



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

SEASON AND CROP REPORT

MAHARASHTRA STATE

1977-78

SEASON AND CROP REPORT

86

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**SEASON AND CROP REPORT OF THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA
FOR THE YEAR 1977-78**

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DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE,
PUNE-411 001.
Dated 25th January 1982.

FROM

SHRI SURESH KUMAR,
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE,
PUNE-411 001.

To

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

Sub.—Annual Season and Crop Report of Maharashtra State
for the year 1977-78.

Sir,

I am submitting herewith the Annual Season and Crop Report of Maharashtra State for the year 1977-78 ending the 31st July, 1978.

The south-west monsoon entered Konkan region on the 8th June, almost in time and covered the region by the 14th June, the Deccan and Marathwada regions by the 17th June and the Vidarbha region by the 22nd June, thus spreading over the entire State late by nearly a week only. In Konkan region, and Ghat areas of Deccan region, the sowing of paddy and nagli crops in nurseries was carried out in time. Their transplanting was completed mostly by the end of July 1977. The condition of these crops was good. The transplanting of paddy seedlings in Bhandara and Chandrapur districts, and parts of Nagpur district of Vidarbha region was over by the end of August. The sowing of other kharif crops of bajri, jowar, tur, groundnut, cotton, other kharif pulses started in Deccan and in most parts of Aurangabad, Beed and Osmanabad districts of Marathwada region in the third week of June, and in Parbhani and Nanded districts towards the end of June. As the distribution of sowing rains was uneven and inadequate in parts of Nasik, Ahmednagar, Solapur districts of Deccan region and some talukas of Aurangabad, Beed and Osmanabad districts of Marathwada region, the sowings were held up in these parts till the 2nd week of July. They were resumed with the receipt of widespread rains in the third week of July and completed by the end of July. During the period from the 29th July, to the 22nd August, the rains received in the State excluding Konkan region, were scanty and generally deficient and the Kharif crops were under stress for the first time. Due to break in rain from the 5th September till the 27th September 1977; the crops experienced considerable stress for the second time. However, widespread rains received during the last week of September and in the first week of October brought considerable relief and improved the kharif crop condition, and the sowings of rabi crops were taken up in the State and completed by December end. The condition of rabi jowar was excellent while that of wheat, gram and other crops was quite satisfactory.

The net cropped area in the State was 182.26 lakh hectares as against 182.05 lakh hectares in 1976-77, thus showing slight increase over that in 1976-77. The area sown more than once increased from 15.83 lakh ha. in 1976-77 to 16.03 lakh ha. i. e. by 1.3 % in 1977-78. The overall total cropped area showed an increase from 197.88 lakh ha. in 1976-77 to 198.29 lakh ha. in 1977-78 or by 0.2%. The increase in the cropped area during 1977-78 is attributed to the favourable seasonal conditions and increase in area under double cropping in the State.

(ii)

The area under food crops during 1977-78 was 146.9 lakh ha. which showed a decline by 0.3 % over that in the previous year. On the other hand the area under nonfood crops increased by 1.6 %, having gone up to 51.38 lakh ha. in 1977-78 from 50.55 lakh ha. in 1976-77.

During the year under report, the gross irrigated area in the State increased from 22.42 lakh ha. in 1976-77 to 23.58 lakh hectares (or by 5.2%). The net irrigated area also showed an increase by 3.2% having gone up from 18.33 lakh hectares during 1976-77 to 18.92 lakh hectares in 1977-78.

The area under foodgrain crops in 1977-78 was 139.36 lakh hectares which showed a decline by 0.5% as compared to that in previous year. The foodgrain production was higher by 7.43 lakh tonnes having gone up to 103.58 lakh tonnes from 96.15 lakh tonnes in 1976-77.

The area under cotton during 1977-78 increased by 5.2% as compared to that in the preceding year. The production of this crop increased from 8.47 lakh bales during 1976-77 to 12.44 lakh bales in 1977-78 (or by 46.8%).

The State level area under groundnut crop during the year under report decreased by 4.5% having gone down to 8.64 lakh hectares in 1977-78 from 9.05 lakh hectares in 1976-77. The production of groundnut also marginally decreased by 0.3% as compared to 1976-77.

During the year under report the cultivation of sugarcane crop increased to 3.19 lakh hectares from 2.98 lakh hectares in 1976-77. The production of gur from the harvested area of 2.63 lakh hectares was 27.41 lakh tonnes.

The prices of wheat, bajri, maize and pulse crops increased during the year and the same for paddy, jowar, oilseed crops, raw-sugar and tobacco decreased slightly.

The quinquennial livestock census 1972 showed that in comparison with census figures of 1966, there was slight decrease of 0.2% in the number of cattle. The total number of buffaloes recorded an increase of 8.5%. The number of buffaloes used for breeding purposes alone decreased by 6.5%. The number of sheep decreased by 3.5% and horses and ponies together by 42.3 % while the number of goats recorded an increase of 15.4%. The poultry population increased by 23.4%.

According to the above census, the number of ghanies decreased by 47% and sugarcane crushers decreased by 50.6%. The number of wooden ploughs, iron ploughs, and bullock carts showed an increase of 0.8%, 13.2% and 4.0% respectively. On the other hand, the number of oil engines and tractors increased by 17.2% and 71.2%, 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 sincerely,

SURESH KUMAR,
Director of Agriculture,
Maharashtra State,
Pune-411 001.

**Season and Crop Report of the State of Maharashtra
for the year 1977-78**
