

SUMMARY

The concern of this dissertation was with understanding the spatial contrasts in the extent of commercialization of agriculture and the factors that influence the commercialization of agriculture. It also examined the possible effect of commercialization of agriculture.

The most of the available studies in this area are confined to the pre-independence period. There are not many studies which have analyzed the inter-state and inter-district variations in commercialization of agriculture in post-independence period. Further, there is hardly any study on the commercialization of agriculture in Maharashtra. Finally, while most of the studies have used the ratio approach as a measurement and analytical tool, very few studies have used more sophisticated techniques such as the principal component analysis to examine the phenomenon of commercialization of agriculture.

The present study seeks to fill such gaps in the existing literature. It has the following major objectives : (1) to measure the extent of the commercialization of agriculture; (2) to assess the change in the commercialization of agriculture; (3) to measure the inter-district and inter-regional variations in the commercialization of agriculture; (4) to identify the factors which are responsible for the commercialization of agriculture; and (5) to study the effects of the commercialization of agriculture.

The study area is Maharashtra State and the period of study is between 1951-85. The study has used secondary data. The ratio technique and principal component analysis

method ' have been used to measure the extent of commercialization of agriculture. The multiple regression has been used to identify the factors behind commercialization of agriculture, whereas the effect of commercialization of agriculture have been studied with the help of the comparative approach.

The study is divided into eight chapters. In the first chapter, the problem in hand, different meanings, measures and indicators of commercialization of agriculture and methodology are discussed. While the second chapter briefly reviews the earlier studies on the commercialization of agriculture, the chapter third describes Maharashtra and its economy

In chapter four the extent of and change in the commercialization of agriculture in Maharashtra have been studied with the help of five indices, namely, (1) area under cash crops; (2) localization/specialization; (3) agricultural intensity; (4) technological inputs use and (5) marketable and marketed surplus. The extent of and change in the commercialization of agriculture is assessed, by taking the state, region and district as a unit of study, respectively. Some of the findings of this chapter are as follows: (1) Maharashtra has experienced an upward trend in the total area under cash crops and in the percentage of area under cash crops to gross cropped area during the post-green revolution period as compared to the pre-green revolution period. (2) During 1951-85, the area under cotton, oilseeds, and chilli has grown at a slower rate than that of the area under sugarcane and fruits and vegetables in Maharashtra. (3) Maharashtra is found to be localized in cotton and oilseeds. (4) Each region and district of Maharashtra has its own specialization in crops. (5) Agricultural intensity index, application of technological inputs and marketable and marketed surplus ratio show that the commercialization of agriculture has

been greater during the post-green revolution period than the pre-green revolution period.

The chapter five measures the extent of commercialization of agriculture and to assess the inter-district and inter-regional variations in levels of commercialization of agriculture with the help of principal component analysis method. Thirteen variables have been selected for this purpose. They are combined in three groups, namely, (1) area under cash crops, (2) agricultural intensity, and (3) technological inputs use. Factor scores have been calculated separately for each of the three groups. Further, the composite factor score for all the thirteen variables has also been computed.

In order to understand the level of commercialization of agriculture, the factor scores have been divided into four categories, namely, (1) high commercialization level, (2) moderately high commercialization level, (3) moderately low commercialization level and (4) low commercialization level. The factor scores have been computed for the years 1951, 1965 and 1985 and the analysis has been carried out for these three years. Out of these, in-depth analysis has been presented for 1985.

An analysis of composite factor scores shows that in the State of Maharashtra, Kolhapur is the most commercialized district whereas Chandrapur is the least commercialized district. The region of Western Maharashtra has greater commercialization than that of Marathwada, Konkan and Vidharbha regions respectively.

The causes of spatial differences in the extent of commercialization of agriculture are studied in chapter six with the help of multiple regression analysis. The result shows that the development of irrigation, banking, transportation, urbanization, growth of co-operative, and

industrialization have been the most important factors behind commercialization of agriculture in Maharashtra. Uneven development in irrigation, banking, transportation, markets, urbanization, co-operative sector and industrialization have resulted in uneven cropping pattern, irrigation and cropping intensity, technological inputs use, specialization and the generation of marketable surplus. As a consequence of this, the level of commercialization of agriculture has occurred unevenly.

The effect of commercialization of agriculture on employment, production, productivity and wages was studied in chapter seven. It has been found that the high level of cash crops, agricultural intensity, and technological inputs employed more agricultural workers than other levels, especially the low level. It has also been found that the commercialization of agriculture increases production, employment, land productivity, agricultural worker's productivity and income. The effect of commercialization of agriculture on wages has been found to be positive, i.e. highly commercialized districts offer higher wages than districts with the lower level of commercialization of agriculture.

The last chapter summarizes the main findings and indicates some policy suggestions.

To sum up, this study highlights a number of dimensions of inter-district and inter-regional differentiation in the commercialization of agriculture in Maharashtra. This uneven progress of the commercialization of agriculture requires immediate attention of the policy makers for integrated and balanced regional development.

ABSTRACT

This dissertation attempts to study the commercialization of agriculture in Maharashtra for the period 1951-85 on the basis of secondary data. It seeks to measure the extent of commercialization of agriculture, inter-district and inter-regional variations in it, and to find out the factors that affect the commercialization. It also examines the effect of commercialization of agriculture on employment, production, productivity of land and agricultural workers, and wages. The ratio analysis, principal component analysis, regression model and comparative approach have been used as the techniques.

The study finds, after analysing the ratios and principal components, the inter-district and inter-regional difference in the extent of commercialization of agriculture. It also observed the uneven progress in the commercialization of agriculture. The area under cash crops, agricultural intensity, and application of technological inputs increases with commercialization of agriculture.

The results of the regression analysis bring out the fact that factors like irrigation, transportation, banking, urbanization, industrialization and co-operatives growth are more significant variables in explaining the variations in the commercialization of agriculture. Finally, the study asserts that employment, production, productivity of land and agricultural workers, and wages is affected by increasing commercialization of agriculture.

To correct the imbalanced development in commercialization of agriculture, a few suggestions have also been offered.

KEY WORDS : COMMERCIALIZATION, AGRICULTURE, MAHARASHTRA

COURSE WORK

Course No	Course Name	Credits
HS 802	Advanced Economic Theory	8
IM 3608	Managerial Finance	8
IM 3610	Managerial Economics	8
HS 800	Research Methods in Social Sciences	8
HS 801	Statistical Methods	8
	Seminar I	6
	Seminar II	6
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Total Credits		52
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