

PRESENT SCENARIO OF AGRICULTURE IN RAJASTHAN: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

With the 10.41% share in geographical area of country, Rajasthan is the largest state of India. It spread over 3.42 lakh sq.km. Rajasthan is mainly agricultural based state where 2/3 of population is depend on agricultural and allied activities for their livelihood. In state, agricultural and allied sector endures to be the large contributor of the GSDP. Although, several remarkable efforts have been taken by government for Agricultural development in state, it still continues to depend upon the mercy of the monsoon in major part of the state. Agriculture also characterized by large number of fragmented land holdings. But in spite these constraints, the state are the main producer of spices and condiments in the country.

KEYWORDS: GSDP, Agriculture, Farmer, Economic Review, Fragmented Land Holdings.

Introduction

Rajasthan has 342 thousand sq.km area of total land area of India. With regards to the Agriculture structure, the state is divided into 10 Agro climate zone, 33 districts and 68 clusters. Rajasthan's economy mainly based on agriculture and its allied activities and about 68% of the population of state depend on it for their livelihoods. But its share in total water resources of country is only 1%, due to which production of agriculture in state largely depend on timely arrival monsoon.

Research Methodology

The design of this study is extensive study based on secondary data collected from the various publication & websites focused on state of agricultural in Rajasthan.

Objectives

- To examine the present state of agriculture in Rajasthan.
- To examine the reason behind the farmers protest in Rajasthan.

Contribution of Agriculture in Gross State Value Added (2016-17)



Source: Economic review 2017-18, Rajasthan.

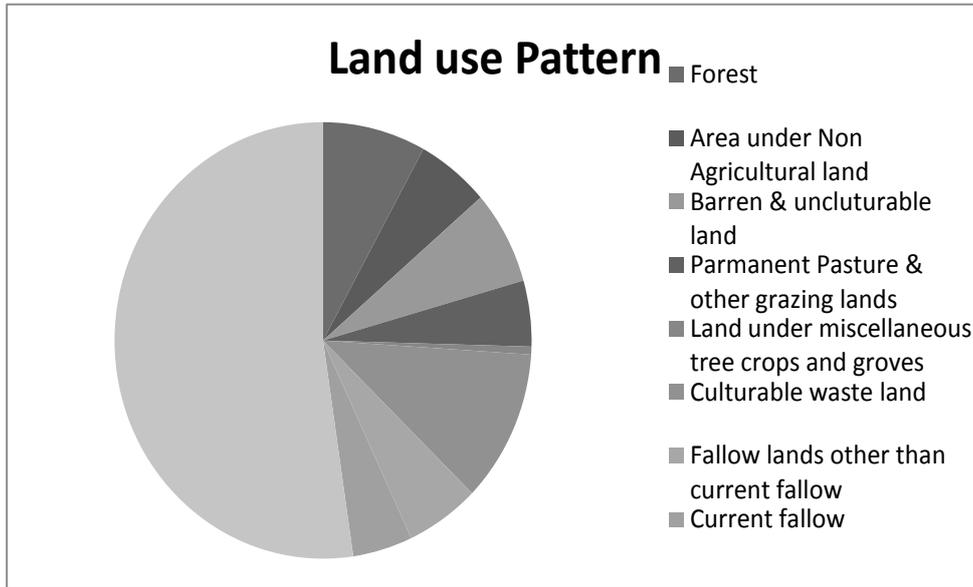
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The analysis of sectoral composition of Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at current prices reveals that the share of agriculture in GSVA was minimum i.e 25.5% (180812.39)for the Year 2016-17.Share of Industry and Service sector was20.38% (201269.89)and 46.12% (327069.16) respectively.

Land use Pattern

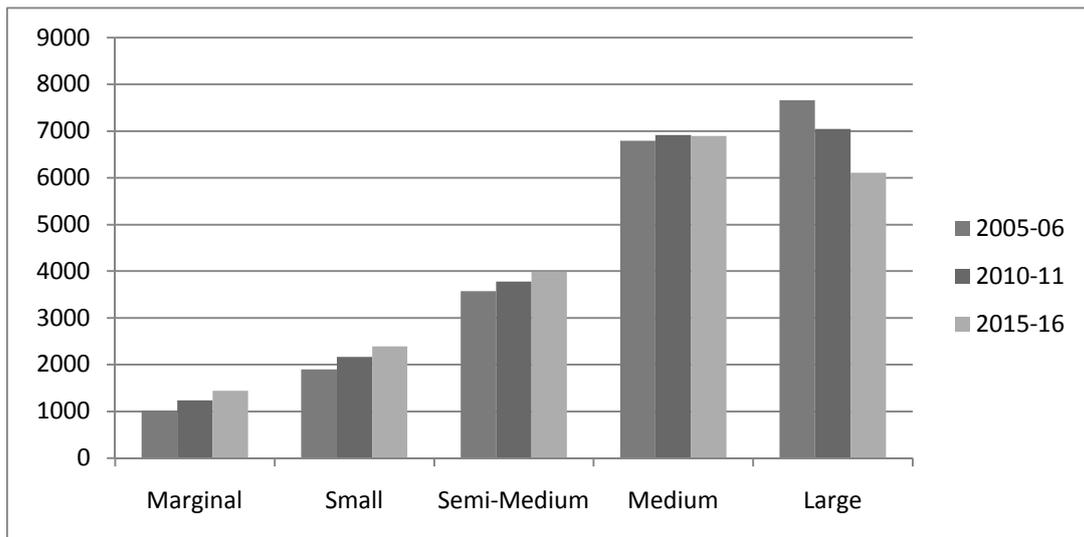
Total Land: 342.7 Lakh sq.km



Source: Economic Review 2017-18 (Rajasthan).

Out of the total reporting area of the state i.e 342.7 lakh sq.km , net area sown is 180.24 lakh hectare (52.60%).8.03%of total area is of forest, 5.68% is of non agricultural use,6.99% under barren and uncultivable land , 4.88% is under permanent pasture and 0.6% land is use for miscellaneous tree crops. 11.37% land is cultivable waste land and 5.74% land is fallow lands and 4.66% of land is current fallow land.

Operational land Holdings



Source: (1) Agricultural census 2010-11 and 2005-06, (2) Economic Review 2017-18 (Rajasthan).

Operational landholdings in the state was 68.88 lakh in 2010-11, in comparison to 61.86lakh in 2005-06, which indicate growth of 11.35%. As per provisional data of agricultural census 2015-16 total no. of operational land holding was 76.55 lakh. There is a increase in share of small, marginal, semi-marginal and medium land holdings and decrease in the share of large land holdings in the year 2010-11 in comparison to the year 2005-06. Area under land holding of marginal, small and semi medium categories in the year 2015-16 has recorded an Increase of 19.79 per cent, 10.50 per cent and 5.67 per cent respectively in comparison to the year 2010-11, on the other hand, total area under medium and large land holdings has recorded a decrease of 0.27 per cent and 13.20 per cent. Division of land due to splitting of joint families is one of the main reasons behind it. The average size of land holding has decreased by 9.47% during 2010-11 in comparison with 2005-06 and average size of land holding has decreased by 11.07 per cent during the year 2015-16 comparing to the year 2010-11.

Monsoon

Agriculture in Rajasthan is primarily rain-fed as state has only 1% of total water resources of the country. During the period from 1 June to 30 Sept 2016, state witnessed 705.37 mm rainfall which is 33.07 % higher than normal rainfall of 530.08 mm.

Irrigation

Net Irrigated Area by Sources

Agriculture Year	Canals	Pond	Wells and tube wells	Other Sources	Total
2011-12	1843797	68785	5111105	97888	7121575
2012-13	1900662	91686	5382149	124623	7499120
2013-14	1859107	67461	5561022	162037	7649627
2014-15	1982740	69699	5733278	149993	7881710
2015-16	1979480	66193	5775257	117067	7937997

Source: Economic Review 2017-18 (Rajasthan).

As the above table depicts, there was a increase in total net irrigated area during 2011-12 to 2015-16. Canals, wells and tube wells are the major source of irrigation in the state.

Productivity

Productivity (kg/hac) of Agricultural Crops

Crops	1991-92	1997-98 to 2001-02	2002-03 to 2006-07	2007-08 to 2011-12	2015-16	2016-17
		Average	Average	Average		Final
Cereals	835	1189	1294	1617	1781	2075
Pulses	324	472	407	481	515	595
Food grains	707	991	1058	1291	1405	1517
Oilseeds	762	866	1086	1144	1138	1354
Sugarcane	43871	46184	51707	61432	86511	71294
Cotton	303	337	286	428	461	563
Gaurseed	131	221	277	409	465	398

Source: Economic Review 2017-18 (Rajasthan).

The above table shows that agricultural productivity in Rajasthan achieving growth year by year. There was a increase of 148.50% between 1991-92 to 2016-17 in the productivity of cereals. 83.64% and 77.69% increase was also noted in productivity of pulses and oilseeds respectively. Productivity of cotton has also increased during the period. This reveals that due to the sincere efforts of government Rajasthan has achieved overall growth in productivity of Agricultural crops.

Horticulture

In Rajasthan, there is a large scope for horticulture development. Government established a separate directorate of Horticulture in 1989-90, with the objective of growth in production and productivity of fruits, vegetables, species, flowers etc. During the year 2016-17, orchards of fruits and spices have been established in 2,746 hectare and 1,117 hectare respectively.

Agriculture Finance

During the year 2017-18 long-term loans 179.38 crore (including crop loan) have been distributed against the target of 300.00 crore, 454.53 crore as agricultural medium term loan and short-

term crop loan 11,747.62 crore have been distributed to 22.13 lakh farmers upto December, 2017. (Economic Review 2017-18, Rajasthan)

Farmers Protest in State

In spite of growth of agriculture in Rajasthan, Annadata (farmers) of State are not Satisfied with the policies of government. In the state, farmer continuously protest with 11-point charter of demands including crop loan waiver of Rs 49,500 crore, purchase of crops at minimum support price (MSP), increasing farmers' pension from Rs 500 to Rs 5,000, removing the ban on the sale of cattle imposed by the state government and implementation of the Swaminathan commission recommendations.

Major Announcements for Agriculture in State Budget 2018-19

- One time Loan waiver up to 50,000 for small and marginal farmers. The loan waiver is for the marginal farmers in the overdue and outstanding category of short-loan provided by cooperative banks.
- Constitution of a farmer's debt relief commission that will work as a permanent institution. Farmers would be able to get relief on merit basis after presenting their case before the commission.
- Announcement to allot 2 lakh agriculture electricity connections which were pending till January 2012.
- Exemption of lagan on land

Conclusion

Rajasthan is the largest state of India and about two third population of state depend on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood. Rajasthan is the largest producer of barley, mustard, pearl millet, coriander, fenugreek and guar in India. State has been continuously witnessing the growth in the productivity of Agriculture crops. But still the farmers of the state are faces agrarian stress. News of farmers suicide and farmers protest is common in the state. To facilitate harnessing the potential in the state, government is need to take the major action plan in the area of agricultural marketing, irrigation facility, farm credit. No major agrarian reform has happened in the 50 years since the Green Revolution. A normal monsoon cannot be assumed as the only incentive for farmers to sustain productivity. It's time to offer its food producers a new deal.

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