

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS  
MINISTRY OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE, GOVT. OF INDIA



# FARM (HARVEST) PRICES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1947- 48 TO 1951- 52

Supplement to  
Agricultural Prices in India, 1951 & 1952



सत्यमेव जयते

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C O R R I G E N D A

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84	2.16	Himachal Pradesh (Mahasu)	1951-52	3	30-10- 0	30-10- 2
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## PREFACE

1. The data on 'harvest prices' given in this publication are based on the returns furnished by the State Governments, or the information published by them in their State Season and Crop Reports. Up to 1946-47, only the Part A States (former Provinces) collected and published such data in their Season and Crop Reports. The exact definition of the term 'harvest prices' and the methods of collection were governed largely by local customs and usages and as such differed from State to State, *e.g.*, in Assam, the harvest prices were the wholesale prices prevailing at the four important markets in the State during harvest time; in Bombay, the harvest prices were the retail prices prevailing at the harvest time; in Madras, the average harvest prices were based upon retail prices ruling at two or three principal markets in each district except those of rice, cotton, groundnut, sesamum and castor which were based on the wholesale prices; in Punjab, harvest prices were the prices received by the farmers for their produce during harvest period and were collected from selected villages; in Orissa and West Bengal, the harvest prices were computed as the average of the prices ruling during harvest time at two or three principal markets in each district. It will be seen that the above data lacked uniformity from an all-India point of view.

2. With a view to ensuring the collection of harvest price data on a uniform and scientific basis a scheme for the collection of harvest prices was drawn up by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in consultation with the States in 1950 and forwarded to them for adoption. The salient features of the scheme are as under :—

In order to describe the nature of these prices correctly, they have been redesignated as 'Farm (Harvest) Prices'.

The 'Farm (Harvest) Price' of a commodity has been defined as the average wholesale price at which the commodity is disposed of by the producer to the trader at the village site during the specified harvest period.

A number of representative villages are selected for each commodity in each district and prices are collected on every Friday during the harvest time.

The prices relate to the variety which is most commonly grown in the district.

The average price for the district is the simple arithmetic average of these quotations but for the State it is the weighted average of the district prices, the weights being proportional to the quantity of each crop produced in the respective districts.

The collection of data according to this scheme has already been started by a number of States. It is hoped that the remaining States will also adopt this method in near future.

3. Alongwith the improvements in the definition and methods of collecting Harvest Prices, efforts were made to obtain these data from Part 'B' and 'C' States also. As a result, the number of States reporting 'Harvest Prices' has progressively increased, since 1947-48.

4. Further, upto 1946-47, data on 'Harvest Prices' were based on the information published in the State Season and Crop Reports. Since the Season and Crop Reports were available with a

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considerable time lag, the States were requested to furnish the 'Harvest Prices' alongwith the returns of Agricultural Statistics. Some of the Part 'B' and 'C' States also furnished these data in special returns. The table below summarises the sources from which data for different States given in the publication have been taken:—

## SOURCES

States	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52
Assam	B	B	B	B	N.A.
Bihar	A	A	B	C	C
Bombay	A	A	C	C	C
Madhya Pradesh	A	A	A	A	C
Madras	A	A	A	A	A
Orissa	A	A	A	B	B
Punjab	A	A	A	A	B
Uttar Pradesh	A	A	A	A	A
West Bengal	A	A	A	B	N.A.
Hyderabad	..	..	..	..	C
P.E.P.S. Union	..	B	B	C	C
Rajasthan	..	..	B	B	N.A.
Travancore-Cochin	..	..	..	B	B
Ajmer	..	B	B	B	B
Bhopal	..	B	A	A	C
Bilaspur	..	..	..	B	B
Coorg	..	..	C	C	C
Delhi	..	..	..	B	N.A.
Himachal Pradesh	B	B	B	C	B
Kutch	B	B	B	B	N.A.
Manipur	..	..	..	C	C
Tripura	B	B	B	C	N.A.
Vindhya Pradesh	..	..	..	B	B

A—Season and Crop Report.

B—Agricultural Statistics Returns or Special Returns.

C—Farm (Harvest) Prices Returns (according to Improved Scheme).

N.A.—Not available.

When the improved scheme is adopted by all the States, the data furnished by the different States will be comparable *inter-se* although for the same State, the data for the years before and after the adoption of the improved schemes will not be strictly comparable.

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5. Up to 1946-47 'Harvest Prices' used to be published in Volume I of Indian Agricultural Statistics. From 1947-48, however, the contents of this publication were rationalized and it was decided to confine it only to statistics of land utilization and to publish all agricultural prices including harvest prices in a separate publication entitled "Agricultural Prices in India". The data on 'harvest prices' now called 'Farm (Harvest) Prices' should have been included in the main issues of 'Agricultural Prices in India' but it was not possible to do so since detailed data from most of the States were not available at the time of their compilation. It is hoped that these data will be received from the States in time in future and it will be possible to include them in the main Issues of 'Agricultural Prices in India'.

6. In utilizing the data on harvest prices given in this publication, it may be noted that a second series of harvest prices are also collected through the branches of the Imperial Bank of India. These relate to wholesale prices of different agricultural commodities, prevailing during a period of about two months after the arrival of the new harvest in selected principal markets where the branches of Imperial Bank of India exist. The Branches of the Imperial Bank report these data directly to the Central Government—to the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics up to 1946-47 and thereafter to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture. These prices used to be published by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics in the "Indian Trade Journal". The Directorate of Economics and Statistics now publish them in one of the issues of the monthly Journal "Agricultural Situation in India". In order to give an indication of the real nature of these prices, their nomenclature has been changed from 'Harvest Prices' to—'Harvest Season Prices' as distinct from Farm (Harvest) Prices given in this publication.

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## APPENDIX

I. As a part of general scheme for the improvement of agricultural statistics it is proposed to collect and publish the farm prices of principal crops on an all India basis. These prices are already being collected by the States (Governors' provinces) regularly and published in the Agricultural Statistics of India Vol. I. For the sake of uniformity, therefore it is desired that the States, so far not collecting the farm prices, may start doing so and report the same to the Central Ministry of Agriculture.

II. Farm price of a Commodity may be defined as the average wholesale price at which the commodity is disposed off by the producer to the trader at the village site during the specified harvest period.

III. The following procedure is suggested for systematizing the collection and compilation of these statistics :—

- (i) A certain number of representative villages may be selected in each district at the rate of one, two or three villages from each tehsil, depending upon the extent to which the crop is grown in the tehsil. The total number of villages to be selected in each district should, however, be not less than ten.
- (ii) In each selected village, the prices at which the commodity is sold by the producer may be recorded in the specified form attached, on every Friday during the harvest time. If no sales take place on that day, the price at which the commodity was sold last during the week may be recorded instead.
- (iii) In cases where village site transactions do not take place, the prices reported should relate to what the farmer receives for his produce and should be obtained by subtracting transport and other marketing charges from the wholesale prices quoted at the mandi where the produce is disposed off.
- (iv) The price recorded should be the wholesale price of the specified variety in terms of rupees, annas and pies per (one) standard maund of 82  $\frac{2}{7}$  lbs. net weight exclusive of gunny.

IV. The existence of different varieties and quantities with a wide range in price variation makes the task of giving a single harvest price for a commodity for the whole state difficult. In each district, however, it is possible to determine a particular variety which is grown to the largest extent and that variety may be specified for the purpose of quoting the farm price. In some cases, it may be necessary to give the farm prices of two varieties separately if the difference in price is great, as for instance, in the case of prices of American and Deshi Cotton.

V. It is also necessary to fix the period of harvest for each crop, as it varies widely depending upon the variety of the crop and the nature of cultivation. In some cases, it is even difficult to define strictly the harvest period as for instance in the case of cotton where there are more than four pickings in a year. These periods, however, may be fixed in respect of each crop and each state by the state Governments having due regard to the local conditions. Usually in case of most commodities six to eight weeks after the commencement of the harvest may be taken to be the harvest period during which farmers are generally expected to dispose off their produce.

VI. Farm prices when they are viewed as an integral part of agricultural statistics may best be collected through the agency employed for the collection of statistics of area and yield. It is proposed that the supervisor Kanungos or the revenue inspectors or the equivalent officials, who are generally employed for the collection of Statistics of area and yield may be entrusted with the task of collecting these statistics also. It is also proposed that if circumstances permit the services of primary teachers may be utilized for this purpose. However, in view of the wide divergences in the revenue machineries of the different states, the choice of the reporting agency is left to the decision of the State Governments. The reporters should visit the selected villages on the appointed dates, enquire personally the prices at which the commodity has been sold by the cultivator and record them on the specified form.

VII. The method of striking the average price for the state as a whole should be the method of weighted average, with the district production figures for the current year as weights. The average price for the district for each week may be obtained as the simple arithmetic average of the tehsil prices, which are in turn the simple arithmetic averages of village prices. The average price for the season is the simple arithmetic average of the district prices for each week. The computation of the district average may be done at the district headquarters while the prices for the state as a whole may be worked out at the state headquarters.

VIII. It is suggested that the farm prices should be collected in respect of all the important crops and in any case they should be given for all the forecast crops. As the final estimate of every crop is published at least one month after the completion of harvesting; it may be feasible to get the farm prices ready by the time of the final estimate in which case, these prices also may be included in the Final Estimate. Timely publication of these statistics will enhance their value.

IX. The farm prices multiplied by the production figures of the different crops will give an estimate of the income of the producers of the commodity which is the same thing as the contribution of that particular commodity to the National Agricultural Income.



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**FORM**

Village :

Circle :

Taluka :

District :

Prices prevailing on \_\_\_\_\_ 195 .

Commodity.	Quality.	Wholesale price per standard maund of 82 2/7 lbs.	Remarks.
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1.

2.

3.

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Name of the Reporter :

Designation :

Due Date :

Date of despatch :

Reasons for delay :

Signature of Reporter.

Date of Receipt at  
Distt. Headquarter.