

## Highlights

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### Report no. 491: Household Ownership Holdings in India, 2003

*A sample of 52,265 rural households and 29,893 urban households was surveyed in the sixth Land Holding Survey of NSS, carried out in 2003.*

- The estimated total area owned by the households in the rural sector during the year 2003 was 107.23 million hectares. The corresponding area in the urban sector was 7.21 million hectares only.
- About 10% of the rural households were reported to be landless, i.e. owning land either nil or less than 0.002 ha. The corresponding urban share was 49%.
- The per-household average area of land owned in the rural sector for the year 2003 came to 0.725 ha, about 27% less than the corresponding figure in 1992.
- The average area of land owned per household in the rural sector was highest in Rajasthan (2.077 ha) and lowest in Kerala (0.234 ha).
- The percentage of landless households in the rural sector was highest in Sikkim (31%), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (22%), Maharashtra (18%) and Tamil Nadu (17%).
- The share of marginal holdings (area less than or equal to 1.000 ha) in the rural areas was 80% in the year 2003 compared to 72% in 1992 and 67% in 1982.
- In the rural areas, the share of land owned by different social groups was 11% for ST, 9% for SC, 44% for OBC and 36% for Others. The per-household land area owned by them was 0.767 ha, 0.304 ha, 0.758 ha and 1.003 ha respectively.
- Of the total land area under ownership holding in the rural sector, 15% constituted of sand, 21% of loam, 7% of silt, 41% of light clay and 13% of heavy clay.
- In the rural sector about 2.8% households reported leasing out of land while 11.5% households reported leasing in of land. Among the households leasing in, 40% contracted for share of produce, 31% for fixed rent in cash and 15% for fixed rent in kind.

## Report no. 492: Some Aspects of Operational Land Holdings in India, 2002-03

*A sample of 52,265 rural households and 29,893 urban households was surveyed in the sixth Land Holding Survey of NSS, carried out in 2003. The following highlights relate to rural India only.*

- There were 101.3 million holdings operated during the kharif season of 2002-03 and 95.7 million holdings operated during the rabi season of the same agricultural year.
  - Average area operated per holding in 2002-03 was 1.06 hectares compared to 1.34 hectares during 1991-92 and 1.67 hectares in 1981-82.
  - Marginal holdings (of size 1 hectare or less) in 2002-03 constituted 70% of all operational holdings, small holdings (size 1 to 2 hectares) constituted 16%, semi-medium holdings (2 to 4 hectares), 9%, medium holdings (4 to 10 hectares), 4%, and large holdings (over 10 hectares), less than 1%.
  - The share of marginal holdings in total operated area climbed by 6-7 percentage points since 1991-92 to reach 22-23%, drawing level with the shares of the semi-medium and medium holdings, which had the largest shares in 1991-92.
  - Tenant holdings, that is, holdings with partly or wholly leased-in land, formed about 10% of operational holdings during 2002-03 compared to 11% in 1991-92. On an average, a tenant holding operated 0.7 hectares of tenanted land in 2002-03.
  - The share of leased-in land in total operated area, which has been declining more or less steadily from 10.7% in 1960-61, was 6.5% for the kharif season of 2002-03.
  - At the all-India level, the size distribution of operational land holdings exhibited more or less the same degree of concentration (as measured by Gini's coefficient of concentration) as in 1991-92.
  - In West Bengal, Bihar (including Jharkhand), and Orissa, the degree of concentration of the size distribution of operational land holdings was appreciably lower in 2002-03 than it was in 1991-92. In Kerala, the degree of concentration registered a fall in each of the three decades prior to 2002-03.
  - Sharecropping remained the most widely prevalent form of lease contract, covering 41% of all tenanted land. However, the shares of "fixed money" and "fixed produce" appeared to be on the increase, together accounting for over 50% of leased-in land in 2002-03.
  - Net sown area constituted 87% of operated land during the kharif season and 57% during the rabi season.
  - Irrigated land formed 42% of net sown area during the kharif season and 67% during the rabi season.
  - About 64% of net sown area was under cereal cultivation in both the seasons of the agricultural year.
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Report no. 493: Livestock Ownership Across Operational Land Holding Classes in India, 2002-03

- An estimated 69% of rural households and 11% of urban households operated some land during the kharif season of 2002-03.
  - As many as 79% of rural households in 2002-03 (kharif season) possessed land of size 1 hectare or less. About 32% possessed less than 0.002 hectare of land.
  - The *cattle* population in rural India, which was between 160 million and 170 million during the 20 years prior to 1991-92, declined to 154 million in 2002-03.
  - The *buffalo* population in rural India continued to grow from 69 million in 1991-92 to 76 million in 2002-03.
  - The stock of *poultry* in rural areas declined from 193 million in 1991-92 to 182 million in 2002-03.
  - The stock of *working cattle* in rural areas declined by 25% between 1991-92 and 2002-03, reflecting the falling importance of bullock power in cultivation and allied activities.
  - The stock of *in-milk cattle* in rural India showed a slight fall of about 2 million from its 1991-92 level of 30 million.
  - The number of *sheep and goats* in rural areas declined from 85 per 100 rural households in 1991-92 to 64 per 100 households in 2002-03.
  - The share of marginal holdings in total stock of in-milk bovines, which was only 20% in 1971-72, continued to rise from 44% in 1991-92 to 52% in 2002-03.
  - The share of marginal holdings in total poultry stock continued to grow from 55% in 1991-92 to 63% in 2002-03.
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Report no. 494: Seasonal Variation in the Operational Land Holdings in India, 2002-03

- Although both rural and urban sectors were covered in the round, seasonality being predominantly a rural agricultural phenomenon, the highlights and the report focus only on the rural sector.
- About 101 million holdings in the *kharif* season and 96 million holdings in the *rabi* season were operated during the agricultural year 2002-03.
- The total operated area was about 108 million hectares in *kharif* and 102 million hectares in *rabi*.
- The average area operated was 1.1 hectare in both *kharif* and *rabi* seasons of the agricultural year 2002-03.
- The net sown area as percentage of operated area was 87% in *kharif* and 57% in *rabi*.
- Average number of parcels per holding was 2.3 in the *kharif* season and 2.0 in the *rabi* season of the agricultural year 2002-03.
- About 36% of operated area in *kharif* and 38% area in *rabi* was irrigated during 2002-03.
- Tubewells were the most common source of irrigation in both *kharif* and *rabi* seasons of the year 2002-03.
- About 77% of *kharif* holdings and 60% of *rabi* holdings were mainly used for crop production.
- About 16% of *kharif* holdings and 32% of *rabi* holdings were mainly used for livestock rearing.

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