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CONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL INDEX NUMBERS IN INDIA

(Report of the Technical Committee)



DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS,
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
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P R E F A C E

During recent years index numbers have assumed considerable importance for planning and policy making. A review of the scope and methodology of the various agricultural index numbers being constructed at various levels in India showed that in order that they might reflect faithfully the trends in area, production, productivity, prices, etc., over time and provide a firm basis for comparison of the performance of different regions in agricultural development, the existing series needed a number of improvements. Accordingly, a Technical Committee was set up in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, C. D. and Cooperation, under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. G. Panse, to look into the scope, coverage, methodology, etc., of the various index numbers.

The Committee reviewed the technical details of the more important index number series in the sphere of agriculture and made far-reaching recommendations for improvements in the scope, coverage, and methodology of the existing series. The Committee further recommended the initiation of a number of new series of index number *e. g.* net area sown, cropping pattern, cropping intensity and productivity per hectare. Necessary action has already been initiated for the construction of all-India Series in the light of the recommendations of the Committee. In order that the series at lower levels *viz.*, State and Region, may provide a firm basis for assessment of the progress in agricultural development and for inter-State and inter-regional comparisons of the trends, the State and regional index numbers also need to be revised.

NEW DELHI;
July, 1966.

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