



Research Article

Deficit of cultivable land in India : threaten to self sufficiency of future agriculture

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SUMMARY : Land is a finite natural national resource, directly link with all economic development activities. India is a land scarce country where per capita cultivated land is only around 0.15 ha (Planning Commission 2011) even though Indian agriculture highly depends upon large scale of land due to inefficiency in production. With the growth of a country's economy competition between agricultural and non agricultural sectors for land is intensifying due to increasing pressure on land for food production, housing and industrial expansion. The demand for food and other agricultural commodities sharply increased in upcoming years due to rising of population. Keeping this the paper attempted to study the cultivable land deficit for projection demand for 2020-21. The study based on secondary data collected various published sources. Compound growth rate and cultivable land deficit model was used to analyse the data. The compound growth rate analysis revealed that forest area and non agricultural uses of land records positive trend for all periods. The net cultivable area shows positive trend in pre liberalization periods but after marginal decrease. The projection results show that there is possibility of shrinking net cultivable area in 2020-21. According the projection demand for agriculture and other commodities the total cultivable land demand is around 279 million hectares at current yield level. Possibility of growing yield the growth projection was done based on past ten year growth used as proxy for next ten year yield growth. At this projected yield level cultivable land demand was estimated 229.94 million hectares. But the available cultivable land may around estimated 190 million hectares. The deficit cultivable land may be major constraint to maintain the self sufficiency in 2020-21. The only option for the policy makers to boost the farm yield by combined effort of intensification, extensification and control of agricultural land conversion made possible to meet out projected demand for various food commodities in 2020-21.

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