Cropping Pattern Changes in Uttar Pradesh: An Overview

Raushan Kumar*

Abstract

Agriculture occupies an important place in the economy of Uttar Pradesh (UP). It contributes to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and provide employment to the people, etc. Despite sixty years of planned development, UP continues to be one of the less developed states with a very high incidence of poverty. This is notwithstanding the fact that the state is endowed with vast natural and human resources. This paper examines the trends and nature of cropping pattern at the regional level during the period from 1980-81 to 2001-02. Coefficient of localisation is used to capture the spread of a particular crop across districts or regions. Higher value of coefficient of localisation for a crop implies that particular crop in concentrated in few districts. Crop diversification, in terms of percentage of gross cropped area under different crops have also been analysed in terms of Ginni coefficient and Entropy indices. The study finds that the cropping pattern has not changed much, although there has been little shift from coarse cereals towards wheat and rice. Inter temporal comparison shows that the percentage of area under food crops, has declined in almost all the regions during 1980-81 to 2001-02.

Keywords: *Agriculture, cropping pattern changes*

JEL Classification: *Q10, Q11*

1. Introduction

Uttar Pradesh is one of the biggest producers of food grains in India. Agriculture has an important say in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and provides employment to the general public, etc Approximately, 73 percent of state's people hinge on agriculture for their living. The net crop grown area in the UP is 168.1 lakh hectares. For the period of 2001-02, the state supplied 254.98 lakh metric tonnes, 128.5 lakh metric tonnes, 23.76 lakh metric tonnes, 7.25 lakh metric tonnes, 1179.82 lakh tonnes of

*Department of Economics, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Eve), University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Delhi 110002