

## **Growth and Instability in Maharashtra Agriculture**

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Instability is one of the important decision parameters in development dynamics and more so in the context of agricultural development. The nature and behaviour of the growth-instability relation changes according to the eco-environmental situations. In particular this assumes added importance when it emerges in the context of new technology and especially in a situation like Maharashtra, where the troughs in agricultural production are severe as compared to other similar regions. Moreover, Maharashtra presents an interesting regional contrast with vast drought-prone tracts spanning over about twelve districts. It is therefore, essential to understand the context under which the growth-instability relationship emerges, its nature and behavior in the background of the technological change.

We can visualise broadly two types of relationships between growth and instability. First, a direct or positive relationship where instability accompanies growth and second, an inverse or negative association where higher instability co-exists with low growth or vice-versa. [1] Firstly, the high growth co-existing with higher instability situation occurs when the new forces of growth induce higher growth rate and their interaction with stochastic and also structural variables [2] will be such that the level of instability also increases either in spatial and/or temporal context. In this case instability will be more due to peaks than troughs. Second is the situation of a typical stagnant