



DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract

*Andhra Pradesh is the seventh largest state among 28 states in India, situated in the South-East of the country, covering an area of 0.16 million km². It is the tenth-most populous state in the country, with a population of about 49 million inhabitants. The state has also undertaken several institutional and administrative reforms to ease the hurdles in establishing enterprises and to attract capital. Consequently, Andhra Pradesh is ranked by the World Bank, in the year 2018, as the best state, with respect to the ease of doing business in the country. The state predominantly depends on agriculture, which contributes 34% of GSDP and 55% of employment. The overwhelming dependence on agriculture to support the state's economy and the livelihoods of the people is evident from the fact that the share of agriculture in GSDP and employment in the state is higher than the national average. The state is historically known as the 'rice bowl' of India. However, during the past two decades, there has been a significant shift in consumer demand towards high-value crops (like fruits and vegetables), livestock products (like meat and fish), and processed food products. Hence, there is a need to modernise the agricultural sector by adoption of the latest technology and marketing strategies, to produce competitive products which are highly demanded in global markets. There is also a need for crop diversification, from relatively low-profit paddy fields, to high-value crops like cotton, chillies, fruits, and vegetables. Both the state and central governments are encouraging crop diversification through different schemes, but success has not been up to expectations, and varies significantly among the three regions of Andhra Pradesh, namely Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema and North Coastal. The main objective of this paper **Development of Agriculture Sector in Andhra Pradesh**.*

Keywords: *Agriculture, Development, Product, Crop Adoption, Paddy Fields.*

Introduction

Andhra Pradesh State is "the bejewelled rice bowl of India". Agriculture plays an important role in the livelihoods of people as 63% of the population in Andhra Pradesh live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related livelihood opportunities. Agriculture Sector contribute 27% share in State GDP. The agriculture plays an important role not only in the economy but also for achieving the food security for the state and also for the country. Our main challenges are, growing water scarcity, degrading natural resources like land and decreasing per capita availability of land and water resources. Further, rainfed agriculture in the whole state and agriculture in the coastal region is very much vulnerable to the impacts of natural calamities and state is stepping ahead against these challenges.

The State of Andhra Pradesh with 13 districts has great potential for agriculture and allied sectors. Andhra Pradesh State consists of six agro climatic zones and five different soil types to grow wide range of crops throughout the year.

The Government accords the highest priority to the agriculture sector and the welfare of farmers. The constraints and problems which have been troubling the farmers over the years will be addressed through a systematic approach. Every effort will be to make agriculture in the state productive, profitable, and sustainable and climate resilient through building the partnerships with research organizations.



Government of Andhra Pradesh has designed a strategy to transform the agriculture and allied sectors to enable Andhra Pradesh amongst the best three performing states in India by 2022 after 75 years of independence by implementing the Action Plan as per the Vision 2022.¹

The Primary Sector mission is the main mission and the following are the objectives

1. Increasing productivity of the primary sector;
2. Mitigating the impact of droughts through water Conservation and micro irrigation
3. Increasing the cropping intensity.
4. Promotion of weather specific cropping pattern to mitigate drought situations.
5. Post-harvest management to reduce the wastage; and
6. Establishment of processing, value addition capacity and supply chain of the identified crops.
7. Doubling the net returns of the Farmers.

As per the 2nd advance estimates the contribution of GVA from Agriculture sector alone is Rs.31,536 crores on constant price during 2016-17. A systematic approach for achieving targeted GVA of Rs. 38,048 with growth rate of 20.65% for the year 2017-18 has been planned.

Out of the 23 growth engines identified in Agriculture and allied sectors 9 crops have been selected as growth engines in agriculture namely, paddy, maize, red gram, black gram, bengalgram, groundnut, cotton, sugarcane and tobacco. The targeted area, production and productivity of these growth engines are furnished in the annexure.

The major Kharif crops viz. paddy, cereals are maize, jowar, bajra, ragi and pulses are produced in the State known for their rich nutrient content are the staple diet of millions of people. In addition to the these crops Pules like Redgram, Blackgram, Green gram etc., are under cultivation in major extent.²

To make the mission a reality, the department is adopting the following strategies.

Distribution of soil health cards and Soil test based fertilizer recommendation

1. Transparency in quality Seed distribution by adopting Aadhar enable Bio-metric System.
2. Promotion of self- reliance in seed production among farmers through CMSS.
3. Promotion of Integrated Crop Management (ICM) through INM, IPM, efficient water management, etc.
4. Encouraging of organic farming to meet the demands of World Market. Supply of Micro nutrients like Zinc, Iron, Boron, Magnesium based on the Soil test results.
5. Reclamation of Problematic soils to restore the productivity
6. Natural Resource Management through watershed approach for agricultural land development and environmental stability Calamity Management in the event of drought, floods, hailstorms etc.
7. Farm Mechanization - for cost effective farming practices.
8. Promoting Farmer Produce Organizations for technical and monitory benefits in Organic Farming and Millets.
9. Facilitate the farmer to avail in situational Agricultural Credit with special focus on tenant Farmers. Providing income assurance through Crop Insurance.
10. Re-engineering extension approach for effective extension reaches Empowering the farmer with advance Agricultural practices
11. Capacity enhancement of Departmental Staff for an efficient extension of technology.
12. Provide day-to-day information to farmer on crop production, input supply, and marketing through Internet Services and AGRISNET.



The Infrastructure of Agriculture

The Departments has a strong man power resources consisting of more than 2254 extension staff of field and supervisory cadre. The staff is periodically oriented with the advance technology emerging from time to time by re-engineering through trainings, workshops, interactions etc., in addition, the department supports a number of Farmers Training Centres, to equip the farmer with necessary details and knowledge for successful agriculture. For further strengthening of department at village level, 4354 Multi-purpose Extension Officers were recruited in the State.

The Allied Departments/Agencies

The research support to the Department is endowed by the State Agriculture University and the National and International Institutes. The input support is solicited through various autonomous bodies like APSSDC, APSAIDC, AP MARKFED, APOILFED, etc., The other coordinating Departments are Horticulture, Sericulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Irrigation, Forests and Power are also involving in preparation of Action Plan for increasing the net income of the farmer

Rainfall: (2016-17)

Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh is dependent on rainfall and agricultural production depends upon the distribution of rainfall. The influence of South-West monsoon is predominant. Normal rainfall was received in South-West Monsoon (-4%), Scanty Rainfall was received in North-East Monsoon (-71%) and Winter period (-90%).³

Table 1, Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh is dependent on rainfall and agricultural production

S. No	Season	Rainfall 2015-16 (in mm)		
		Normal	Actual	% Deviation
1	South – West Monsoon (June – Sept.)	556	533.8	-4
2	North – East Monsoon (Oct. – Dec.)	296	85.3	-71
3	Winter Season (Jan. – Feb.)	15.7	1.6	-90
	Total	867.7	620.7	-28

Irrigation: The Gross Area Irrigated by different sources was 35.47 lakh ha., and the net area irrigated was 27.43 lakh ha., and the irrigation intensity was 1.29.

Table 2, Gross Area Irrigated

Area in '000' ha)				
S. No	Source	Gross Area Irrigated	Net Area Irrigated	Irrigation Intensity
1	Tanks	386	363	1.06
2	Canals	1393	1081	1.29
3	Groundwater	1643	1193	1.38
4	Other Sources	125	106	1.18
	Total	3547	2743	1.29



Crop wise Irrigated Area:

Table 3, Crop wise irrigated area in Andhra Pradesh for important crops

S. No	Crop	Area under the crop (lakh ha)	Area Irrigated (lakh ha)	Percentage
1	Rice	21.61	20.87	96.58
2	Maize	2.33	1.75	75.11
3	Groundnut	7.75	1.24	16
4	Cotton	6.66	1.04	15.62
5	Other crop	36.97	10.57	28.59
Gross area sown		75.32	35.47	47.09

Intensity is one of the indices for assessing the efficiency of agriculture sector. The cropping intensity i.e. the ratio of gross area sown to net area cropping intensity moves in consonance with the behavior of the monsoon and availability of irrigation water.

Land Holdings

Agriculture production depends, to a considerable extent, upon the size of the unit of cultivation. According to the census, the average size of land holding per farmer in the state during 2010-11 is at 1.06 hectares and the same is likely to fall below due to further fragmentation of the farm holdings, since more than 70 % of rural population is dependent on Agriculture only

Andhra Pradesh has 76.21 lakh farm holdings with an area of 80.96 lakh ha. The Number of farm holdings belonging to various categories and the land operated by them (2010-11) is indicated below:

Table 4, Cultivation. According to the Census

S. No	Category	Number of Holdings	Area Operated (ha)	Percentage	
				Number of Holdings	Area Operated
1	Marginal	4983611	2160351	65.39	26.68
2	Small	1591012	2250593	20.88	27.8
3	Semi Medium	796198	2099810	10.45	25.93
4	Medium	230419	1282009	3.02	15.83
5	Large	19878	303674	0.26	3.75
Total		7621118	8096437	100	100

As could be seen above marginal farmers are about 65.39% operating only 26.68% of area, small farmers are 20.88% in number operating 27.80% of area where as semi medium to large farmers who have 13.73% holdings operate 41.76% of the area. The average size of holding in Andhra Pradesh state is 1.06 ha.



Cropping Pattern: 2016-17

Andhra Pradesh grows 28 important crops during 2016-17 both seasons put together an area of about 60.74 lakh ha., has been covered. The important crops grown are Rice (21.06) lakh ha, Maize (2.45) lakh ha, Pulses (14.55) lakh ha, Groundnut (10.15) lakh ha, Cotton (4.71) lakh ha, Chillies (2.06) lakh ha Tobacco (0.77) lakh ha and Sugarcane (1.03) lakh ha., etc. cultivating 65.20% of Kharif crops and remaining 34.8% covering in Rabi against the total cultivation

Production Targets for 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 (as per the DE&S 3rd Advance Estimates) The Targeted Food grain production for 2017-18 is 176.64 lakh MTs with an increase of 17%. It includes 14%, 30%, 52%, and 52% increased production in Paddy, Maize, Pulses and Oilseeds respectively.

Conclusion

The newly formed Andhra Pradesh State, has huge potential to develop agriculture and allied sectors. Though it has a total cultivated area of 6.35 million ha, crop productivity is low and stagnant while the cost of cultivation has been increasing in recent years. The State is not a homogenous entity in the endowments with vast tracts of dry lands and flood affected areas, despite its volatility centring on unpredictable weather conditions, huge farm expenditure and non-profitability continues to be the mainstay for millions of populations in the state. Making the agriculture sector more resilient and helping the farming community is the most important priority for the state of Andhra Pradesh. The objective of the study is to assess the trends in production, area and productivity of selected crops under different phases. The study is also to investigate the factor determinants of production and productivity among the crops in Andhra Pradesh as well as India. It is clear that increasing compound annual growth rates of productivity in case of paddy and sugarcane have positive impact on growth rate of production, while decrease in the area under the crops have failed to accelerate the outputting both Andhra Pradesh and India.

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