



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

**SEASON AND CROP REPORT**  
**MAHARASHTRA STATE**

**1969-70**

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**SEASON AND CROP REPORT OF THE STATE OF  
MAHARASHTRA FOR THE YEAR 1969-70**

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No. SCR/S-1271/8915/S,  
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE,  
MAHARASHTRA STATE,  
POONA-1, Dated the 12th July 1971.

FROM :

Dr. K. G. JOSHI,  
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,  
MAHARASHTRA STATE,  
POONA-1.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT,  
SACHIVALAYA ANNEXE,  
BOMBAY-32 (BR).

Sir,

I am to submit herewith the Annual Season and Crop report of the Maharashtra State for the year ending 31st July 1970.

The Agricultural season of 1969-70 was characterised by inadequacy of rains at sowing stage in areas other than Konkan, heavy incessant rains towards end of August and early September, particularly in north Deccan and Marathwada regions and untimely break in rains from the middle of September to middle of October in most parts of the State. This unfavourable distribution of rainfall adversely affected the late maturing crops of ragi, kharif jowar, groundnut and cotton, to an appreciable extent. The dry spell also affected large scale sowing of rabi crops, particularly rabi jowar, in the State. Inadequate soil moisture in the rabi season in parts of the State and occurrences of hailstorms in scattered pockets in Vidarbha affected the rabi crops as also horticultural crops to a varying extent.

2. Incidence of crop pests and plant diseases was reported particularly on hybrid and high yielding varieties in most parts of the State. Prompt remedial and preventive measures were carried out in the affected areas.

3. The length of Government canals was 4217 kilometres and that of private canals was 9127 kilometres. The gross irrigated area during the year under report was 16232 hundred hectares showing an increase of 4.3 per cent over the corresponding figure of 15568 hundred hectares during 1968-69. The total irrigated area was 8.3 per cent of the gross cropped area, as against 8.0 per cent in the preceding year.

4. The area under food crops increased in Aurangabad division only while that under non-food crops showed an increase in Poona, Aurangabad and Nagpur divisions. The area under food crops in the State was 136951 hundred hectares in 1969-70 as against 137721 hundred hectares in 1968-69, showing a decrease of 0.5 per cent. The area under non-food crops was 57400 hundred hectares in 1969-70 as against 55947 hundred hectares in 1968-69, showing an increase of 2.6 per cent.

5. Based on the crop estimation survey results, average yield per hectare at the State level was higher than that in the preceding year viz., 1968-69, mainly in case of bajri; the higher yield rate is due to adoption of hybrid and high yielding varieties programme on a larger scale. The rabi crops suffered particularly on account of inadequacy of soil moisture resulting in lower yield rates in most parts of the State.

6. The rates of most of agricultural commodities except paddy, wheat and sugar, were higher than those in 1968-69. There was a slight increase in the wages of skilled and unskilled labourers.

7. The latest available quinquennial census figures of 1966, show an over all decrease in the number of cattle and buffaloes to the corresponding figures of 1961 census. The number of buffaloes used for breeding purposes, however, increased by 15.1 per cent while cattle in milk decreased by 1.5 per cent. The number of sheep increased while the number of goats, horses and ponies declined. The poultry population showed a decrease of 6.4 per cent.

8. As per 1966 census, the number of sugarcane crushers, oil engines and tractors showed an increase of 12.0 per cent, 130.3 per cent and 129.4 per cent respectively over the 1961 census figures. Similarly, the number of electric pumps increased by nearly 4 times while the number of ghanis declined by 33.0 per cent.

Yours faithfully,  
K. G. JOSHI,  
Director of Agriculture,  
Maharashtra State,  
Poona-1.