

C H A P T E R - V I I

THE BEHAVIOUR OF AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD OF GROUND-NUT  
( NON IRRIGATED COMMERCIAL CROP ) IN KOPARGAON TALUKA

The different edible oil seeds grown in the taluka include ground nut, safflower, Seesam, Karadai and linseed. Since the systematic data with regard to area, production and yield of, except ground nut, other oil seeds are not available, have excluded these crops from analysis. Even though these are the cash crops the area under all those crops does not exceed even more than roughly 4 percent of the net area sown in the taluka. These oil seed crops are cultivated purely for sale. Among these crops ground nut may be regarded as an important oil seed crop as the area occupied by it amounted to 2.25 percent and 57.87 percent to net sown area and to the total area under oil seeds respectively (1965-66).

During the first subperiod 1965-70 the area under ground nut decreased its percentage share in the net sown area of declined from 2.25 percent to just 0.89 percent (1969-70), Similarly its relative share in the total area occupied by all oil seeds decreased from 57.87 percent to 36.94 percent during the same period. The area index also reveals considerable fall in the hectarage under the crop. The index

number sharply from 100.00 (base year) to 47.32 (1969-70). This means that a little more than half of the total hectareage under ground nut had been diverted to the cultivation of other crops as compared to the base years hectareage. The production and yield indices also point out to the declining trends in respect of its yield and production. The yield index of the crop sharply fell from 100.00 to 18.88 (1968-69) and thereafter it moved to 94.82 in the subsequent years. (1969-70) The production index behaved in a rather similar way. It changed from 100.00 to 8.99 and again it rose to 37.59 in the corresponding years. The falling trend could be attributed to the area contraction and yield decline that occurred in the first subperiod. Incidentally, we did not calculate the relative share of its production in the total production of all the oil seeds as the data regarding the area under and yield of other oil seed crops are not consistently available for the whole period under study. But it is evident from the behaviour of index number's of the aggregate area under oil seed crops had consistently declined as the area index moved from 100.00 to 61.69 (1969-70).

The falling trend further continued through 1973-74 of the next sub period (1970-75) as the area index dropped from

37.99 to 23.09 (1973-74). The production index dropped from 57.91 to 8.92 (1972-73) and again it rose 44.92 (1974-75). The changes in the production seem to have been influenced largely by the changes in the area under the crop. The productivity index seems to have behaved in an abrupt manner during the period under reference. It varied between 38.46 (1972-73) and 158.60 (1973-74). A mention should be made that both area and production indices did never rise above the base years level through 1974-75. The relative percentage shares too, to the net area sown and to the total area under all other oil seeds remained less than 1 percent and 50 percent respectively.

In the last sub period (1975-81) the area under the crop tended to increase through 1977-78 as the area index increased from 42.37 to 73.04 (1977-78). In the remaining three years (1978-81) the area declined continuously. It declined from 50.77 to 31.90 strangely enough the percentage of the area under the crop rose above the base years percentage share 3.45 to the net area sown during 1977-78. In the rest of the years, it remained slightly higher than 1 percent. In the corresponding year the relative percentage share of the total area under oil seeds in the net area sown increased to 5.96. The production of the ground nut during 1975-78 increased substantially. The output index moved up from 113.42 (1975-76)

to 209.57 (1977-78) The output of the crop slightly more than doubled. This rather phenomenal increase in the production was by the rising yield of the crop. The productivity index increased by slightly more than two and half times. The index increased from 112.72 (1974-75) to 285.03 (1977-78). Thereafter again during 1978<sup>3</sup>-81 both productivity and production tended to fall as the index numbers fell from 143.35 to 122.09 and from 73.29 to 39.18 correspondingly. The falling trend during the latter years could be accounted for by falling trends of both area and productivity.

By way of a concluding remark we may mention that both area under and production of the crop reveal the declining trends throughout the whole period. However, in respect of production we should take note of the fact that during 1975-78 in which the production remain above the base years level owing to considerable improvement in the productivity of the crop. Despite the improvement in the productivity witnessed during the latter years of the period, the farmers were not induced to increase the area under ground nut which is the major oil seed crop grown in the taluka. The declining trend of the area under this commercial crop might have been caused by the shift of the lands to the cultivation of food crops. This is evident from the emergence of fruit gardens such as grapes, guava and pomegranate etc. the over all trend of the area under oil

seeds has been towards a decline as the index number remained below the base years level throughout the period under study.

TABLE NO. 7.6

THE INDEX NUMBERS OF AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD OF GROUND-NUT IN KOPARGACH

TALUKA DURING 1965-66 to 1980-81.

Year	Net Area Sown	Area	Ground-nut Yield	Production	Total-oil Seeds
1965-1966	85962	1940	715	1387	3352
		(2.25)			3.90
		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
		57.87*			
1980-1981	69871	619	112.44	39.69	45.19
		(0.88)	893	540	1369
		31.90	122.09	39.18	1.96
		45.21*			40.84

Source : 1) As in table No. 2.1  
 2) Yield data collected from the Department of Agriculture M.S. Central Building Pooms.

Note : 1) The figures in the bracket indicate the relative percentage shares in the net area sown.  
 2) The figures with asterisks (\*) indicate the relative percentage shares in the total area under oil seeds.