

The growth rates in production of major food grains in different districts of Karnataka

S. PANDURANG AND P.A. KATARAKI

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ABSTRACT

The study on the growth of food grains production in Karnataka was carried out at College of Agriculture, Dharwad during 2000. In this study, 6 crops were included namely rice, jowar, ragi, bajra, maize and wheat from 19 districts of Karnataka about area, production and productivity for the period of 22 years from 1976-77 to 1997-98. The data were collected from the crop reports compiled by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Bangalore. Growth rates of these crops were found out by using Semilog quadratic function, variability between two periods by Mann-Whitney test and variability between districts and crops by Friedman two way analysis.

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Key words : Growth, Food grains, Mann-whitney, Friedman

The year to year fluctuations in crop production is quite common in Indian agriculture. These fluctuations adversely affect the production, employment and income distribution and there by hamper the economic growth of the country. The total food grains production and cereal production in India yielded an annual growth rate of 1.84 and 1.66 per cent for the year of 1997-98. The production of food grains in the country fell to 192.4 million tonnes in 1997-98 from 199.4 million tonnes in 1996-97. According to ninth plan projection on earlier estimate by the end of the ninth plan, the demand for foodgrains in India is expected to rise to 220 million tonnes, 185 million tonnes for house hold consumption, 27.5 million tonnes for food processing industries and 7.5 million tonnes for export. To meet this demand, the area under foodgrains has to be raised 120 million hectares besides affecting the usual increase in the yield through the use of better quality seeds and effective pest and disease control. The per capital net availability of foodgrains, cereals and pulses in India is the 484.1 g/day, 450.9g/day and 33.2g/day, respectively.

As only about one third of India's cereal production

is actually marked, year to year fluctuation in production trend to be transmitted to relatively thin markets. In the absence of stabilization policies, they may, therefore cause prices to fluctuate widely. Fluctuations in food prices inevitably bear heavily on the poor and may destabilize farm incomes.

METHODOLOGY

The study pertains to Karnataka state of all the districts. Karnataka is the eighth largest states in India both in area and population with an area of 1, 91, 791, Sq. km and a population of 4, 48, 17,398 according to the 1991 census. Table 3 gives the area and land use pattern in Karnataka during 1997-98. It is bounded by Maharashtra and Goa on the north, Andhra Pradesh on the east and Tamil Nadu and Kerala on the south and on the west; it opens in to the Arabian Sea.

The normal rainfall of the districts ranges from as low as 552 mm (in Bijapur district) to as high as 3932mm (Dakshina Kannada district). The average rainfall of the state is 1,355mm. The maximum rainfall occurs in ghat regions followed by coastal, Malnad, transition and maidan regions. It progressively declines from south-west to north-east to the Karnataka state except in Bidar district and the period of 22 years from 1976-77 to 1997-98. The crops like, rice, jowar, ragi, bajra, maize and wheat were chosen for the present study. The data have been collected from the crop reports compiled by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics (BES), Government of

Correspondence to:

S. PANDURANG, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, BIDAR (KARNATAKA) INDIA

Email : pandurang.patil92@gmail.com

Authors' affiliations:

P.A. KATARAKI, Department of Agricultural Statistics, University of Agricultural Sciences, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA) INDIA