

## Preface -

A new economic culture is on the threshold in the country. The Government of India is determined to bring about radical transformation of the Indian economy and push the country on the doorsteps of the twentyfirst century. In India Maharashtra is one of the prominent states. Two distinguishing features make the progress of economy of Maharashtra over the last 25 years since it was formed in 1960. First is the lead that the state has maintained in industrial development and second, is the lag in agriculture which it has recorded despite the fact that agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the majority of the population of Maharashtra as it is elsewhere in the country.

Agricultural production in Maharashtra is characterised by slow growth which has become a problem. The reason for this slow growth are excessive dependence on mansson, low cropping intēnsity, lack of adequate irrigation, uneconomic size of holdings and lesser use of high yielding hybrid varities seeds and chemicals fertilizers. Green revolution especially in the production of wheat and rice which occured in some parts of India is found to be absent in the case of Maharashtra. Consequent to this we find Maharashtra unable to attain self sufficiency in food grains inspite of been highly industrialised state of India. The problem of recurrence of drought, problem of inadequate drinking water, non availability of fodder are the major problems which farmers in drought prone areas of state face regularly.

Thus the overall situation in rural Maharashtra is non-satisfactory and this has become a major policy problem facing the Government of Maharashtra.

This situation and the intensity of the problems faced by an average farmer in Maharashtra initiated us to undertake a study of the pattern and composition of agricultural production in Maharashtra. We found it appropriate to undertake a study of the trends over a decade and hence we choose the decade 1970-71 to 1980-81. Another reason in choosing this period for study was to find out if the so called green revolution which occurred in some parts of India during seventies had any impact on the agricultural production trends in Maharashtra. In addition during the early years of period under our study Maharashtra had also faced severe drought conditions.

Broadly we have analysed cropping pattern and production trends of major crops in Maharashtra. For this purpose we have classified overall crop production in following broad categories.

- 1) Cereals
- 2) Pulses
- 3) Oilseeds
- 4) Sugars
- 5) Fibre
- 6) Drugs, Narcotics and Condiments
- 7) Fruits and Vegetables
- 8) Fodder and Wood

9) By products.

Necessary data was collected basically from secondary sources. For this the Government publications were solely consulted. And the following Government publications were utilised.

1) Bulletin on Government in India (District wise) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

2) Census of India 1981. Maharashtra- Primary census Abstract. Parts A and B. Director of census operations, Government of India.

3) Draft Fourth, Fifth five year plans and Annual plans. Planning Department. Government of Maharashtra, Bombay.

4) Economic survey of Maharashtra 1970-71 to 1980-81. Directorate of Economics and statistics. Government of Maharashtra.

5) The Fertilizer News (various issues) The Fertilizer Association of India.

6) The Fertilizer statistics. The fertilizer Association of India.

7) Handbook of basic statistics of Maharashtra, Department of Economics and statistics, Government of Maharashtra.

8) Indian Agriculture in brief - Ministry of Agriculture- Government of India. New Delhi.

9) Maharashtra an Economic Review 1970-71 to 1980-81; Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of Maharashtra.

10) Maharashtra Economy in Figures 1970-71 to 1980-81. Department of Economics and Statistic, Government of Maharashtra.

11) Maharashtra Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; Directorate of Economics and state Government of Maharashtra.

12) Maharashtra A statistical profile, Compiled by Commerce Research Bureau Commerce publication Ltd. Bombay.

13) Reports of the fact finding committee planning Department, Government of Maharashtra, Bombay.

14) Statistical Abstract of Maharashtra. 1970-71 to 1980-81. Director of Economics and Statistics, Government of Maharashtra.

15) Seasonal and crop Reports, 1970-71 to 1980-81. Department of Agriculture; Government of Maharashtra.

Thus the data collected from above sources was tabulated and classified according to the above categories of crops such a data was interpreted with the help of various publications listed in the chapter for references. And the dissertation is represented as per chapter scheme given below.

Chapter I - Role of agriculture in the process of Economic development.

Chapter II - Land Utilization Pattern in Maharashtra.

Chapter III + Cropping pattern in Maharashtra.

Chapter IV - Trades in agricultural production and productivity.

Chapter V - Conclusions and recommendations.

Chapter VI - References.

From the above analysis the conclusions of which we arrived are also presented in this study. In the light of these conclusions we came across the problem areas for which we have tried to present solutions and these are incorporated in the form of proposals or the Recommendation.