

PRODUCTION ESTIMATES OF FOODGRAINS AND PULSES IN INDIA, 1920-21 TO 1964-65*

RAJENDRA M. CHAKRABARTI

THE object of the present study is to estimate annual acreage and production of foodgrains and pulses in India in the period 1920-21 to 1964-65. I have tried, in other words, to construct the following series¹ with different geographical coverages:

- (1) acreage and production series for the Indian Union, Pakistan and Burma for the period 1920-21 to 1936-37;
- (2) acreage and production series for the Indian Union and Pakistan for the period 1937-38 to 1946-47;
- (3) acreage and production series for the Indian Union for the period 1947-48 to 1964-65.

A number of attempts have previously been made to make similar estimates. The more important ones among them in the present context may be mentioned. William Burns has prepared production estimates for the former British Indian Provinces for the period 1911-12

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¹ These series may be useful for the construction of net availability series of foodgrains and pulses for the Indian Union for the period 1920-21 to 1964-65. One suitable method of obtaining net availability series for the Indian Union is to prepare production series (net of seed requirements, wastage etc.) for the Indian Union and then to take account of net imports into this region from foreign countries and from also Burma and Pakistan which at different times formed parts of Greater India. This calls for not only external trade data, but also data showing internal distribution of production and imports during the period under study. The detailed data relating to distribution of production and imports not being available, one may start with production series for the regions that at different times coincided with the political boundaries of India. Adjustments may then be made on account of imports to obtain net availability series for the area that constituted India at any time. Assuming an equal distribution of the net availability over the entire country a net availability series for the Indian Union may be derived from this series with the help of the population data. I have prepared net availability series for the Indian Union following such a method and using the production estimates obtained in the present article. See 'Net Availability of Foodgrains and Pulses in the Indian Union, 1920-21 to 1959-60', *Arthaniti*, July 1963.