



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

# SEASON AND CROP REPORT

MAHARASHTRA STATE

1976-77

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Price : Rs. 4.20 P.

Season & Crop Report 1976-77

E R R A T A S L I P

Page	Para/Line/Discription	Read as	For
3	Chapter IV Body Table Percentage Aurangabad Divn.	62-82 + 1.3	62-85 + 1.2
4	Chapter V Table V-A & V-B Pages	86-101	86-110
12	Chapter VI Para 9, first line.	Tur	this
16	Summary Table A Unit of Area	Area in '00'Ha.	-
18	Summary Table C Crop Black Gram	Udid	Udidi
21	Cotton (Percentage)	+ 6.3	6.3
23	Summary Table E Col.No.5	Total	Toal
33	Col.No.19 Dhule	515.6	516.6
55	Col.No.19 Solapur Total Cereals	1010	101
57	Col.No.38	Ginger	Ginegar
61	Col.No.84 to 86	Drugs & Narcotics	Drygs & Nercoties
62	Col.No.7 Nasik Kharif	339	337
65	Col.No.31	Vaishakhi	Vikhi
83	Col.No. 60 Osmanabad	2662	2616
85	Col.No.11 Pune division Total	4960	4966
85	Col.No.10 Total of M.S.	197884	197839
123	Col.No.37 Total of Pune Division.	4786288	4486288

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**SEASON AND CROP REPORT OF THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA  
FOR THE YEAR 1976-77**

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No. SCR/1277/AG-19/678,  
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE,  
MAHARASHTRA STATE, PUNE-411 001  
Dated 21st May, 1980.

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 1976-77.

Sir,

I am submitting herewith the Annual Season and Crop Report of Maharashtra State for the year 1976-77, ending the 31st July, 1977.

Under the influence of a cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea, the monsoon arrived in the western coast region slightly earlier than the normal date. Initially, it was vigorous in the South Konkan only, while practically no rains were received till the 24th June 1976 in other parts of the State. After the receipt of widespread rains in the State from the 25th June, kharif sowings started in early July and were completed by the end of July or the first week of August. Due to this delay in sowing rains, the normal areas under cotton could not be sown and its area went down by 1.45 lakh ha. during 1976-77 as compared to that in the preceding year. This area was diverted to kharif jowar crop. The area under kharif pulses also recorded a reduction to some extent while the area under other crops recorded only marginal variations. Due to subsequent sufficient rains in August and till mid-September, the condition of the different kharif crops in the State was good. It was then expected that a bumper kharif harvest would materialise. However, from mid-September, a dry spell for about 7 to 8 weeks prevailed in the State. Though the early kharif crops such as early paddy, hybrid jowar, bajri and early pulses escaped the adverse effects of the long dry spell, the late maturing varieties of these crops, specially those on light to medium soils were affected to Rabi sowings took place in time barring a few areas in the State.

(ii)

The net cropped area in the State was 182.05 lakh ha. in 1976-77 as against 182.62 lakh ha. in 1975-76, showing a decrease by 0.3 per cent. The area cropped more than once increased from 14.02 lakh ha. in 1975-76 to 15.83 lakh ha. in 1976-77 or by 12.8 per cent. The over all total cropped area thus showed an increase from 196.64 lakh ha. in 1975-76 to 197.88 lakh ha. in 1976-77 or by 0.6 per cent.

The area under food crops during 1976-77 was 147.3 lakh ha. and was more by 1.4 per cent over that in the preceding year. On the other hand, the area under non-food crops showed a decrease of 0.77 lakh ha. having gone down to 50.53 lakh ha. 1976-77 from 51.30 lakh ha. in 1975-76.

During the year under report, the net and gross irrigated area was 18.33 and 22.42 lakh ha. respectively, showing an increase of 1.8 per cent and 3.3 per cent over the corresponding figures of the preceding year.

The area under foodgrain crops in 1976-77 was 140.10 lakh ha. and was higher by 1.2 per cent as compared to that in the preceding year. The foodgrain production was higher by 5.79 lakh tonnes having gone up to 96.15 lakh tonnes, from 90.36 lakh tonnes in 1975-76, establishing a new high. The crops of jowar, bajri and maize in particular fared well during the year. The main reasons for the increased production were (i) the higher coverage under hybrid and high yielding varieties, (ii) increased irrigation facilities, (iii) co-ordinated advanced planning by officers of the Agril. Department, Zilla Parishads and other concerned Departments and (iv) absence of major pest and deceases.

The area under cotton during the year was only 21.62 lakh ha. Again, due to long dry spell that prevailed in the State, the bearing of bolls and their development was not satisfactory; hence the production of this crop was low, being 8.47 lakh bales of 170 kg. each.

The area under groundnut increased to 9.05 lakh ha. during the year under report, as compared to 8.54 lakh ha. in the preceding year. The crop was however affected by the long dry spell at the critical stage of growth, affecting the formation and development of pods, thereby lowering the production of this crop.

The cultivation of sugarcane crop increased to 2.98 lakh ha. from 2.68 lakh ha. in 1975-76. The production of gur from the harvested area of 2.49 lakh ha. was the highest ever, being 24.45 lakh tonnes.

The prices of the important commodities except tur dal, groundnut all oilseed crops, and potato, decreased slightly during 1976-77, mainly due to the increasing trend in the agricultural production.

(iii)

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 47.0 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 used for irrigation shot up from 37979 to 169778 *i. e.* four and half times the figure in the preceding census.

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