

**AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS OF WEST MAHARASHTRA
(SPECIALLY AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT)**

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Abstract

The life of many Maharashtrian farmers is depended on the agricultural occupation. The main source of rural economy depends on agriculture. In the total income of state generally 1% income gets from the agriculture. After freedom government has spent crores on the development of agriculture. But agriculture does not develop as it has to be. Its reason is that it has many problem ahead it. That's why it is important to develop agricultural area for bringing economical prosperity and independency in Maharashtra.

Key Words: *agricultural problems, agricultural occupation.*

Introduction:

Maharashtra state is aggressive in the country in giving new direction to the rural development, through agricultural development. As Maharashtra separated on 1 May, 1960. At the west side of Maharashtra it has 720 k.m. sea. The total area of Maharashtra is 3,07,713, k.m., as it is third in country in the area ranking. As this Maharashtra state has divided in to different regions, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Solapur, Ahmednagar and Pune districts are included in west Maharashtra.

The life of many Maharashtrian farmers is depended on the agricultural occupation. The main source of rural economy depends on agriculture. In the total income of state generally 1% income gets from the agriculture. After freedom government has spent crores on the development of agriculture. But agriculture does not develop as it has to be. Its reason is that it has many problem ahead it. That's why it is important to develop agricultural area for bringing economical prosperity and independency in Maharashtra. Agricultural development is helpful to run the industrilisation in the state. Development of agriculture means productivity of agriculture and trying to increase productivity. Therefore agricultural zone is very important in the economy of Maharashtra and India. But in this Research paper

the study of Ahmednagar district about the agriculture has completed. Specially farming and problems ahead farming of Ahmednagar district.

Objective of the Research Paper:

- 1) The study of the various crop sector in Ahmednagar district.
- 2) The study of production of main crops per hector in Ahmednagar district.
- 3) The study of agricultural problems of Ahmednagar district.

Research Methodology:

Basically the support of primary and secondary equipment has taken for this study.

A) Primary Equipments

Survey Method is used for the study of agricultural problems. Using the simple method of selection for survey all Talukas through the Ahmednagar district has classified into developed, average developed and disadvantaged, on the basis of some average criteria and then two Talukas are selected. From six selected Talukas three villages from each, total 18 are selected by the use of convenient pattern selection method. From the selected villages the farmers are classified into five groups as limited, small/low, medium and high and disadvantaged cast productive farmers. From this classification 90 productive agricultural farmers are selected. 25 from each village, in it 5 from each group totally 450 agricultural producers are selected for study and questionnaire is filled from them by interview.

B) Secondary Equipments:

Secondary equipments are also used with primary equipments for this study. Information is collected through the district, social and economical review, economical survey of Maharashtra and magazines. Collected information is analysed in the process on it.

Geographical structure and area:

Ahmednagar district is situated in the valley of Godavari and Bhima rivers. The place of Ahmednagar district is 18.2 to 19.9° from north latitude and 73.9 to 75.5° from east longitude. Nashik is to north direction, Aurangabad to the north-east, Beed and Osmanabad to the east, Solapur to south and Thane and Pune are to the west direction of the district.

The area of Ahmednagar district is 17,413 square k.m. and it is on the first rank in area in the state. 14 Talukas are there in the district. According to the census of 2001, 1581 villages are there 14 talukas and 2 villages are deserted among them. According to the census of 2001, the population of district is 40,40,642 and literacy is 75.30%.

Area under the various crops in Ahmednagar district:

Kharip, Rabbi and Summer seasons are famous in Ahmednagar district. Millet, Jowar, Rise and Other cereal crops in Kharip season, Kulith, Moong, Math and Groundnut and

sunflower these crops are also taken. Rice is taken in the Akole Taluka in much quantity, because much rain falls there. Jowar, Wheat and Gram has taken in Rubbi season and in the summer whether the water is available Groundnut, Sunflower, Maize and Fodder crops are taken. Cotton, Sugercane and Soyabean are main crops of the district. Cultivating filed is increased in the comparison of the year 1994-95 and year 2004-05. As about the some crop it decreased. It showed by the following chart: -

Chart 1
Filed under the various crops
(1994-95 to 2004-05)

Sr. No.	Crops	Filed Under Crops (hector's)		Change in Percentage
		1994-95	2004-05	
1	Cereal Grains	9,29,837 (71.2)	10,00,846 (75.3)	+ 4.1
2	Pulse	1,10,861 (8.5)	83,801 (6.3)	- 2.2
3	Sugar Cane	80,224 (6.1)	81,155 (6.1)	0
4	Spice Crops	3,948 (0.3)	4,680 (0.4)	+ 0.1
5	Fruits and Vegetables	25,184 (1.9)	37,562 (2.8)	+ 0.9
6	Cotton	2,979 (0.2)	5,976 (0.5)	+ 0.3
7	Oilseed Crops	93,271 (7.1)	42,388 (3.2)	- 3.9
8	Other Uneatable Crops	60,019 (4.6)	69,748 (5.3)	+ 0.7
	Total Crops	13,06,323 (100)	13,26,156 (100)	--

Note: Numbers in bracket shows percentage for total.

Refference:- Social and economical review for Ahmednagar district (1998-99 and 2008-09)

According to the chart, field under the crops of pulse and oil seeds decreased in the year 2004-05 in the comparison of year 1994-95. As the filed of Sugar Cane is remained same and other crop field is increased. It means the crop structure changes.

Agricultural production in Ahmednagar district: -

Farming is depended on the water irrigation. If the water and other necessary elements are available the productivity increases. The following chart shows the productivity of main crops as per hector.

Chart 2
Production of main crops as per hector in the district

Sr. No.	Name of the Crops	Production as per Hector (kg)	Total Production ('00' m. tan)
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		1995-96	2005-06	1995-96	2005-06
1	Rice	1,603	436	93	35
2	Wheat	1,499	1,492	997	138
3	Jowar	475	454	2,943	2,588
4	Bajra	522	252	1,225	588
5	Maize	1,439	1,201	59	185
6	Gram	594	687	220	471
7	Moong	590	272	62	24
8	Groundnut	1,413	490	123	24
9	Cotton	1,937	233	62	228
10	Potato	6,223	4,943	2,701	2,083

Note: Production of cotton is in the from of '00' + gasadi = 170 kg.

Refference: - Agriculture inspector, Pune

According to above chart production of gram per hector increased in the year 2005-06 in comparison to the year 1995-96. As the rice from 1603 to 436, wheat 1499 to 1492, Jowar 475 to 454, Millet 522 to 282, Maize 1491 to 1201, Moong 590 to 272, Groundnut 1413 to 490, Cotton 1937 to 233 and Potato 6223 to 4923 kg decreased in such year. In the total production the production of Wheat, Maize Gram and Cotton is increased but remaining crop production is decreased. It seems that the production per hector is decreased in the district.

Productivity and Problems of Farming of Ahmednagar District : -

Considering important role of agriculture in the economy, it is need to notice the agricultural production and productivity. It is necessary to develop agricultural production. If the production capacity of the farming developed, the farming field will develop. Rain, Land, Weather these factors are important for the agricultural production. The rain is sufficient and uncertain in several parts of district. Therefore production of important crops is very less in the district.

From the production of main crops per hector of the district, it seems that only the productivity of grams is increased. As per hector productivity of Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Millet, Maize, Groundnuts, Cotton and Potato is decreased in the year 1994-95 to 2005-06. It means the productivity of farming is very less. This is the problem of district. As well the other problems of the district farmers are as follows.

1) Rain and Farming: -

Several farming of the district is depended on the rain. Therefore there is uncertainty about the productivity. On the moodiness of the rain the productivity is decided. 44 % field is under the water irrigation in the year 2004-05. It means 56 % area is depended on the rain. It impacts on the productivity. It is major problem.

2) Fertility of the Soil: -

Decreasing fertility of the soil is a big question in front of the farmers. Agricultural universities, R.C.A.R. agricultural scientific center, fertilizer factories researches for improving the fertility but it did not reach to the ordinary farmers. It is difficult to use the researched technology to the farmers. If the farmers can recognize the condition of the soil, notorious facts from the soil the fertility and productivity will increase. But these are difficult to them.

3) Lac of Agricultural Economy: -

Loans should be passed to the farmers on right time. Money lenders and other peoples provide the interest on large interest rates in the villages. Because banks are not available in the villages. But wherever they are available there are much rules and regulations. It effects the farmers becoming bankrupt. If the crops are wasted the can not back their loan. It seems much debt grows on the head of farmers. It effects on the suicide of the farmers. How the funds will the farmers is also a problem.

4) Farmer's Ignorance: -

As the education spread all over the country and states but the evidence of the uneducated farmers seems in the villages. Several farmers are uneducated. Their children are educated but their tendency is towards the service. Because they sees hard work and less output in the farming. They inclined towards the large income in the little work. So its challengeable to turn them towards the farming. Therefore uneducated farmers are away from the improved technology, improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

5) Disequilibrium in Irrigation: -

Irrigation is very important in the enhancement of agricultural productivity. Many factors affects on the crop structure, therefore availability and lac of irrigation are important factors. The available big and medium projects can not provide the water to the district. Wherever these projects are available many crops can be taken. But where there is not availability of the projects more crops can not be taken. That impact on the productivity. As some talukas are the facilities of the water but water is not supplied regularity on time.

6) Assurance of Rate: -

Marketing governing is important in improving agricultural productivity. If the reasonable rates are given, the farmers and farming can develop. Because of the agents, fraud, lac of warehouses, unassured rate reasonable rate's are not given to the production. It impacts that farmers became bankrupt. It is challengeable to the government to give the assured rates.

7) Irregular supply of Electricity: -

From the selected farmers 100 % are facing the problems of irregular electricity load shedding is one of the frightening problem of the farmers. Demand of electricity is more than the creation of electricity. So M.S.E.B. faces the load shedding. Time table of the electric supply is not fixed in the villages. Therefore farmers can not work properly. Proper use of machinery is not possible. Water is available but can not used for farming. Only 8 or 10 hours electricity supplied to the villages. It impacts on the productivity of agriculture. It is also a major problem.

To free the farmers from the problems some remedies are necessary, these are as follows:

1) Growth in the Irrigation field: -

Farmers have to use the available water economically. In the growth of irrigated field water irrigation is very important. Hivare bajar, Ralegansidhi and Palse are ideal in the water projects. Other villages also run the water projects. Water should be saved by using drop irrigation, sprinkle irrigation and improved technology. Government have to complete the projects of valleys, lakes and dams.

2) Improvement in Fertility: -

It is necessary to test the soil from the farm to improve the fertility. Agricultural universities, agri colleges, C.M.R.R. agri scientific centre, state agri dept. have to take the initiative in the test of soil. Necessary information should be given to the farmers.

3) Supply of sufficient and cheap loan: -

It is important to provide the cheap and sufficient loan to the farmers. Farmers became bankrupt. So government should decrease the rates on loan to 3 to 4%. Economical support should be given to the aborigine areas, and for marketings. State and national banks should provide the loan in the villages.

4) Assured rates according to the productivity expenditure: -

More and sufficient assured rates are given to avoid the problems. Farmers must be secured from the agents.

5) Regular supply of electricity; -

Demand of electricity is more than the creativity. So state faces load shedding. The government should inspire the electric projects like Jaitapur project. As well currently government have to supply the electricity regularly. It effects on the growth of the productivity.

Conclusion: -

In the ranking the state is on the third rank in agriculture in country. It means the farming is not developed. Specially in west Maharashtra the agriculture of Ahmednagar district is not improved. Because per hector productivity of crops is very less in the comparison of average productivity of Maharashtra. Because the rain, climate, lack of irrigation, lack of economical supply, electricity are responsible. Except agriculture occupation no other means is available to develop the farmers of the district. Even industrilisation is also not developed. If the productivity is increased, the farmers will get benefit and it will inspire to the industrilisation so agricultural development is very important for the development of the district.

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