



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

REPORT OF  
AGRICULTURAL CENSUS  
1980-81

MAHARASHTRA STATE

PART I & PART II

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## PREFACE

Maharashtra along with other States in the Country, participated in the Agricultural Census 1980-81 sponsored by the Government of India. The previous Census was a Sample Census undertaken in 1976-77 as Government of India had desired to carry out an interim Sample Census to assess the changes in the structure of agricultural holdings, subsequent to the World Agricultural Census of 1970-71, due in part to vigorous implementation of the Land Ceiling Act. This is the Third Agricultural Census carried out by the Department of Agriculture and the second complete Agricultural Census, the first being held in 1970-71.

2. In the present Census data relating to the following essential items was collected :

- (i) Number and size of operational holdings
- (ii) Classification of the individual, joint and institutional holdings
- (iii) Tenancy and tenure
- (iv) Land utilisation
- (v) Source-wise irrigated area; and
- (vi) Area under crops both under irrigation and unirrigated conditions.

3. In addition, data had also been collected on the number of farmers growing different crops, number of farmers having irrigation facilities according to source of irrigation, number of wells in use and those fitted with pumps, number of wells not in use etc. The major feature of Census of 1980-81 related to data being collected separately for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Deputy Commissioner (Agricultural Census) was responsible for the census work. He was assisted by a small Agricultural Census Unit created in the Directorate of Agriculture, at Pune. As in the last census, processing of data on Computer was undertaken by the Agricultural Census Unit itself. Technical guidance of the experts of Regional Computer Centre, Pune, was fully taken for the required modifications in the computer programmes prepared by the experts of the National Institute of Training in Industrial Engineering (NITIE) for processing of data in the last census.

4. The collection of basic data for the census was entrusted to the Talathis / Patwaris of the Revenue Department. At one stage, assistance had to be taken of the Gram Sevaks. Despite initial reservations, the Talathis bore the burden of the field work involving retabulation of the data in the basic village records, in the format prescribed for Agricultural Census. There was some delay on account of reservations, the talathis had. Assistance had been taken of various technical agencies at the district and divisions for the training of the field staff for providing technical guidance and supervision of the field work.

5. Results of the Agricultural Census for the State and districts are presented in this Report. The report is divided into two parts. The first part contains six chapters. The first three deal with the historical background, organisational arrangements, concepts and definitions. Chapter IV deals with the analysis of the Agricultural Census results and the conclusions therefrom. The fifth Chapter deals with the suggestion for future census and gives a summary of the findings. Part-II of this document contains statistical tables giving the summary of the census data under different tables under a uniform format for the State, Region and District according to 14 size classes of holdings.

6. The Census shows that in 1980-81, there were 68.62 lakh operational holdings in the State, with a total operated area of 213.62 lakh hectares. The average size of the holdings was 3.11 hectares. As compared to the census of 1976-77, the number of holdings in the current census has increased by about 10.96 lakhs or about 19 per cent. The operated area has increased by 2.57 lakhs *i.e.* a nominal increase of 1.2 per cent over the last census figures. There has been considerable reduction in the average size of holdings as revealed in the 1980-81

census compared to 3.66 hectares during the census of 1976-77. 1980-81 census brings out the preponderance of small size holdings *i.e.* (those below holdings size of 2 hectares). Almost 51 per cent (as against 47 per cent in the previous census) comes under the category of small holdings, with an area of only about 15 per cent of the total area in the State, (11 per cent in the last census). Of 68.62 lakh holdings enumerated in the census, 14.35 lakh or nearly 20 per cent had irrigation facilities. The net irrigated area being 14.36 lakh hectares or about 8 per cent of the net cropped area.

7. As a result of the abolition of the Tenancy of Agricultural land, the percentage of lands taken on rent for cultivation have considerably decreased. The total number of farmers taking land on rental basis was only 0.5 per cent. The percentage of farmers who own some of the land and also leased in some of the land for cultivation accounted for only 1.4 per cent; *i.e.* over 98 per cent of the farmers own the land they till.

8. For the first time census of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes holdings have been taken out separately during 1980-81 census. Of a total holdings of 68.62 lakhs, the number of holdings held by members of scheduled castes was 4.67 lakhs or about 6.8 per cent and those of scheduled tribes 4.13 lakhs or about 6 per cent. The total area operated by schedule castes was 9.56 lakh hectares or about 4.5 per cent and those of schedule tribes 12.99 lakh hectares or about 6.1 per cent of the total operated area.

9. The report contains details of the above featuring for the State, Region and Districts. These results are of considerable utility not only to the Government department, but also to research workers, economists and those associated with agricultural planning and development. The results of the census will be of considerable help in policy formulation and assessment of the impact of different agricultural projects.

10. The conduct of census involved collection of statistical data for each parcel of land covering nearly 7 million land holdings in the State was a colossal task. The Talathis had been mostly entrusted with these responsibilities, did a good job despite some initial time lag. This is a commendable effort considering that this had to be done in addition to their normal duties. The senior Revenue Department officers *viz.* Secretary (Revenue), Commissioners, Collectors, Tahasildars, Revenue Inspectors, gave necessary support in getting the work done properly and I sincerely thank them. We would like to also thank the officers of the Rural Development Department in getting the census work completed. The officers and the staff of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and those of the Statistical Wing of the Directorate of Agriculture rendered assistance in training of field staff and supervision of field work. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all these officers and field staff.

11. The Deputy Commissioner (Agricultural Census) was responsible for the Planning and organisation of the census. To begin with the post was held by Shri G.C. Shaligram, when this census programme was initiated. Shri D.T.Sawant held this post for about two years. From December, 1983 onwards, Shri B.C.Gogate held this post, and most of the work was completed during this time. Shri Khaire, Statistician has put in a great deal of effort in modification of the software and attending to the processing of data. I would like to place on record the excellent services rendered by these officers and the staff of the Agricultural Census Unit.

12. We are also grateful to the officers of the Government of India for guidance and help in the conduct of the Census.

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