

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGING
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PATTERN WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SATARA, SANGLI AND
KOLHAPUR DISTRICTS (S. S. K. REGION)
FROM 1950-51 to 1976-77**

**A THESIS
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PREFACE

The less developed countries (LDCS) are prominently agricultural in character. The economic development of these countries is identified with their industrialisation. Since the beginning of the planned economic development in India, emphasis has been laid on the rapid industrialisation of the country. The agricultural sector has also been receiving greater emphasis during the successive Five Year Plans. We have tried to highlight the significant role that agriculture plays in accelerating and promoting the process of economic development of our country. Along with the industrial development there must be concurrent development of agriculture. Hence we have propounded for concurrent growth thesis as in the case of Japan. In the process of agricultural development some changes in the production structure are bound to occur in response to economic development. The agricultural sector has to provide adequate amount of foodgrains for the growing population in the urban areas and the agricultural sector must also ensure adequate supplies of raw materials for agro-based industries.

The present study refers to the regional development and changing agricultural production pattern of Satara, Solapur and Kolhapur districts as these three districts contribute the most fertile belt area of the State of Maharashtra. The scheme of the study has been divided into seven chapters.

The first chapter deals with the role of agriculture in the process of economic development in general. It also presents methodology and some of data used for the study. We have assumed 1950-51 as the base year and have worked out the index numbers for the area, output and yield for food and nonfood crops of every individual district and of the region as a whole. We have also worked out the annual compound growth rates for such periods and for the whole period under reference. To obtain the annual compound growth rates, the exponential curve was fitted to the data by the least square method.

The area, output and yield data of different crops have been collected from the Season and Crop Reports and Performance Budgets of the Government of Maharashtra.

Chapter II deals with the land utilisation pattern of the three districts and the region. We have analysed the behaviour of the various land use categories. The area not available for cultivation has increased. Other uncultivated land category has also increased. Despite this, the

gross cropped area increased only by one per cent and that too on account of the increase in the area sown more than once.

Chapter III deals with the growth rates of the major cereals grown in the region. For the study of the behaviour of the major cereals in respect of area, output and yield, we have divided the period into two sub-periods pre- and post-H.Y.V. period. For both the periods we have worked out the annual compound growth rates separately and for the whole period. The important cereals grown in the region are rice, kharif jowar, rabi jowar and bajra and Nachani.

Chapter IV deals with pulses. Pulse crops are grown along with major cereals in the region. The major pulse crops grown in the region are, gram, tur, black gram (Udid) and horse gram (Kulthi). We have analysed their behaviour in respect of their area, output and yield.

Chapter V deals with the sugarcane crop in the region. Along with the development of perennial irrigation sources, the area under sugarcane has been expanding very rapidly. Satara and Sangli districts have also emerged as sugarcane growing area.

Chapter VI deals with the nonirrigated commercial crops. Among the nonirrigated commercial crops, groundnut occupied the foremost position. Notwithstanding the process of the crop in respect of area, output and yield is far from satisfactory. The cotton crop partly irrigated and partly nonirrigated registered significant growth. The area under the crop however remained stationary. On account of the market imperfections and the absence of marketing infrastructure acreage under production and productivity of tobacco registered negative growth rates.

Chapter VII deals with the conclusions arrived at. Despite the positive growth rate of irrigated area, the gross cropped area did not increase pari pasu. Since the beginning of the H.Y.V. period, the performance of the rice crop seems to be somewhat satisfactory as its area registered positive growth rate. Kharif jowar which is the major crop grown in the region did not show any significant progress in respect of output and yield. Over the period, the performance of the crop has not been encouraging. The area under kharif jowar remained stationary. The area output and yield of rabi jowar increased to some extent. By clubbing these two crops together the area under total jowar declined by a small margin, whereas the output and yield showed some signs of improvement. Bajra is grown mainly in Satara and Sangli districts. The performance of bajra over the period seems to be unsatisfactory. Wheat

crop seems to have been gaining importance in the crop pattern of the region.

The pulse crops did not register any positive growth rate over the entire period. On the contrary, they have shown over all declining trends. Some of them are on the verge of being dropped out. The expansion of the area under sugar cane could be attributed principally to growth rates of irrigation and establishment of cooperative sugar factories in the region.

The nonirrigated commercial crops have exhibited a very dismal picture owing to inadequate marketing infrastructure and the market imperfections.

All the relevant tables of index numbers and annual compound growth rates of different crops have been given at the end of each chapter.

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