

CHAPTER-I

AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTOR

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The share of Agriculture & Allied Sector in the total Gross Domestic Product declined from 55% in 1950-51 to 17% in 2008-09 at 1999-2000 prices (Constant Prices).
- ❖ Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in Agriculture & Allied Activities which was 25% of the total GCF in 1950-51 declined to 7% in 2007-08 at constant prices. The decline is mainly due to steep increase in the investment in other sectors, as compared to that in agriculture and allied sectors. While the overall growth rate between 1950-2008 in investment was about 6% at constant prices, the same in respect of agriculture and allied sectors was 3.5%.
- ❖ The total number of operational holdings in Agriculture increased from 71 million in 1970-71 to 120 million in 2000-01 whereas the average size of the operational holdings decreased from 2.28 hectares to 1.33 hectares during the same period.
- ❖ The number of marginal operational holdings (size less than one hectare) and the area operated increased by over 100 per cent between 1970-71 and 2000-01.
- ❖ Marginal operational holdings constituted 51 per cent of the total operational holdings in 1970-71 and increased to 63 per cent in 2000-01. There has been a significant decline in large holdings with size 10 hectares & above i.e. from 2.8 million number in 1970-71 to 1.23 million in 2000-01. Area operated also declined from 5.0 million hectare to 2.1 million hectare. This indicates the fragmentation of holdings to marginal and small holdings where both number and area operated had increased.
- ❖ There has been an increase of nearly 6 percentage points in the area under forest in the last nearly six decades. Similarly the net area sown also increased by more than four percentage points i.e. from 42 per cent to 46 per cent during this period.
- ❖ Total (gross) cropped area increased from 132 million hectares during 1950-51 to 194 million hectares during 2006-07. The increase is mainly due to increase in cropping intensity, from 111% to 138%.
- ❖ Area sown more than once increased from 13 million hectares to 53 million hectares from 1950-51 to 2006-07.
- ❖ Net area sown has been about 46% of the reporting area for land utilisation in last 5 decades and varied between 140 to 141 million hectares from 1970-71 to 2006-07.
- ❖ Gross irrigated area increased by more than 3.5 times i.e. from 22.50 million hectares in 1950-51 to 85.78 million hectares in 2006-2007, whereas net irrigated area increased three times, i.e., from 20.85 million hectares to 60.80 million hectares.
- ❖ Production of major crops during the last six decades increased manifold. Wheat production increased 13 times, i.e. from 6.5 million tonnes to 78.6 million tonnes while

rice production increased about 5 times, i.e., from 20.6 million tonnes to 96.7 million tonnes during the period 1950-51 to 2007-08.

- ❖ The production of total foodgrains increased by 4.5 times, i.e., from 50.82 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 230.78 million tonnes during 2007-08.
- ❖ Gross area under rice increased significantly from 31 million hectares in 1950-51 to 44 million hectares in 2007-08. Similarly gross area under wheat increased from nearly 10 million hectares to 28 million hectares.
- ❖ Yield of rice increased from 0.67 tonnes per hectare to 2.2 tonnes per hectare and for wheat, yield increased from 0.66 tonnes to 2.8 tonnes per hectare.
- ❖ Increase in yield could be due to increase in area under irrigation for these crops. The area under irrigation for rice increased from 9.84 million hectares in 1950-51 to 24.87 million hectares in 2006-07. In case of wheat, area under irrigation increased from 3.4 million hectares to 25.54 million hectares.
- ❖ In case of Pulses, area under irrigation was 1.94 million hectares in 1950-51 which increased to 3.7 million hectares in 2006-07. The yield of total pulses increased from 0.44 tonnes per hectare to 0.62 tonnes per hectare during this period.
- ❖ The import of agricultural commodities increased from Rs. 1206 crore in the year 1990-91 to Rs. 29777 crore in 2007-08, whereas the export of agricultural commodities increased from Rs. 6013 crore to Rs. 77770 crores.
- ❖ The share of import of agricultural commodities to total imports increased from 2.79% to 3.09%, however, during 1990-91 to 2007-08, whereas the share of exports of agricultural commodities to the total exports declined from 18.49% to 12.15%.
- ❖ Net availability of foodgrains increased from 144 kg per capita per year in 1951 to 160 kgs per capita per year in 2007. This is mainly due to increase in net availability of rice from 58 kgs per capita in 1951 to 72 kgs. per capita in 2007 and wheat from 24 kgs per capita in 1951 to 57 kgs per capita per year during 2007. However, in case of pulses it declined from 22 kgs per capita in 1951 to 11 kgs per capita in 2007 and in case of coarse cereals net availability declined from 40 kgs per capita to 21 kgs per capita.
- ❖ Inputs to agriculture, i.e., production of breeder seeds increased from 3490 tonnes during 1991-92 to 8008 tonnes during 2007-08. Distribution of quality seeds significantly increased from 5.75 lakh tonnes during 1991-92 to 16.2 lakh tonnes during 2007-08.
- ❖ Total consumption of fertilisers (N, P &K together) increased significantly from 65.6 thousand tonnes during 1951-52 to 21651 thousand tonnes during 2006-07. The major consumption was of Nitrogenous fertiliser.
- ❖ Consumption of fertilisers per hectare increased from 69.84 kg in 1991-92 to 112.69 kg. in 2007-08. During this period consumption of pesticides declined from 72 thousand tonnes to 38 thousand tonnes.
- ❖ There has been marginal increase in area covered under soil conservation from 35.70 million hectares during 1991-92 to 39.80 million hectares during 2004-05.
- ❖ Consumption of electricity, for agricultural purposes, increased from 18 thousand GWh during 1982-83 to 99 thousand GWh during 2006-07 whereas the percentage share increased from 18.6% to 21.7%.

- ❖ The total livestock population increased from 293 million in 1951 to 485 million in 2003. The poultry population increased from 73.5 million in 1951 to 489 million in 2003.
- ❖ Increase in milk and fish production was manifold. Milk production increased from 17.4 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 100.9 million tonnes in 2006-07. The fish production also increased from 752 thousand tonnes to 6869 thousand tonnes during this period.