

## **An Estimation of Seed Feed Ratios and Waste Allowance for Major Pulse Crop in Maharashtra**

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*There are many sources of leakage between production and consumption of foodgrains that not only include wastage of grains during various post-harvest operations but also at the stage of harvesting. The losses of grain may also occur due to destruction by pests, in transportation, and also on account of damage caused by mechanical agents such as birds, rains, shattering in the fields during harvesting, rodents, etc. The past estimates revealed that about 12.5 per cent of the total production of foodgrain crop was lost on account of quantity used for seed and feed as well as wastage allowances during various harvest and post-harvest operations. However, this estimate was re-assessed in the present investigation carried out in Maharashtra with respect to major pulse crop, which revealed around 11.5 per cent of the total production of rabi gram as lost on account of seed, feed and wastage allowances in the State. This is an indication of the fact that there has been some scope of making more quantum of pulses available to the ever-growing human population as the net availability works out at 88.5 per cent of the total production of rabi gram cultivated in the state of Maharashtra. The study emphasizes on the fact that as far as the future supply scenario is concerned, food security will become the major issue for India in the years to come in view of several constraints faced on account of further increase in food production, resource degradation, expansion of irrigation network, etc.*

### **I Context**

India at present is passing through a complex type of situation. While many sectors of India show remarkable growth in the post-reform period, there are still several difficulties to cope with or tackle more than 300 million people living below the poverty line, which stands at one-fourth of the world's poor and represents the highest concentration of poverty of any country in the world (Parikh and Palanivel 2000). Sustained rural poverty reduction heavily depends on the growth of agriculture sector, which employs 75 per cent of the rural working population and accounts for 65-70 per cent of rural income. Interestingly, while other sectors of India showed rapid growth in the 1990s, the rural growth at the same time was marked with loss of momentum and became less effective in alleviating poverty (Bhalla *et al.* 1999).

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