



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

SEASON AND CROP REPORT

MAHARASHTRA STATE

1973-74

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Crop Report*

1973-74

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**SEASON AND CROP REPORT OF THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA
FOR THE YEAR 1973-74**

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No. SCR/1274/478/S-III,
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE,
PUNE-411 001.
Dated 6th April, 1976.

FROM

SHRI S. R. CHOPDE,
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE,
PUNE-411 001.

To

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

SUBJECT :—Annual Season and Crop Report of
Maharashtra State for the year, 1973-74

Sir,

I am to submit herewith the Annual Season and Crop Report of Maharashtra State for the year ending the 31st July 1974.

After experiencing three consecutive drought years of which the worst in the history of the State occurred in 1972-73, the State turned the corner in 1973-74 when the agricultural season was, on the whole, satisfactory. The kharif season was characterised by the timely onset of monsoon. But initially, the monsoon was weak till the 15th June, followed by a dry spell commencing from the 16th June, 1973 for a period of nearly 10 days in the Konkan region and 16 days in the rest of the State. The dry spell resulted in the reduction in area under cotton and groundnut crops. This area was diverted mostly to kharif jowar, bajri, kharif pulses and wheat in the rabi season. During the months July to September the rainfall was widespread and more than adequate. Normally the monsoon retreats by September. This year, it extended upto October end and was useful for late sown kharif crops and for the timely sowing, as also for the proper growth of early sown rabi crops.

2. The impact of the satisfactory season during the year under report was reflected in the restoration of net and gross cropped areas to their normal levels, as these areas had recorded considerable reduction in the preceding three years of adverse season. Similarly, the lands which have remained unploughed to large extent particularly during 1971-72, and 1972-73 were brought under the plough this year, thereby bringing the area under current fallows also below to its normal level. Further due to reduction in the areas under non-food crops and their diversion to the cereal

crops, the area under cereals achieved its highest level during 1973-74 since the formation of Maharashtra State in 1960.

3. Another aspect of the impact was a conscious effort by the cultivators to exploit the irrigation facilities to the maximum extent possible. Consequently the net and gross irrigated areas during the year under report reached their highest levels of 14.7 and 17.6 lakh ha. respectively, being higher by 15.3 per cent and 20.2 per cent than those of the preceding year.

4. The total net cropped area increased from 160.6 lakh ha. in 1972-73 to 183.2 lakh ha. in 1973-74 i. e. by 14.1 per cent. Similarly the total gross cropped area increased from 169.8 lakh ha. to 194.9 lakh ha. i. e. by 14.8 per cent. Consequently the area cropped more than once increased from 9.2 lakh ha. to 11.6 lakh ha. i. e. 26.3 per cent. The increase in the cropped area was shared by all the districts of the State.

The area under food crops was 144.6 lakh ha. and exceeded that in the preceding year by 20.6 per cent. The area under non-food crops was 50.3 lakh ha. which was slightly higher by 0.7 per cent than in the preceding year. The total area under foodgrains increased from 114.3 in 1972-73 to 138.5 lakh ha. in 1973-74 i. e. 21.2 per cent. Similarly, the area under cereals increased from 93.1 to 110.9 lakh ha. (or by 19.1 per cent) and that under pulses from 21.2 to 27.6 lakh ha. (or by 30.0 per cent).

As a result of the efforts made by the department and the Zilla Parishads, the coverage under hybrid/high yielding varieties of cereals crops increased to 21.4 lakh ha.

5. Among the major crops of the State, kharif jowar was the only crop severely affected by the attack of midgefly and stemborer in several parts of Jalgaon, Dhule, Sangli, Kolhapur and parts of Marathwada and Vidarbha regions. Besides, the late heavy rains in October damaged the local jowar varieties, which were in the flowering stage, and also affected the quality of hybrid jowar grains. Thus earlier expectations of a bumper harvest of kharif jowar, due to the initial favourable weather conditions coupled with the highest area brought under this crop, were not fulfilled. Thus the production of kharif jowar worked out to only 12.9 lakh tonnes as against the initial expectation of over 19 lakh tonnes.

The total foodgrain production in the State was 70.45 lakh tonnes which was lower by over 6 lakh tonnes than the initially expected level of production, due mostly to the damage caused to kharif jowar.

6. The prices of all the agricultural commodities were higher in 1973-74 than those in 1972-73. Similarly wages of skilled and unskilled labour in the State, recorded an overall increase, in all the districts of the State.

7. The quinquennial live stock census 1972, showed that there was a slight decrease of 0.2 per cent in the number of cattle, whereas the total number of buffaloes recorded an increase of 8.5 per cent over the corresponding figures of 1966 census. The number of buffaloes, used for breeding purposes alone, decreased by 6.5 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.

According to the above census, the number of ghanis decreased by 47 per cent and sugarcane crushers decreased by 50.6 per cent. The number of wooden ploughs, iron ploughs and bullock carts showed an increase of 0.8 per cent, 13.2 per cent and 4.0 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, the number of oil engines and tractors increased by 17.2 per cent and 71.2 per cent respectively. The number of electric pumps increased by three and half times over that in the preceding census.

Yours faithfully,
S. R. CHOPDE,
Director of Agriculture,
Maharashtra State,
Pune-411 001.