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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

**REPORT
OF
AGRICULTURAL CENSUS
1985-86**

MAHARASHTRA STATE

PART I and II

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PUNE-411 005**

PREFACE

Maharashtra along with other States in the country, participated in the Agricultural Census, 1985-86, sponsored by Government of India. The Agricultural Census, 1985-86 was conducted on Sample basis as per directives of Government of India. However, complete census in respect of number of operational holdings and their operated area was undertaken.

2. The Sample Agricultural Census was undertaken to collect elaborate information on the following items :—

- (i) Number and size of operational holdings,
- (ii) Classification of the individual, joint and institutional holdings,
- (iii) Tenancy and tenure,
- (iv) Land utilization,
- (v) Sourcewise irrigated area, and
- (vi) Area under crops both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions.

3. As an integral part of the Agricultural Census Programme, an Input Survey 1986-87 was also conducted. For this purpose, 7 % villages out of total villages in each tahsil were selected and in each selected village, 20 operational holdings were randomly selected to collect the data in respect of :

- (a) Area under crops-irrigated and unirrigated,
- (b) Area applied with fertilizers along with quantity of fertilizer,
- (c) Area applied with organic manures along with quantity of organic manure,
- (d) Area treated with pesticides and insecticides,
- (e) Use of Hybrid and High Yielding Varieties of seed,
- (f) Livestock and implements used by the farmers,
- (g) Credit facilities availed by the farmers.

4. The programme of Agricultural Census was implemented in the State under overall control of Secretary (Agril.) who is designated as State Agricultural Census Commissioner. A small Cell in the Agriculture Department is also created to implement the programme in all the districts of the State under technical control of Deputy Commissioner (AC). The Deputy Commissioner (AC) is assisted by one Statistician and one Assistant Statistician and during the stage of tabulation of the census and Input Survey data, he is assisted by one Statistician and two Assistant Statisticians. The data was processed on computer which was provided by National Informatics Centre (Western Region), Pune. In order to process the data, the National Informatics Centre authorities were required to develop system afresh, since the system developed in the last census in the Regional Computer Centre, Pune could not be adopted by the advance system in N. I. C.

5. Collection of basic data for census was entrusted to the Patwaris/Talathis of the Revenue Department. The collection of massive data in Agricultural Census was possible only because of considerable efforts on the part of the field and supervising agency of the Revenue Department and staff of Agriculture Department.

6. The results of the Agriculture Census for the State and districts are presented in this Report. The Report is prepared in two parts. The First Part contains Six Chapters. The first three deals with the historical background, organisational arrangements, concepts

and definitions. Chapter IV deals with analysis of the Agricultural Census results and conclusions therefrom. Suggestions for future census and summary of the findings has been given in Chapter V. Results obtained from the analysis of the data in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been summarised in Chapter VI. Part-II of this Report contains statistical tables for the State in respect of 15 size classes and for the district in respect of 6 broad size classes (viz. Marginal, small, semi-medium medium, large and all classes).

7. The results obtained from analysis of the census data are considerably utilised not only by Government Departments but also by Research workers, Economist and those associated with agricultural planning and development. The results of census will be of considerable help to policy formulation and assess the impact of different agricultural projects.

The conduct of census involved collection of statistical data for each parcel of land covering nearly 8.1 million land holdings in the State, was a colossal task. The Patwaris/Talathis of the Revenue Department had been mostly entrusted with the responsibilities of collection of data, did a good job despite some initial time lag. This is a commendable effort considering that this had to be done in addition to their normal duties. The Revenue Department Officers, viz. Secretary (Rev.), Commissioners, Collectors, Tahsildars, gave necessary support in getting the work done properly and I sincerely thank them. I would also like to thank the officers of the Rural Development Department in getting the Input Survey work done to some extent with the help of Agricultural Extension Officers. The Officers and Staff of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and those of the Statistical Wing of the Directorate of Agriculture rendered assistance in training of field staff and supervision of field work. In the process of computerisation the Staff and Officers of the National Informatics, Centre (WR) Pune extended effective and timely co-operation in completing the work in a stipulated time. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all these officers and staff members.

The Deputy Commissioner (AC) was responsible for the Planning and Organisation of the census. In the initial stage the post was held by Shri B. C. Gogate and he initiated the census programme. From September 1987 onwards the post was held by Shri. J. M. Khaire, who is associated with the Agricultural Census programme since Agricultural Census 1970-71. Most of the work of Agricultural Census 1985-86 was completed during his tenure. Shri S. V. Gore, Statistician has put in a great deal of efforts in computerisation of the data of Agricultural Census. Officers and staff of the Agricultural Census Cell have also exerted a lot to complete the work despite many difficulties confronted right from the collection to the tabulation of the data. I would like to place on record the excellent services rendered by these officers and the staff of the Agricultural Census Unit. Last but not the least, I am also grateful to the Officers of Government of India for their guidance and help in conducting the Agricultural Census.

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