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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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## Trends in growth and instability of major *Rabi* crops in Western Maharashtra

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**ABSTRACT :** The present investigation focuses on instability and growth trends in production of major *Rabi* crops viz., sorghum and wheat in Western Maharashtra. The area under *Rabi* sorghum in all the district were quite fluctuating in overall period. It was mainly due to the rainfall and competing crops like *Rabi* onion and wheat in irrigated region and gram in un-irrigated region for *Rabi* sorghum. The analysis revealed that there is a wide variation in the performance of *Rabi* sorghum crop in terms of changes in area, production and productivity among the districts and region as a whole over a period of time. In case of wheat for the entire period (1960-61 to 2012-13) in Western Maharashtra, area, production and productivity found to be positive and significant with 0.63, 3.31 and 2.66 per cent per annum, respectively. The production of wheat was increased mainly due to the productivity improvement for Nasik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Pune and Ahmednagar districts of Western Maharashtra region not due to area expansion.

**KEY WORDS :** Growth, Area, Production, Productivity, Instability, *Rabi* sorghum, Wheat

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