farmers are illiterate, superstitious, conservative, poor, and unrespective to new agricultural techniques.
2.Pressure of population in land-sub division and fragmentation uneconomic holdings
3.Land degradation-20% irreversible soil productivity losses due to water erosion.
4.Land tenure system-zamindari system.
5.Lack of credit and marketing facility-get unfair prices.
6.In adequate irrigation facilities.
7.Out dated agricultural techniques.

MEASURES TO INCREASES THE PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURAL

1.Better management- skilled management for raising the qualitative productivity. For that farmers are to be educated. Extension of science and technology. Advanced information and advisory services about agricultural ingredients, Climate changes, warehousing and marketing facilities foreign markets and on day to day problems.
2.Implementation of land reforms- land sealing legislation, consolidation of holdings "land to the tiller" translate in to practice.
3.Integrated management of land and water resources – water logging, salinization due to human induced water erosion etc- water shad development, rain fed farming, natural resource management.
4.Advanced technologies- improved seeds high yield varieties, fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, and insecticides etc.
5.Irrigation facilities.
6.Continuous power supply
7.Cropping intensity- 2/3 crops per year.
8.Credit and marketing facilities.
9.Incentives subsidies awards and honours to the high yielders
10.Agricultural research- high yielding varieties, soil conservation, and crop deceases etc.avoid wastages and damages of agricultural products. Improving quality of agricultural products.

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