



REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN MAHARASHTRA

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Introduction:

Maharashtra occupies the western and central part of the country and has long coastline stretching nearly 720km along the Arabian sea. The Sahyadri mountain ranges provide a physical backbone to the state on the west, while Satpuda hills along the north and Bhamragad-Chiroli-Gaikhuri ranges on the east serve as its natural borders. The state is surrounded by Gujarat to the north-west, Madhya Pradesh to the north, Chhattisgarh to the east, Andhra Pradesh to the south east, Karnataka to the south and Goa to the south west. The state divides i.e. Konkan, Nasik, Pune, Aurangabad, Amaravati, and Nagpur as well as 36 districts are included in the division. Agriculture sector is one of the biggest sectors in Maharashtra. Nearly 55% of the state population depends on Agriculture for its livelihood. This sector has been the single largest provider of the state. However, the contribution of agriculture sector in the state economy is over the period because of unfavorable agro climatic situation and faster growth in other sectors. Nearly one-third area of the state falls under rain-shadow region, where the rains are scanty and erratic. In these areas only dry lands cultivation is undertaken. Out of the geographical areas of the state, the proportion of the area under agriculture (54.36% in 2019-20) is much more than that at a National level (43.2%). Despite huge spending on the irrigation projects, the proportion of Gross irrigated to gross cropped area in the state is around 20% as against 45% at the National level. The Gross cropped area in Maharashtra has increased by about 21.48% from 188.20 lakh hectares in 1960-61 to 235.70 lakh hectares in 2019-20.

However, the pace of the growth of an area under food grains during the same period of 60 years was just around 4%. The agriculture has not increased much as compared to national level increases despite the importance of study of agriculture development in Maharashtra.

Objectives:-

1. To study the Sectoral composition of the state income.
2. To study the Sectoral annual growth rate of GSDP.
3. To study the division wise agricultural development trends in Maharashtra.
4. To study the division wise live storage status of reservoirs in Maharashtra.

Methodology:-

This paper is prepared with the support of secondary sources like magazines, newspapers, books, Economic journals and various Economic survey of Maharashtra, report of water resources department govt. of Maharashtra and Agricultural commisionarate govt. of Maharashtra.

1.2 Sectoral composition of the state income

The sectoral composition of the state income (at current prices) in 2015-16 indicates that the share of primary, secondary and tertiary sector was 10.34%, 32.64%, and 57.02% respectively. In 1990-91, the corresponding share were 17.90% ,32.75%, and 49.35% respectively.

Table 1.1

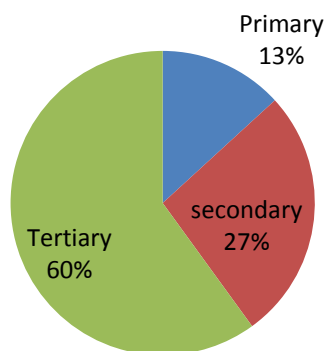
Sectoral composition of the state income is given in following table.

Years	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
1960-61	31.00	23.00	46.00
1970-71	22.00	29.00	49.00
1980-81	24.00	30.00	46.00
1990-91	17.90	32.75	49.35
2000-01	13.43	26.66	59.91
2010-11	12.93	27.72	59.35
2015-16	10.50	33.40	56.10
2020-21	13.20	26.80	60.00

Sources: Various Economic Survey of Maharashtra

The sectoral Composition of the state income has undergone considerable changes during 1960-1961 to 2020-21. Over these years the share of primary sector has decline steadily from 31% to 10.50%, and again increased in 2020-21 due to effect of covid-19 on Secondary Sector. The share of secondary sector has remain in between 23% to 33%, while the share of tertiary sector has increased from 42% to 60%. It may, therefore, be concluded thatthe share of tertiary sector has very rapidly increased in the economy because of urbanization and globalization.

Sectoral Share in state income 2020-21



Source- Economic survey of Maharashtra

1.3: Sector wise annual growth rates of GSDP

The Average annual growth rate of gross state domestic product (GSDP), at a current prices, during the last five years.i.e. from 2012-13 to 2021-22was 5.2%. The sectoral growth rates during this period for primary, secondary and tertiary sector was 4.9%, 3.6%,and 6.4% respectively.

The trends in the growth of GSDP at a current prices, for the last five years in not uniform for the three sectors of the economy. The income from the primary sector increased from Rs 206520 cr. In2011-12 to Rs 374461cr.in 2020-21. In the year 2012-13, 2014-15 and 2015-16 agriculture sector recover the negative growth due to drought situation.

Which had a down effect on primary sector, after these set back agriculture sector attained a high growth rate 21.0% in 2016-17. During 2011-12 and 2020-21, the income from secondary sector grow from Rs 3,53,389Cr, to 5,86,015 cr. Further income from tertiary sector this period showed increased from Rs 5,84,509cr to Rs 14,44,225 cr.

Table no. 1.2

Sector wise annual growth rates of GSDP (in percentage)

Sr. No.	Years	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	GSDP
1	2012-13	-0.5	2.8	8.4	6.0
2	2013-14	12.5	5.1	8.1	7.3
3	2014-15	-11.2	6.9	9.3	5.4
4	2015-16	-3.7	8.8	7.4	7.2
5	2016-17	21.00	5.9	8.7	9.2
6	2017-18	-0.7	3.5	5.8	4.5
7	2018-19+++	-2.1	3.5	5.7	4.5
8	2019-20++	8.4	-1.8	6.5	3.6
9	2020-21+	17.9	-10.7	-9.0	-7.6
10	2021-22\$	4.0	11.9	13.5	12.1

Source: Economic survey of Maharashtra 2016-17

\$ Advanced estimates, + Revised estimates

The data in table no. 1.2 reveals that the state economy has attained averagely 5.4% growth in the last Eight years i.e. 2012-13 to 2019-20. But During the last year in 2020-21 due to pandemic situation, the economy has registered negative -7.6 growth. But important thing is that Primary sector attained double digit growth rate in 2020-21, agriculture sector also attained double digit growth rate due to good monsoon and low effect on rural area compare to urban area in first wave of covid- 19 although secondary and tertiary sector has registered negative growth of 10.7 and 9.0 in the same period. But after covid- 19 the secondary and tertiary sectors are showing a rapid growth of 11.9% & 13.5% respectively in the recent Economic survey of Maharashtra.

1.5 The division wise agricultural development trends in Maharashtra

The agriculture sector is highly volatile due to fluctuating monsoon conditions in the state. Majority of the work force (55%) resides in rural areas and dependent on agriculture as a primary source of a livelihood.

The planning commission (Now NitiAayog) had set the target of 4% growth in agriculture in XIth FYP. The gap in domestic production of food grains and the requirements of the state is widening day by day.

The division wise agricultural development is given in following

Table 1.3

The Region wise total land area and total cropped area of a Maharashtra (1990-93 to 2012-2015) (in 000 hectare)

Sr .n o	Region	1990-93		2002-05		2017-20	
		Total land area	Total cropped area	Total land area	Total cropped area	Total land area	Total cropped area
1	Kokan	29.78	8.84	29.78	8.83	29.78	10.08
2	Western Maharashtra	116.28	91.21	116.28	89.87	116.28	86.99
3	Marathwada	64.29	59.84	64.29	63.21	64.29	71.25
4	Vidarbha	97.23	58.08	97.23	60.84	97.23	65.17
5	Maharashtra	307.58	217.97	307.58	222.75	307.58	233.49

Source: krushiaayuktalay Maharashtra shasanpune(compiled data)

As per table 1.3 the region wise gross land area and gross cropped area is in different situation, the western Maharashtra region is much higher land and cropped area than rest of region due to included khandesh division. Comparatively as per table konkan division is very small land and cropped area, it is a geographical disparities between among division in Maharashtra.

1.6 Division wise reservoir strange status in a Maharashtra

Numbers of major, medium, miner irrigations projects have been taken up by the state govt. is to create the maximum possible irrigation potential.

The total live storage as on 15th Oct.2021, in the major, medium and minor irrigation (state sector) reservoirs in the state taken together was 31950 million cubic meters (MCM), which was about 88% of the storage capacity, as against 66% in 2009, and 80% in 2008 the division wise information is presented in following table

Table 1.4
Live storage status of reservoirs.(15 oct 2021)

Sr.no	Division	No.of reservoirs	Live storage (mcm)		Percentage of live storage as on
			Projected	As on 15 oct 2021	
1	Konkan	176	3510	3348	95
2	Nashik	571	4710	3650	77
3	Pune	726	15211	13553	89
4	Aurangabad	964	7372	6812	92
5	Amravati	446	4075	3783	93
6	Nagpur	384	4607	3778	82
8	Maharashtra	3267	40779	36707	90

Source: Water resources department govt. of Maharashtra.

Across Maharashtra, there are sharp division wise variations in the percentage storage as on 15 Oct 2021. The above table shows that 90% live water storage in the state. In Konkan, Aurangabad and Amaravati division more than 90% of a live storage, while In Pune, Nasik and Nagpur division 89%, 77%, and 82% live storage respectively.

Even so in Maharashtra in a broad regional sense Pune and Nasik is the most live storage status of reservoirs. The Maharashtra water and irrigation commission (1999) considered water availability in river basins, cultivable land, augmentation of ground water, ground water recharge facilitates through watershed area, development use of modern irrigation techniques and improvement in the water application system on farms and the estimated that the irrigation potential of a state can be increased. The details of division wise irrigation facilities given in the table.

Table 1.5**Division wise irrigation facilities in Maharashtra (1990-91to2004-05)**

No	Division	1990-91				2004-05			
		Gross irrigated area*	Net irrigated area*	Percentage gross irrigated area to gross cropped area	Percentage of net irrigated area to net cropped area	Gross irrigated area*	Net irrigated area*	Percentage gross irrigated area to gross cropped area	Percentage of net irrigated area to net cropped area
1	Konkan	45.3	62.1	-	-	65	72	7.34	6.55
2	Nasik	560	671	10.37	15.96	780	1341	23.14	14.41
3	Pune	768#	917#	21.73#	20.99#	950	1116	27.0	23.00
4	Aurangabad	841	1616	28.0	16.4	761	956	13.07	11.25
5	Amaravati	156	185	-	-	206	248	6.18	5.6
6	Nagpur	342	411	18.3	16.3	502	838	36.0	25.0
7	Maharashtra	2671	3319	15.18	-	2944	3636	16.40	27.0

***Thousand hector area. #As per 1995-96 data.**

Note:- Details may not up to the totals due to rounding.

Source:-Economic survey of Maharashtra 2007-2008.-All divisions at a glance from 1991-2005

The Net area irrigate of the state in 2005-06 was 31.5 lakh hector, which had increased by 7.1% over 2004-05 of the net irrigated area. The area irrigated under wells was 20.8 lakhs hector. The gross irrigated area in 2005-06 was 38.1 lakh hector. The percentage of gross irrigated area to gross cropped area in 2005-06 was 16.9 this percentage was remain almost between 15% to 17% since 1991, its percentage increased approximately 21% in 2019-20 in the state.

The gross area irrigated by a various sources in the Aurangabad division is much highest during the 1990-91(that is 841 thousand hector). In the 2004-05 gross crop irrigated area is the higher in the Pune division.

The net irrigated area (917 thousand hector) during 1990-91 and 2004-05 in both year was highest in Pune division and last position was Konkandivision during 1990-91 to 2004-05. While Amravati have been listed at bottom.

The percentage of gross irrigated area to gross crop area comparatively highest in Aurangabad and Nagpur division during 1990-90 to 2004-05. While Amravati have been listed at bottom.

The percentage of net irrigated area to net cropped area as division witnessing better position was Pune division during both period, but Amravati and konkan division are a less net irrigated during same period.

Conclusion:

Maharashtra is economically most progressive state in India. Agricultural sector is one of the biggest sectors in Maharashtra, nearly 55% of the population depends upon agriculture for its livelihood. Agriculture growth rate is highest in western Maharashtra specially Pune and Nasik division comparatively other division. The share of agriculture sector in gross state domestic product has declined steadily from 31% to 13.20% during 1960 to 2021. Region wise share in gross agriculture output of state western Maharashtra (47.2%) leading to comparatively other region Marathwada (22.7%) and Vidarbha (19.8%) in 2013-14. The agriculture sector is highly volatile due to fluctuating conditions in the Amravati, Nagpur and Aurangabad divisions. The division wise agriculture development has not increased equally because of regional disparities in ability of irrigation and live storage reservoirs.

Recommendation:

To achieve targeted growth of equal development of divisions in Maharashtra. Needed for serious efforts are. Optimal uses of available potential by bringing unused cultivable land under agriculture, tapping unused irrigation potential like ponds, dug wells, malgajari tanks, water bodies etc. involving agriculture universities and promoting research and modern methods of agriculture and improving irrigation water by micro irrigation system, value addition of agriculture produce by incorporating agro processing units. To preparation of agriculture development plan for entire state including plans for agriculture and allied sectors for each division, Reforms in the agriculture marketing and proper implementation of “ Jalyukta Shivar Yojna “ to development of infrastructure in rural areas.

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