

Season and crop report, Maharashtra.  
1971/72



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

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

**1971-72**

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Crop Report*

**1971-72**

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**SEASON AND CROP REPORT OF THE STATE OF  
MAHARASHTRA FOR THE YEAR 1971-72**

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*ERRATA*

Page No.	Para. / row / description	Col. No.	Read as	For
113	17	... 56	75	7
113	18	... 56	90	1
113	Aurangabad Div. Total	... 56	275	118
113	Total Maharashtra State	... 56	367	210

No. SCR/1273/5481/S-III,  
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE,  
MAHARASHTRA STATE, POONA-1,  
Dated 29th March, 1975.

FROM

SHRI S. R. CHOPDE,  
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,  
MAHARASHTRA STATE,  
POONA-1.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT,  
SACHIVALAYA ANNEXE,  
BOMBAY-400 032 BR.

Sir,

I am to submit herewith the Annual Season and Crop Report of the Maharashtra State for the year ending 31st July 1972.

The south-west monsoon created a very precarious situation in the State this year. After initial showers in all districts, droughty conditions prevailed and continued almost upto the third week of August 1971, all over the State excepting the assured rainfall area in the western part of the State and parts of Vidarbha region. Consequently, in substantial parts of Marathwada and Deccan regions, the sowing of kharif crops could not be undertaken due to inadequacy of rains during the sowing season. The rains received in the last week of August and early September proved beneficial to the growth of standing kharif crops and facilitated large scale sowing of rabi jowar in these two regions. The dry spell that followed till the fourth week of September affected the standing kharif crops particularly cotton and groundnut in their critical growth stages. The rains received in the last week of September facilitated large scale sowing of rabi crops, the area under which increased due to diversion of unsown kharif areas to rabi jowar and other rabi crops. Lack of rains thereafter in October, November and December affected the proper growth of late kharif crops and unirrigated rabi crops particularly rabi jowar in most parts of the Deccan and Marathwada regions. Rabi jowar was also affected in its growth stage due to the severity of the cold spell during December and January in parts of Deccan. The occurrence of cold wave on the 13th and 14th February adversely affected fruits and vegetables and newly planted sugarcane to some extent in Nasik and Ahmednagar districts and parts of Dhulia, Jalgaon, Aurangabad and Poona districts. Irrigated crops were affected to some extent due to the inadequacy of water in wells in the State. On the whole, the rabi season was also not so favourable to the crop in different parts of the State.

Summing up, it may be stated that the agricultural season 1971-72, in the State was quite unsatisfactory. It was characterised by inadequate rains at the crucial periods of agricultural operations and long dry spells resulting in an appreciable decrease in the area sown, yield rates and ultimately in agricultural production. However, worsening of the situation was saved to some extent by the hybrid and high yielding varieties which gave substantially higher yields of crops.

( ii )

2. Incidence of crop pests and plant diseases was reported on major crops, including hybrid and high yielding varieties in most parts of the State. The incidence of ergot on bajri, midgefly on kharif jowar and common pests of cotton and rabi jowar were reported. Both prophylactic and remedial measures were promptly carried out on campaign basis in the severely affected areas.

3. The gross irrigated area during the year under report was 16.2 lakh ha. which was more than the last year's figure of 15.7 lakh ha. by 3.3 per cent.

4. The area under food crops was 129.6 lakh ha. in 1971-72 as against 134.9 lakh ha. in 1970-71 showing a decrease of 3.9 per cent. The area under non-food crops was 51.6 lakh ha. in 1971-72 as against 52.4 lakh ha. in 1970-71, indicating a decrease of 1.7 per cent.

5. In view of the drought conditions in the State, scarcity was declared in nearly 14,700 villages and sown areas were considerably less particularly under the crops kharif jowar, bajri, cotton and groundnut. Based on the crop estimation surveys, the average yield rate per hectare at the State level for majority of the crops was lower than that in the preceding year (1970-71) mainly due to long dry spells during crucial periods of crop growth stages. Heavy rains in Bombay division affected bajri crop at the maturity stage while severe cold spell in Bombay and Aurangabad divisions, affected rabi jowar. The increase in the yield rate in the case of kharif jowar and cotton in 1971-72 was only apparent as the former crop was very much adversely affected due to the incidence of midgefly while the latter was affected due to crop failure in the preceding year. This situation resulted in the lower total production of most of the crops particularly rice, bajri, kharif pulses, sugarcane and groundnut during the year under report.

6. The prices of most of the agricultural commodities except potatoes and chillies were higher than those in 1970-71. There was a slight increase in the wages of skilled and unskilled labour in the State.

7. The latest available quinquennial Live Stock Census figures 1972, show that there was a slight decrease in the number of cattle viz. by 0.2 per cent whereas the total number of buffaloes recorded an increase of 8.5 per cent over the corresponding figure of 1966 census. The number of buffaloes used for breeding purposes alone decreased by 6.5 per cent while cattle in milk increased by 11.7 per cent. The number of sheep decreased by 3.5 per cent and horses and ponies by 42.3 per cent while the number of goats recorded an increase of 15.4 per cent. The poultry population showed an increase of 23.4 per cent.

8. The scope of the census of agricultural machinery and implements was extended for the first time to cover all the latest developments in the agricultural field. As per 1972 census, the number of oil engines and tractors showed an increase of 17.2 per cent and 71.2 per cent respectively whereas the number of sugarcane crushers decreased by 50.6 per cent over the 1966 census figures. Similarly the number of electric pumps increased, nearly by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times while the number of ghanis declined by 47.0 per cent.

Yours faithfully,  
S. R. CHOPDE,  
Director of Agriculture,  
Maharashtra State,  
Poona-1.