

Comparative growth rate of agriculture in Indian and Pakistani Punjab

KULDIP SINGH AND T.S. CHAHAL

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :
KULDEEP SINGH
Department of Forest and Wildlife,
LUDHIANA
(PUNJAB) INDIA

ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made in this paper to analyze the variation in performance of agricultural sector in post independence period in Indian and Pakistani Punjab. The area under wheat, cotton, sugarcane and maize is higher in Pakistani Punjab as compared to Indian Punjab but under rice it is lower in Pakistani Punjab as compared to Indian Punjab. In case of production of wheat, cotton and maize, it is higher in Pakistani Punjab as compared to Indian Punjab but it is lower in the case of rice and sugarcane. In case of yield of wheat, rice and maize it is higher in Indian Punjab as compared to Pakistani Punjab but it is lower in sugarcane and cotton in Indian Punjab during the period of 2003-04. This primarily happened due to adoption of various technologies at a faster rate in Indian Punjab as compared to its counter part in Pakistani Punjab.

INTRODUCTION

India got partition on religious lines on the eve of Independence in 1947. Just half a century ago, Indian and Pakistani states of Punjab constituted a single state. The communal carnage that accompanied partition affected most of the families on both sides. Three million Hindu and Sikh refugees poured into Indian Punjab and about an equal number of Muslims were uprooted at that time. Such was the large bloody migration in human history that it posed a social and mental challenge to the people of both sides of the Punjabs. The partition was a traumatic experience. The rich fertile lands were left on the Pakistani side. The Britishers built here one of the most extensive canal systems of the world (59,000 km.). The Punjab provided almost laboratory-like conditions of comparability, for they shared virtually identical agro-ecological conditions, a common language and cultural traditions and a legacy of institutions developed under colonial rule. The colonial state left a clear imprint upon the undivided Punjab province. Nineteenth century officials created a framework for its economic growth by constructing modern irrigation systems, which also influenced the course of the region's social history. A number of studies (Prabha, 1969, Ahmad and Chaudhary, 1996; Sultan, 2000; Thukral, 2003 and Sidhu and Bhullar, 2005) have looked into the extent of disparities in agricultural development among the both states in this context. Sidhu and Bhullar (2005) concluded that the growth in agriculture has slowed down

due to stagnation or decline in the growth of productivity of important crops of both the states. Growth in productivity of crops in Pakistani Punjab is higher than that in Indian Punjab in 1990s. However, the productivity of all the crops except cotton was higher in Indian Punjab than in Pakistani Punjab. The productivity of cotton was higher in Pakistani Punjab. Comparative average yield of five major crops in India and Pakistani Punjab, respectively are 4207 and 2500 kg/ha for wheat, 3694 and 1701 kg/ha for rice, 1019 and 549 kg/ha for cotton, 45540 and 48000 kg/ha for sugarcane, respectively and 2982 and 2385 kg/ha for maize during the period of 2003-2004. The present paper makes an attempt to analyze the variation in the performance of agricultural sector in the post independence period in Indian and Pakistani Punjab.

METHODOLOGY

To fulfill the objectives of the study both the primary and secondary data were used. The secondary data were obtained to analyze the area, production and productivity of five crops on both the states. The secondary data were obtained from different published resources such as Statistical Abstract of Punjab, India and Statistical Abstract of Pakistan (Anonymous, 2006).

At the first stage, two districts were randomly selected from each of Indian and Pakistani Punjab States. At the second stage two blocks were randomly selected from each of the selected districts thereby making four

Key words :
Indian Punjab,
Pakistani Punjab,
Growth rate,
Production

Accepted :
January, 2010