

# Evaluation Report of Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan- Amravati District

*Sangeeta Shroff and S. S. Kalamkar*

Agro-Economic Research Centre  
**Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics**  
(Deemed University)  
**Pune – 411 004**

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## Acknowledgements

The National Development Council in order to give a boost to the agricultural and allied sector, conceived a centrally sponsored scheme namely- *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* with a view to achieve a growth rate of 4 per cent per annum during the XI th Five Year Plan Period. In order to be eligible to receive funds under this scheme, each district in every state was required to prepare a Comprehensive District Agricultural Plan (CDAP) indicating its budgetary requirements for innovative as well as on-going schemes. A large number of districts in the country have already prepared this plan.

In view of the above, the Planning Commission felt the need for evaluation of CDAP of certain districts. Accordingly, our AERC was assigned the task of undertaking evaluation of CDAP of Amravati District. The evaluation was possible only because of the help and support that we received from a number of persons.

First of all we would like to thank the Planning Commission members – Prof Abhijeet Sen, Shri V.V. Sadamate, Shri Pankaj Kumar for providing us with valuable inputs on evaluation of CDAP in a meeting held in Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore in January, 2009. Our sincere thanks to Prof R.S. Deshpande (Director, ISEC, Bangalore) and his colleague Dr. Bhende for coordinating the meeting and giving necessary guidelines. Shri Daljeet Singh, Director, Planning Commission also visited our institute and we had useful discussions regarding evaluation of CDAP. Dr. S.M. Jharwal, Principal Adviser, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, has always been a big support to our centre and he actively participated in discussions related to evaluation of CDAP. We thank Shri Vinay Awate and his staff, Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra for necessary help and support.

During our field visit to Amravati, we received immense support and cooperation from Shri Mulay, District Superintending Agriculture Officer, Amravati and his colleagues. We are very grateful to them for arranging meetings with entire Technical Support Group as well as field visit to several farms and discussion with large number of farmers. Discussions with farmers, officials of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and members of ATMA also provided useful insights about the potential and constraints in the agricultural sector. We also thank all the farmers, government officials and private stakeholders for their kind cooperation.

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It is only because of the help that we received from all the persons mentioned above, could it be possible for us to undertake this evaluation report.

Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics  
(Deemed University)  
Pune – 411 004  
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Sangeeta Shroff  
S. S. Kalamkar

## Evaluation Report of Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan- Amravati District

The Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan of Amravati District was received by us from Director, Agricultural Processing and Marketing Division, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, Pune on May 8, 2009.

After going through the report and tables (1-78), a visit was made by us to office of the District Agriculture Superintendent Officer, Amravati during second week of June and discussed the plan with his team (TSI, Agriculture and Allied departments and related officers). A field level visit to Gram Panchayat(s) and Agriculture Technology and Management Agency (ATMA) was also carried out by us to observe whether the plan has reached to the grass root level.

The following observations are made:

### I. Status of C-DAP preparation in the states

- i. Number of districts in the state? : **Not Applicable**
- ii. Number of districts for which C-DAP prepared : **Not Applicable**
- iii. If C-DAPs for all districts not prepared, by what time rest of C-DAPs will be ready? : **Not Applicable**

### II. Constitutional aspects of planning

#### 1. General

- i. DPCs formed or not? : **Not Formally Formed**
- ii. C-DAP approved by the DPC or not? If not, what is the institutional mechanism at the district level through which it was passed?- : **No**
- iii. Has C-DAP been integrated with DDP or not? : **No**

## 2. Has participatory bottom-up approach been followed or not?

Was information collected from 'Gram Sabhas'?

- No. However, with the involvement of ATMA in preparation of CDAP, it was felt that bottom up approach was followed and there was involvement of farmers.

Furnish information in the given table if the information from 'Gram Sabhas' not collected:

- a) What other consultative process (es) were followed in the plan preparation? What is the extent to which inputs from sub-district level have contributed to the planning exercise? Here the factual position may be described.

- For the preparation of C-DAP, the following officers were engaged-

1. District Agriculture Superintendent Officer, Amravati
2. Shri Keshawrao Thakare, Retired Associate Professor of Plant Pathology, Regional Research Centre, Amravati
3. Shri Atul P. Kalaskar, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ghatkheda
4. Shri P.K. Mahalle, Subject Matter Expert (Horticulture), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Durgapur, Badnera
5. Government Officials in Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Sericulture, Social Forestry, Horticulture and related departments.

As such the above mentioned officials served as the Technical Support Group (TSI) in preparation of C-DAP.

- b) Whether agriculture planning units (APUs) at village, block/taluka and district level viz. VAPU, BAPU and DAPU actually exist. If not, what other mechanism was used for preparation of C-DAP.

- Several informal meetings were held at district/taluka/village level. DAPU/BAPU/TAPU are not formally formed.

Name of District	No. of Blocks/ talukas	No. of Villages	No. of Gram Sabhas held	No. of Block/ Taluka level meetings*	No. of District level meetings*
Amravati	14	1641 (habitated)	None	None	Several informal meetings were held

\*Schedule of these meetings circulated/announced well in advance or not?

- The meeting were informal as DAPU/BAPU/VAPU was not formally constituted.

### III. Technical aspect of planning

#### 1. Is Plan Comprehensive?

i) Is C-DAP based on the felt-needs of the farmers or not?

- Yes

ii) Was a separate vision document prepared or not? If yes, was this vision reflected in C-DAP preparation in the form of vision statement or not?

- No

iii) Were all departments (agriculture and allied activities) involved in planning?

- Yes

iv) All agricultural and allied developmental activities being carried out in the district by governmental and non-governmental agencies, accommodated in the C-DAP or not? Provide following information:

- Yes

Name of District	No. of Govt. Schemes /Programmes			Schemes/Programmes Referred in C-DAP		
	Central	State	LB	Central	State	LB
<b>Amravati</b>	Not indicated speretely			Not indicated speretely		

Name of District	No. of Non-Govt. Schemes/Programmes**		Schemes/Programmes Referred in C-DAP		
	NGS1	NGS2	NGS1	NGS2	NGS3
<b>Amravati</b>	-	-	-	-	-

\*\*NGS1, NGS2, NGS3 refer to non government programmes/schemes effectively being implemented in the district by agency like Bank, SHG, or any other agency.

- v) Were efforts made to address a) Emerging challenges from global trade and climate changes? b) Innovative approaches which can improve the livelihood and economic condition of the people in the area c) Priority areas as per agro-ecological situation.

a) The major crops cultivated in the district are Cotton, Soybean and Orange, which occupy around 25 percent, 16 percent and 5 percent gross cropped area, respectively. It was observed that farmers often suffer huge losses from cultivation of cotton due to crop failure on account of infestation of crop by pest and diseases. Cotton is mainly rainfed crop and failure of monsoon also leads to crop failure. Further, in the event of crop failure, farmers are unable to reap higher prices due to cheap imports. They have therefore diversified the cropping pattern to soybean which is gaining popularity in the recent past. On discussion with farmers, it was noted that they prefer to cultivate soybean instead of cotton as soybean is less risky and cost of cultivation is low as compared to cotton. Also soybean is a shorter duration crop and thus enables the farmer to go in for rabi crop.

Although cultivation of orange had the potential to yield high returns, lack of protective irrigation was a major constraint. Water shortage also increased the mortality of plants and in some cases there was mortality after fruit bearing stage had been reached. This caused great economic hardship to farmers. Further, while micro irrigation was gaining popularity, farmers complained of declining water tables. This affected the size of the fruit and its sweetness.

b) Efforts are being made to promote Sericulture as an important economic activity. The present status of Sericulture indicates that area is 140 acres only and proposed to increase 1250 acres at the end of XI FYP. A field visit to *Sericulture Park*, Government of Maharashtra and discussion with Officials reveals that the net returns from Sericulture was around Rs. 35000-40000 per acre per annum. Thus Sericulture could serve as an additional source of income for farmers. It is possible to take atleast 6 cycles of breeding cocoons in a year. The *Sericulture Park* also has facilities for training farmers and providing them DFLs in order to encourage them to undertake this activity.

Although dairy has potential to supplement and complement the income of the farmers, farmers complained of non availability of fodder which was a severe constraint. Further, high temperature created stress in the animals, which reduced the milk yield substantially. This issue has therefore to be addressed in order to increase production of milk which will add to the farmers' income.

It was also observed that Chikhaldara, Dharani and part of Achalpur blocks of the district have the potential to cultivate medicinal plants.

c) The district has five agro-ecological situations:

Agro-Ecological Situation	Characteristics	Blocks Covered	Priority Areas
I	Hilly topography, Mar	Chikhaldara and Dharni	Cultivation of medicinal plants, Contour farming, Presentation of soil erosion, watersheds cover,
II	Plain Topography, Medium to deep soil, Assured rainfall	Achalpur, Chandur Bazar, Anjangaon Surji and Morshi (W)	Cultivation of Oranges, watershed programes, popularisation of drip irrigation programme
III	Plain Topography, Shallow to Medium soil, Assured rainfall, Irrigated Situation	Amravati (E), Nandgaon, Khandeshwar, Tiwasa (W)	Cultivation of Soybean, watershed programes, popularisation of drip irrigation programme
IV	Plain Topography, Deep soil, Rainfed Area, Saline track	Darayapur, Bhatkuli, Amaravati (W), Anjanagaon Surji (S)	Cultivation of Oranges and soybeans watershed programes, popularisation of drip irrigation programme
V	Plain Topography, Shallow to Medium soil, Command area irrigation	Warud, Chandur Rly, Dhamangaon Rly, Tiwasa (E), Morshi (E)	Cultivation of Oranges, watershed programes, popularisation of drip irrigation programme

## 2. Capacity building of Planning Committees (PCs) and APUs and others involved in planning

(i) Number of trainings/workshops/meetings conducted for capacity building of the planning units

- Informal meeting were held with TSI and supportive departments.

(ii) Material for No. (i) Prepared and distributed or not? If yes, enclose specimens

- Not prepared

(iii) Has *plan plus* or any other software been used to facilitate planning or not?

- Not used

### 3. Data Collection and Analysis for Planning (Quantity and Quality of data)

#### i. Sources —

##### a. Name the sources:

-Taluka/District Agriculture and Allied Departments, Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board (MSAMB), Soil Survey department and related departments.

##### b. Give suggestions for improving data sources:

- A major part of the data was collected. However, some of the tables (for example, table no. 38, 39, 40, and 48) are incomplete.

#### ii. Quantity and quality of data satisfactory or not? If not, what more data was needed? How the quality of data can be improved?

- Most of relevant data was collected. However, the relevant data was not analyzed properly, so as to make report more focused. The data on important variables related to 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan was not always available, so as to observe the performance of Amravati district in X<sup>th</sup> FYP. Sector-wise district domestic product and workforce distribution in agriculture was not indicated. Hence exact productivity of agricultural sector could not be emphasized.

#### *Parameters of data analysis –*

##### i. SWOT analysis of LB/District done thoroughly or not? (It should be of the district and not the individual activities)-

-SWOT analysis is general and it should be explained with the help of facts and figures. It is not written in the prescribed manner.

##### ii. Block data to explain spatial disparities/variabilities of the district given or not?

- By and large, the data has been presented block-wise.

##### iii. Gaps for important variables worked out or not?-

- Talukwise yield gap analysis has been reported. However, reasons for gap in yield have not been explained.



iv. Trends from the data collected for important variables like land use parameters, agro-based industry, production, productivity, population, population growth and migration, employment opportunities etc. taken into account or not?;

- The data on land use pattern, productivity, population, agro-industry was presented.

v. Summary tables prepared or not for discussions to synthesize needs/problems/potentials in a participatory mode?

-As per manual, table 1-78 were presented with few gaps as mentioned above.

vi. Base maps and district profile given or not? Are these adequate?

-The maps like district location map, livestock density, irrigation and watershed, land capability classification, HML growth taluka map, panchayat map, market density, forest, percentag eof holsehold with electricity map, Schools/PHCs map, etc are not presented.

## **5. Synthesis of needs, problems, and potentials**

These are required to draw important interventions needed for planning in a participatory manner. -

### ***Parameters***

Needs/problems/potentials were synthesized taking into account the following or not?

- a) SWOT analysis of the district. Inputs from Gram Sabhas
- b) Detailed analysis of the data.

a) SWOT analysis is satisfactory but can be further strengthened. The data collected tables 1-78 were not properly analysed.

b) Informal discussions were held with farmers, Sarpanch and ATMA officials. Since ATMA had convergence with all departments, by involving ATMA, it was felt that bottom up approach was followed and needs of farmers was taken into consideration. However, there is no written record of meetings with Gram Sabhas.

c) There is scope to improve the analysis.

List of these needs / problems/potentials given or not?

– It has not been spelt out clearly in the report.

Has prioritization of needs been done or not? Give the list of prioritized needs.

- Prioritization has not been done. However, on discussion at village level, it was observed that the most pressing need of farmers was lack of irrigation facilities. Due to failure of monsoon and untimely rains, farmers suffered from crop failure. In case of horticultural crops, there was mortality of plants after fruit bearing stage had been reached. This caused great economic hardship to farmers. Lack of irrigation water and fodder was a major constraint in promoting dairy.

## 6. Study of ongoing programmes in the area

### *Parameters –*

i. Were on-going programmes and schemes been studied or not?-

-Mention has been made about on-going scheme and financial targets and achievements for X plan. There are no consolidated programmes under Stream I and II as prescribed in CDAP manual.

ii. How many needs, problems, potentials and solution interventions have been addressed through on-going programmes/schemes?

-Target and achievement of schemes of X five year plan was presented.

iii. How many funds were available from on-going programmes? Were these converged to formulate C-DAP or not?

-This was not clear from report; however, while formulating CDAP, it was taken into consideration, as explained by DSAO, Amravati.

## 7. Formulation of projects in C-DAP

### *Parameters –*

i. Were the projects and works identified on the bases of: a) Prioritized needs, b) benefits expected, c) expenditure involved, and d) availability of needed material or infrastructure taken into account

- For the XI Five Year Plan, physical and financial targets in case of animal husbandry (Table 60), projections of fish production (Table 63), outlays for fisheries development (table 65), Action plan for Social forestry (table 68), action plan for K.V.I. programmes (Table 70), Action Plan of D.I.C. for XI plan (Table 72), details of the proposed industries under handlooms and textiles for XI plan (Table 74) were indicated.

Detailed plan as per table 78 prescribed in the manual contains information only on sericulture. However, as per manual, the physical and financial programme proposed under C-DAP during XI five year plan should have been indicated comprehensively for Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Social Forestry, Fisheries, Sericulture and others

- ii. Was the decision logistics in deciding projects and works improved by discussion with the planning committee or not? (This ensures participation at various levels of C-DAP preparation)

As mentioned above, the following officers were engaged in the preparation of C-DAP-

1. District Agriculture Superintendent Officer, Amravati
2. Shri Keshawrao Thakare, Retired Associate Professor of Plant Pathology, Regional Research Centre, Amravati
3. Shri Atul P. Kalaskar, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ghatkheda
4. Shri P.K. Mahalle, Subject Matter Expert (Horticulture), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Durgapur, Badnera
5. Government Officials in Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Sericulture, Social Forestry, Horticulture and related departments.

As such the above mentioned officials served as the Technical Support Group (TSI) in preparation of C-DAP.

Informal meeting were held at block and village level as well as with ATMA to sense the need of the farmers. However, there is no record of same.

- 8. In a number of district plans so far received, the procedure followed (in the plan preparation) is not clear. As a result some of the issues will become difficult to review. Therefore, the planning units may be advised to include one chapter/section describing methodology of preparing C-DAPs with the following details.

- i) Sources of data – official documents, sample surveys, Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), case-study method or any other method followed  
-Not explained
- ii) Technical methodology followed in arriving at the cost estimates of the proposed projects in the plan or at least a reference to the respective DPR s  
-Not explained
- iii) Description of the consultative processes followed. Details of the procedure followed in village level, block level and district level consultations may be provided. A copy of the village and block level schedules canvassed, if any, may also be included.  
-Not Applicable
- iv) A scheme of convergence (functional and convergence) among the existing programs/schemes.  
-Not explained
- v) Any other detail important to preparation of C-DAP  
-Not explained

*(This will help the reader to know about the procedure followed and activities undertaken during preparation of C-DAP)*

**9. Programme delivery spelt out or not? A table showing Name of department, project/ works/ activities entrusted to each department and funds provided are shown in C-DAP or not?**

- For the XI Five Year Plan, physical and financial targets in case of animal husbandry (Table 60), projections of fish production (Table 63), outlays for fisheries development (table 65), Action plan for Social forestry (table 68), action plan for K.V.I. programmes (Table 70), Action Plan of D.I.C. for XI plan (Table 72), details of the proposed industries under handlooms and textiles for XI plan (Table 74) were indicated.

## 10. Monitoring and evaluation mechanism suggested or not?

- There was no formal monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

## 11. Others

*AERCs should also comment on awareness about this planning initiative of the Government among people, departments, administrators and politicians of the area.*

- During the field visit, it was observed that farmers are aware of subsidies on Farm pond, micro-irrigation, National Horticulture Mission, EGS linked Horticulture Scheme, NREGS. However, they were not actively involved in preparation of C-DAP. Discussions with farmers also revealed that in order to avail of subsidies, they had to submit several documents such as 7/11, ration card, stamp paper, etc. The entire procedure was very cumbersome and often the subsidy disbursed was negligible.

Also discussion with farmers and government officials revealed that as 49 percent of families in the district are below poverty line, they are able to purchase rice and wheat at heavily subsidised rates from PDS. Further they get employment under EGS/NREGS whenever required. Therefore, there is not much incentive for agricultural labourers to work on farm. This leads to shortage of labour. In view of small size of holdings and unavailability of capital, there is limited scope for mechanization.

In addition to the above, the AERCs may suggest inclusions of details which they may deem necessary for a review/monitoring/evaluation in future.

On going through the report, following observations were made:

1. The pattern as represented in CDAP manual is not followed.
2. There are gaps in Table 1-78.
3. The analysis conducted from data in table 1-78 can be strengthened
4. SWOT analysis is general and needs to be presented with facts and figures
5. Stream I and Stream II are not indicated
6. Achieved growth rate for X plan and targeted growth rate for XI plan needs to be incorporated.
7. Sector-wise district domestic product and structure of workforce has not been indicated.

We were informed that the report submitted to us was only a draft report. As a result, the presentation and analysis need improvement in the light of guidelines and tables 1-78.

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