



## Analysis of foodgrains production trends in five year plans

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Planning is the key to development for a developing country. For a mixed economy like India where both public sector and private sector exist alongside in the nation building process, the aim of the planning process is to offer quality of life to its citizens. In a welfare state equal opportunity in terms of education and employment, equitable distribution of wealth, health and social security are crucial. For that purpose, Planning Commission of India was established in India on March, 1950. Agriculture plays the most important role in Indian economy. The annual agricultural production decides the GDP of the country, directly as well as indirectly. Presently, the share of agriculture in GDP is 23 per cent, industries 27 per cent and service sector 50 per cent. However, industries and service sectors are influenced by agriculture sector. Since agriculture sector creates purchasing power amongst farmers, which fuels growth in industries and services. Therefore, unless agricultural production increases national GDP can not increase in spite of advancement in industrial and software technology which is the backbone of service sector. In the new millennium, the challenges in the agricultural sector are quite different from those met in the previous decades. The enormous pressure of produce more food from less land with shrinking natural resources is a tough task for the farmers. While agriculture held an important place in the national economy, its' efficiency remained at low level. No doubt, agriculture is the basis of Indian Planning. Therefore, here the trend of foodgrains production in different plans is discussed and analyzed chronologically.

**First five year plan (1951-56)** : This FYP was introduced in 1951 and was terminated in 1956. Then country faced three main problems – influx of refugees, severe food shortage and mounting inflations. Accordingly, the first plan emphasized as its immediate objectives the rehabilitation of refugees, rapid agricultural development so as to achieve food sufficiency in the shortest possible time and control of inflation. Truly, the plan aimed at all round balanced development which could ensure a rising national income and a steady improvement in the living standards over a period of time.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1951-52	21.30	6.18	16.10	8.42	52.00
1952-53	22.50	7.50	19.11	9.19	58.30
1953-54	28.21	8.02	22.97	10.62	69.82
1954-55	25.22	9.04	22.82	10.95	68.03
1955-56	27.56	8.76	19.49	11.04	66.85

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India)

**Production analysis:** First year foodgrain production increased (compare to its previous year, 1950-51, 50.8 million tones), Second year foodgrain production increased, third year production increased, fourth and fifth year production consecutively decreased. Average production (per year) was 63.00 million tones.

**Second five year plan (1956-61)** : The second plan aimed at rapid development of basic and heavy industries so as industrialization takes place. The plan laid special emphasis on the increased production of steel, heavy chemicals, including nitrogenous fertilizer and development of heavy engineering and machine building industry. The basic philosophy of the plan was to give a big push to the economy so that it enters the take-off stage.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1956-57	29.04	9.40	19.87	11.55	69.86
1957-58	25.53	7.99	21.23	9.56	64.31
1958-59	30.85	9.96	23.18	13.15	77.14
1959-60	31.68	10.32	22.87	11.80	76.67
1960-61	34.58	11.00	23.74	12.70	82.02

**Production analysis :** First year of the plan production increased, second year production decreased, third year production increased, fourth year slight decreased and final year production increased. Average production (per year) was 74.00 million tones.

**Third five year plan (1961-66)** : By beginning of the third plan (1961-1966), the Indian planners felt that the

Indian economy had entered the “take –off stage” and that the first two plans generated an international structure needed for rapid economic development. Consequently, the third plan set as its goal the establishment of self-reliance and self-generating economy. On the basis of the experience of first two plans, the third plan gave top priority to agriculture but also laid adequate emphasis on the development of the country. However, because of India’s conflicts with China in 1962 and with Pakistan in 1965, the approach of the Third plan was later shifted from development to defense and development.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1961-62	35.66	12.07	23.22	11.76	82.71
1962-63	33.21	10.78	24.63	11.53	80.15
1963-64	37.00	9.85	23.72	10.07	80.64
1964-65	39.31	12.26	25.37	12.42	89.36
1965-66	30.59	10.40	21.42	9.94	72.35

**Production analysis :** First year of the plan, production slightly increased, second year of the plan, production decreased, third year production slightly increased, fourth year production increased but in fifth year production decreased more. Average production (per year) was 82.04 million tones.

**Annual plans (1966-1969) :** Three annual plans (‘66-69’) euphemistically described as “plan Holiday” were implemented. India learnt a bitter lesson during Indo-Pakistan War when its so called allies refused to supply essential equipment and raw materials for its economic development.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1966-67	30.44	11.39	24.05	8.35	74.23
1967-68	37.61	16.54	28.80	12.10	95.05
1968-69	39.76	18.65	25.18	10.42	94.01

**Production analysis :** First year production increased, second year was jumping production and in third year production decreased slightly. Average production (per year) was 87.76 million tones.

**Fourth five year plan (1969-74) :** The fourth plan set before itself the two principal objectives’ growth with stability’ and ‘progressive achievement of self-reliance.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1969-70	40.43	20.09	27.29	11.69	99.50
1970-71	42.22	23.83	30.55	11.82	108.42
1971-72	43.07	26.41	24.60	11.09	105.17
1972-73	39.24	24.74	23.14	9.91	97.03
1973-74	44.05	21.78	28.83	10.01	104.67

**Production analysis :** First year of the plan, production increased, second year, production increased, third year production decreased slightly, fourth year production decreased and in fifth year production again increased. Average production (per year) was 102.96 million tones.

**Fifth five year plan (1974-78) :** The fifth plan was introduced at the time when the country was ruling under a variable economic crisis arisen out of run-away inflation, fueled by the hike in oil prices since September 1973 and failure of the Government policy on the whole sale trade in wheat. But, the Indian planners were confirmed with the slogans of ‘Garibi Hatao’ (Removal of poverty) and the ‘growth with social justice’.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1974-75	39.58	24.10	26.13	10.02	99.83
1975-76	48.74	28.84	30.41	13.04	121.03
1976-77	41.92	29.01	28.88	11.36	111.17
1977-78	52.67	31.75	30.02	11.97	126.41

**Production analysis :** First year production decreased, second year was jumping production, third year production decreased a lot and fourth year production increased expectedly. Average production (per year) was 114.61 million tones.

**Rolling plans (1978-80) :** The Fifth Five Year Plan was terminated by the Janata Party at the end of fourth year of the plan in March 1978. The rolling plan was first introduced in 1978 in Indian economy.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1978-79	53.77	35.51	30.44	12.18	131.90
1979-80	42.33	31.83	26.97	8.57	109.70

**Production analysis :** First year of the rolling plan production increased whereas in second year production

decreased a lot. Average production (per year) was 120.80 million tones.

**Sixth five year plan (1980-85) :** Though the Sixth FYP was introduced first in 1978-83 by Janata Govt., it was newly introduced in 1980 by the Congress (I) where the planner rejected the Janata approach and brought back the Nehru Model of growth by aiming the direct attack on the problem of poverty by creating conditions of an expanding economy.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1980-81	53.63	36.31	29.02	10.63	129.59
1981-82	53.25	37.45	31.09	11.51	133.30
1982-83	47.12	42.79	27.75	11.86	129.52
1983-84	60.10	45.48	33.90	12.89	152.37
1984-85	58.34	44.07	31.17	11.96	145.54

**Production analysis :** First year, production increased, second year production increased expectedly, third year production decreased, fourth year production increased a lot whereas in fifth year production decreased. Average production (per year) was 138.06 million tones.

**Seventh five year plan (1985-90) :** The Plan was introduced in 1985 after the country had enjoyed a reasonable rate of growth during the sixth plan. The seventh plan sought to emphasis policies and programmes which would accelerate the growth in foodgrains production, increase employment opportunities and raise productivity – all these three immediate objectives were regarded central to the achievement of long-term goals determined as far back as the First plan itself. The development strategy adopted for the Seventh Plan aimed at a direct attack on the problems of poverty, unemployment and regional imbalances.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1985-86	63.83	47.05	26.20	13.36	150.44
1986-87	60.56	44.32	26.83	11.71	143.42
1987-88	56.86	46.17	26.36	10.96	140.35
1988-89	70.49	54.11	31.47	13.85	169.92
1989-90	73.57	49.85	34.76	12.86	171.04

**Production analysis :** First year production increased, second year production decreased, third year production further decreased, fourth year production increased unexpectedly and in last year production quite increased.

Average production (per year) was 155.03 million tones.

**Plan holidays (1990-1992) :** Due to severe political turmoil at central government no FYP was formulated for this duration.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1990-91	74.29	55.14	32.70	14.26	176.39
1991-92	74.68	55.69	25.99	12.02	168.38

**Production analysis:** First year production increased and in second year production decreased a lot. Average production (per year) was 172.39 million tones.

**Eight five year plan (1992-97) :** The plan was introduced during the period of severe economic crisis when Indian Government inaugurated New Economic plan in 1991-1992. The objectives listed to achieve this goal were employment generation, population control, literacy and education, provision of health facilities and drinking water and provision of adequate food and basic infrastructure. Therefore, the main focus of this plan was “human development”. Agricultural sector was one of the top priority sectors in the Eighth Plan.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1992-93	72.86	57.21	36.59	12.82	179.48
1993-94	80.30	59.84	30.82	13.30	184.26
1994-95	81.81	65.77	29.88	14.04	191.50
1995-96	76.98	62.10	29.03	12.31	180.42
1996-97	81.73	69.35	34.11	14.24	199.43

**Production analysis :** First year production increased, second year and third year also production increased, fourth year production decreased whereas at last year production again increased. Average production (per year) was 187.02 million tones.

**Ninth five year plan (1997-02) :** The focus of the 9<sup>th</sup> plan is on “Growth with social justice and equity”. The plan envisages a growth rate of 6.5 per cent. The sectoral investment profile of the 9<sup>th</sup> plan is based on a combination of estimates of likely private investment, targeted public investment and a subjective assessment of the residual investment gaps being filled by either private or public sector. In the preceding plan, the agriculture sector had received less investment. In this plan, there is a substantial increase in outlays on agriculture, irrigation and other

activities. In the 9<sup>th</sup> plan, greater emphasis was given on improving the quality of life.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
1997-98	82.54	66.35	30.40	13.83	193.12
1998-99	86.08	71.29	31.33	14.91	203.61
1999-00	89.68	76.37	30.34	13.41	209.80
2000-01	84.98	69.68	31.08	11.07	196.81
2001-02	93.34	72.77	33.37	13.37	212.85

**Production analysis :** The first year production decreased but in second and third year production increased consequently. In fourth year of the plan production decreased whereas in last year production increased considerably. Average production (per year) was 203.24 million tones.

**Tenth five year plan (2002-07) :** The Tenth FYP has shifted the emphasis from food security at the household level to nutrition security at the level of each individual. Emphasis has been placed on employment, education, health and nutrition, which are all important for poverty eradication and hunger elimination. The main considerations of the plan were 8 per cent average GDP growth for the period 2002-2007, creation of 50 million employment opportunities in the next 5 years and reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
2002-03	71.82	65.76	26.07	11.13	174.78
2003-04	88.53	72.15	37.60	14.91	213.19
2004-05	83.13	68.64	33.46	13.13	198.36
2005-06	91.79	69.35	34.06	13.39	208.59
2006-07	93.35	75.81	33.92	14.20	217.28

**Production analysis :** First year, production decreased heavily, second year production increased a lot, third year again production decreased, fourth year and fifth year production increased at increasing rate. Average production (per year) was 202.44 million tones.

**Eleventh five year plan (2007-12) :** The central vision of the eleventh plan was to build on our strengths to trigger a development process which ensures broad-based improvement in the quality of life of the people, especially the poor, SCs/STs, other backward castes (OBCs),

minorities and women. The National Development Council (NDC), in approving the approach to the eleventh plan, endorsed a target of 9 per cent GDP growth for the country as a whole. This growth was to be achieved in an environment in which the economy was much more integrated into the global economy, an integrated that had yielded many benefits but also possessed many challenges. The broad vision of the eleventh plan included several integrated components; rapid growth that reduces poverty and creates employment opportunities, access to essential services in health and education especially for the poor, equality of opportunity, empowerment through education and skill development, employment opportunities underpinned by the National Rural Employment Guarantee, environmental sustainability, recognition of women's agency and good governance.

Year	Rice	Wheat	Course cereals	Pulses	Total foodgrains production
2007-08	96.69	78.57	40.76	14.76	230.78
2008-09	99.18	80.68	40.03	14.57	234.47
2009-10	89.09	80.80	33.55	14.66	218.11
2010-11	95.32	85.93	43.68	18.24	244.78
2011-12	104.32	93.90	42.01	17.21	252.56

**Production analysis :** First and second year production increased at increasing rate but in third year production decreased. In fourth and fifth year of the plan, production successively increased. Average production (per year) was 236.14 million tones.

Average foodgrains production in various plan periods		
Five year plans	Duration	Average foodgrains production (million tones)
First five year plan	1951-1956	63.00
Second five year plan	1956-1961	74.00
Third five year plan	1961-1966	82.04
Annual plans	1966-1969	87.76
Fourth five year plan	1969-1974	102.96
Fifth five year plan	1974-1978	114.61
Rolling plans	1978-1980	120.80
Sixth five year plan	1980-1985	138.06
Seventh five year plan	1985-1990	155.03
Annual plans	1990-1992	172.39
Eighth five year plan	1992-1997	187.02
Ninth five year plan	1997-2002	203.24
Tenth five year plan	2002-2007	202.44
Eleventh five year plan	2007-2012	236.14

**Production analysis :** In first FYP the average foodgrain production was 63 million tones. In second FYP, the average production (per year) was 74.00 million tones. In third FYP period, the Average production (per year) was 82.04 million tones. In plan holidays (1966-69), the average production (per year) was 87.76 million tones. In fourth FYP, the average production (per year) was 102.96 million tones. In the fifth FYP, the average production (per year) was 114.61 million tones. In the rolling plans, the average production (per year) was 120.80 million tones. In the sixth FYP, the average production (per year) was 138.06 million tones. In the seventh FYP, the average production (per year) was 155.03 million tones. In eighth plan, the average production (per year) was 187.02 million tones. In the ninth FYP, the average production (per year) was 203.24 million tones. In the tenth FYP, the average production (per year) was 202.44 million tones; it was slightly reduced compare to its previous plan's average production. and in the eleventh plan, the average production (per year) was 236.14 million tones. From first FYP to eleventh FYP, the average foodgrain production increased at increasing rate, only in tenth FYP average production slightly decreased.

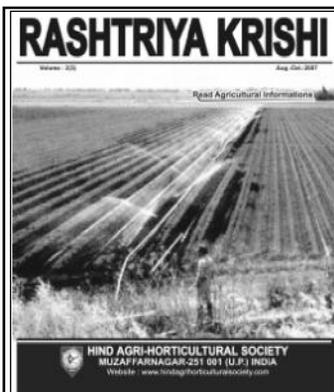
**Conclusion :** Agriculture is the backbone of our culture and life. A major part of our population depends on it for their livelihood and this sector generates maximum employment of our work force. It also contributes a lion's share in national income and has a considerable role in India's export. Therefore, the more emphasis is to be given on agricultural development and it has the full responsibility to double the present foodgrain production in forthcoming decades to meet the requirements of ever-increasing population. Nutritional security is the next most important dimension, which needs the attention simultaneously. Besides it is essential to prepare the farmers to face the challenges of effective implication of World Trade Organization. Indian economy emerged from the colonial structure existing at the time of independence and the leftover problems stubbornly continued to trouble us. During the last six decades, though gradually but surely the economy has emerged with resilience and established its place in the global scenario from an underdeveloped country to an emerging economic power, Now, India, along with China, has been considered as emerging giants of Asia.

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