

Season and Crop report,
1978-79

MAHARASHTRA.
Directorate of Agriculture.

SEASON AND CROP REPORT

1978--79

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**SEASON AND CROP REPORT OF THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA
FOR THE YEAR 1978—79**

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DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE,
PUNE-411 001.
Dated 19th October, 1982.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT,
MANTRALAYA ANNEXE,
BOMBAY-400 032.

Sub.—Annual Season and Crop Report of Maharashtra State
for the year 1978-79.

Sir,

I am submitting herewith the Annual Season and Crop Report of Maharashtra State for the year 1978-79.

During the year, south-west monsoon arrived on schedule. It covered Konkan region by 10th June and covered Marathwada and Vidarbha regions by the 14th and 16th June respectively. With these timely rains, the sowing of early kharif crops including cotton were completed in time. However, even with the good beginning of monsoon rains, some parts of Ahmednagar district, eastern parts of Pune, Satara, Sangli and Nasik districts and a few tahsils of Solapur and Dhule districts received scanty rainfall and sowing of kharif crops was held up in these areas. The rainfall in the month of July also was very inadequate in these parts and it further hampered the sowings of bajra and groundnut crops.

The conditions of paddy, kharif jowar, bajri, tur, cotton and groundnut was generally satisfactory except in drought prone areas where it was fair due to inadequate rains. Due to heavy and continuous rains in the last week of August in Vidarbha region and in Nanded district kharif crops particularly cotton and groundnut suffered to some extent. Heavy rains during the last week of August caused floods in Bhandara and Wardha districts. Substantial rains during the last week of September in parts of Deccan and Marathwada regions improved the condition of all kharif crops to some extent. In Vidarbha region a dry spell during September and first week of October, affected the growth of cotton and hence the bearing was less. Similarly groundnut crop which was at pod development stage was also affected and ultimately resulting in lower yields particularly in north Deccan and Vidarbha regions.

Substantial rains received in September in Deccan and parts of Marathwada regions facilitated sowing of rabi crops. Rains in late October and November facilitated sowing of rainfed rabi crops in Vidarbha and parts of Marathwada regions. Sowing of irrigated wheat and gram was completed by December end. Conditions of rabi crops was generally satisfactory.

On the whole, the agricultural season was not so favourable to kharif Crops as in the preceding year.

(ii)

The net cropped area in the State was 182.48 lakh ha. as against 182.26 lakh hectares in 1977-78. The area sown more than once increased to 16.66 lakh ha. as compared to 16.03 lakh ha. in 1977-78, *i. e.* by 4.0 %. Thus the overall total cropped area in the State showed an increase from 198.29 lakh ha. in 1977-78 to 199.15 lakh ha. in 1978-79 or by 0.4%.

The area under food crops during 1978-79 showed a decline by 0.2 % having gone down to 146.54 lakh ha. from 146.91 lakh ha. in the preceding year. On the other hand the area under non-food crops increased to 52.60 lakh ha. (or by 2.4 %) during 1978-79 as compared to 51.38 lakh ha. in 1977-78.

During the year under report, the gross irrigated area in the State increased from 23.58 lakh ha. in 1977-78 to 24.04 lakh ha. or by 2.0 %. The net irrigated area also showed an increase by 1.9 % having gone up from 18.92 lakh ha. during 1977-78 to 19.27 lakh hectares in 1978-79.

The area under foodgrain crops in 1978-79 was 138.95 lakh hectares which showed a decline by 0.3 % as compared to that in previous year. The foodgrain production was estimated at 99.43 lakh tonnes during 1978-79 and was less by 4.15 % as compared to that in previous year.

The State level area under bajri, kharif jowar, groundnut crops decreased by 2.9 %, 1.5 % and 8.1 % respectively as compared to that in the preceding year 1977-78.

The area under cotton during 1978-79 increased by 10.0 % as compared to that in the preceding year. The production of this crop increased from 12.44 lakh bales during 1977-78 to 13.38 lakh bales in 1978-79 or by 7.0 %.

During the year under report, State level area, yield per hectare and production of sugarcane crop decreased by 2.1 %, 4.8 % and 6.1 % respectively than that in the preceding year 1977-78.

Yours faithfully,

(SURESH KUMAR)
Director of Agriculture,
Maharashtra State,
Pune-411 001.