



Research Paper

Instability in cereal crops production in eastern and north-western regions

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ABSTRACT : Increasing production of wheat and rice is critical for the country's public distribution system and food security. Agriculture is and shall continue to be the most important sector of the Indian economy. With the introduction of short-duration and HYVs of rice and wheat during the mid-1960s has resulted in quantum jump in the production of rice and wheat, which largely contributed in enhancing foodgrain production and achieving the food self-sufficiency and food security in India. The objective of the present research paper is to study the instability performance of rice and wheat crops in eastern as well as north-western states of India during the pre- and post-reform *i.e.* the period of globalization. For this purpose, the variability of area, production and yield of rice and wheat crops have been measured with the help of coefficients of variation. The study showed that instability in area, yield and output of wheat and rice has remained low during the period under study in eastern and north-western regions of India. It was observed from the study that rice and wheat output instability in the north-western states was lower than the most of the eastern states during the period under study.

KEY WORDS : Cereals, Instability, Output variability

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INTRODUCTION

Increasing production of wheat and rice is critical for the country's public distribution system and food security. Agriculture is and shall continue to be the most important sector of the Indian economy. With the introduction of short-duration and HYVs of rice and wheat during the mid-1960s has resulted in quantum jump in the production of rice and wheat, which largely contributed in enhancing food grain production and achieving the food self-sufficiency and food security in India.

The wheat output exhibited the robust growth rate after the onset of green revolution in the mid-1960s. The production of wheat crop has increased from 6.46 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 37.45 million tonnes in 1981-82 and 69.68 million tonnes in 2000-01. The production of wheat has further increased to 80.68 million tones during 2009-10. Similarly, the production of rice has increased from 20.58 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 53.63 million tonnes in 1981-82 and 84.98 million tonnes in 2000-01. It has further increased to 99.18 million tones during 2009-10. (GOI, 2009).

Despite the impressive growth achieved by Indian agriculture and particularly rice and wheat crop following the green revolution, instability too has shown a tendency to rise as indicated by number of studies. Though a similar phenomenon had been observed in the context of traditional agriculture in India, instability has worsened during the green revolution periods. As regards the instability in the crop production Mehra (1981) and Hazell (1982) were of the view that it was inherent in the green revolution technology itself. These fluctuations adversely affect the production, employment and income distribution and thereby hamper the economic growth of the country. These findings raise doubts as to whether greater instability was an inevitable price to be paid for attaining higher rates in agricultural growth. The threat is further aggravated when the country has to meet the growing food grain requirement of 294 million tonnes by 2020 with a break-up of about 122 tonnes for rice and 103 tonne for wheat (Kumar, 1998). More than three-fourth of the total requirement will be for rice and wheat.

The present research paper is an attempt to study the instability performance of cereal crops like rice and wheat in