



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

SEASON AND CROP REPORT

MAHARASHTRA STATE

1974-75

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and
Crop Report*

1974-75

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**SEASON AND CROP REPORT OF THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA
FOR THE YEAR 1974-75**

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No. SCR/1275/364/AG-19,
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE,
PUNE-411 001.
Dated 31st March 1977.

FROM

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

To

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

SUBJECT :—Annual Season and Crop Report of
Maharashtra State for the year 1974-75.

Sir,

I am to submit herewith the Annual Season and Crop Report of Maharashtra State for the year 1974-75, ending the 31st July 1975.

During the year, the onset of monsoon was late by a month, and the kharif sowings were delayed correspondingly, and there was a reduction in the area under kharif cereals as compared with that of last year. The short-fall was particularly substantial in kharif jowar and bajri crops to the extent of 1.6 lakh ha. and 3.7 lakh ha. respectively. Due to inadequacy of rains during the period mid-August to September, the early paddy in Bhandara and Chandrapur districts was severely affected beyond recovery. However, adequate rains were received in September and October all over the State and this improved the condition of the kharif crops except early paddy in Vidarbha. Rains in September and October were adequate enabling timely sowings of rabi crops. These rains were beneficial for their proper growth and development.

2. The late commencement of kharif sowing resulted in the reduction of net cropped area of the State, from 183.2 lakh ha. in 1973-74 to 182.1 lakh ha. in 1974-75 i. e. by 1.1 lakh ha. The area cropped more than once, however, increased from 11.6 lakh ha. in 1973-74 to 13.0 lakh ha. or by 11.8 per cent in 1974-75. Thus the total gross cropped area was of the same order as that of last year.

The area under food crops was 141.7 lakh ha. during the year under report and same was lower than that of the preceding year by 2.0 per cent. On the other hand, the area under non-food crops increased from 50.3 lakh ha. in 1973-74 to 53.4 lakh ha. in 1974-75 or by 6.3 per cent. Among the food crops, the total area under food-grains decreased from 138.5 lakh ha. in 1973-74 to 135.0 lakh ha. in 1974-75 i. e. by 2.6 per cent.

3. During the year under report, the net and gross irrigated area was 16.1 lakh ha. and 19.3 lakh ha. respectively, showing an increase of 9.5 per cent and 9.6 per cent over the corresponding figures of the preceding year.

4. In spite of the reduction in area of 3.5 lakh ha., the total food-grain production in the State attained a level of 79.0 lakh tonnes, outstripping the previous record production of 77.4 lakh tonnes attained in 1960-61. This was mainly due to timely plant protection measures against midge-fly, resulting in higher yield rate of jowar in the kharif season. The wheat crop also responded to intensive cultivation measures including the high yielding varieties programme and increased availability of irrigation, as a result, a record production of 7.5 lakh tonnes was obtained.

The cotton crop sown in 25.0 lakh ha. area was free from incidence of pests and diseases and had put on good growth. Its production was also a record one, being 16.1 lakh bales of 180 kg. each. The sugarcane crop was grown on an area of 2.5 lakh ha. and its production (from the harvested area of 2.0 lakh ha.) was also a record one, being 20.3 lakh tonnes in terms of gur.

5. The prices of food-grain commodities were higher in 1974-75 than those in 1973-74. The prices of tobacco and chillies ruled high due to less arrival in the markets and increasing demand. Similarly wages of skilled and unskilled labour in the State, recorded an overall increase in all the districts of the State.

6. The quinquennial live stock census 1972 showed that in comparison with census figures of 1966, there was a slight decrease of 0.2 per cent in the number of cattle. The total number of buffaloes recorded an increase of 8.5 per cent. 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 together by 42.3 per cent while the number of goats recorded an increase of 15.4 per cent. The poultry population increased by 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.