

"A Geographical Study of Major Crops and Production Changes in Latur District"(2011-2021)

Dr.Katke Arjun Keshav

Assistant professor

Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Omerga,
Dist.Dharashiv, Maharashtra, India

Usha Balaji Gangathade

(Ph. D. Research Scholar)

Research Centre at Shri. Krishna College, Gunjoti, Tal. Omarga,
Dist. Dharashiv, Maharashtra, India

Introduction:

India is an agricultural country. About 70% of the country's people are mainly engaged in agriculture or related occupations. Therefore, more than half of the country's economy depends on the development of the agricultural sector. In a sense, the Indian economy is dependent on agriculture. India has a total of 28 constituent states and 8 Union Territories. Among them, Maharashtra is known as a progressive and very important component of the country's economy. In the economy of Maharashtra, all the three sectors namely agriculture, industry and services have developed rapidly.

There are 36 districts and 355 talukas in Maharashtra. Among them, Latur is a very important district. This district is situated in the Balaghat hill range and is blessed with historical heritage. The district has large markets for agricultural commodities at the towns of Latur, Udgir. Also, there are sub-markets for agricultural products at Ausa, Nilanga And Killari. The economy of Latur district is dependent on agriculture, just like Maharashtra. According to the 2011 census, 42.66 percent of the total working population are farmers, agricultural laborers and other workers. Agriculture in the district is completely dependent on nature. Because Latur district falls in the irregular rainfall belt, crops are grown in both the Kharif and Rabi seasons in this district. But the yield of kharif crops is more Compared to rabi. The district has large agricultural commodity markets in the towns of Latur, Udgir. A large number of agricultural products are imported into the markets of Latur and Udgir, industries that process them are also established in large numbers and While studying the agriculture of Latur district for the said research paper, the main crop area and production is studied. Also, for this, the change in the area and production of the main crop in Latur district in the years 2010-11 and 2020-21 has been studied. Major crop area and production in Latur district has been analyzed on the basis of the table and conclusions have been drawn.

Keywords : Market farming,

Study Area :

Latur district was formed on 16 August 1982 by bifurcating Osmanabad district. The latitudinal extent of Latur district is $18^{\circ} 5'$ to $18^{\circ} 7'$ north latitude and the longitudinal extent is $73^{\circ} 25'$ to $77^{\circ} 25'$ east longitude. The area of this district is 7,157 sq km. The population of this district as per 2011 census is 24,54,196. The literacy rate of this district is 79.03%. There are total 10 talukas in Latur district. Latur, Ahmedpur, Udgir, Nilanga, Ausa, Renapur, Chakur, Devani, Jalkot and Shirur Anantpal etc.

Objective of the study:

- 1.To study the major crops of Latur district between the year 2011 and 2021.
- 2.To study the area and production of major crops in Latur district between the year 2011 and 2021.

3. To study the change in area under major crops and production in Latur district between the year 2011 and 2021.

Research Methodology:

This Research paper is based on Secondary data. Published literature has been used in this paper, Latur District Gazetteer as well as Latur District Social and Economic Review Report 2010-11 and 2020-21 and appropriate statistical methods have been used to analyze the data obtained.

Table No.1. Change in major crops, area and production (Hectare in metric tones) of Latur District :

Sr. No.	Name of the Crops	Year (2010-2011)		Year (2020-2021)		Change in Year (2010-2011) to (2020-21)	
		Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
1.	Rice	6700	109.78	455	1410.36	-6245	-140926.22
2.	Wheat	41000	477.07	14339	199.35	-26661	-277.72
3.	Sorghum	151100	1091.91	54635	634.14	-96465	-1357.77
4.	Millets	4900	37.17	556	1.92	-4344	-35.25
5.	Maize	4900	-	4602	49.46	-298	-
6.	Total Cereals	203749	1712.93	74769	884.88	-128.980	-828.05
7.	Total Food cereals	458976	-	46095	5428.01	-412881	-
8.	Harbara	75100	464.95	27594	3085.63	-47506	262068
9.	Toor	9300	866.89	8892	1292.45	-408	425.56
10.	Mung	26900	158.19	11860	82.71	-15040	-75.48
11.	Udid	60200	466.29	9405	82.34	-50795	-383.95
12.	Total Pulses	255227	1956.32	386190	4543.13	130963	2586.83
13.	Peanut	2200	67.50	1084	10.86	-1116	-56.64
14.	Sunflower	26600	461.56	179	2.50	-26421	-459.06
15.	Soyabean	186300	-	4599	7804.52	-179701	-
16.	Total Oil Seeds	226500	544.34	467539	7855.57	241039	7311.23
17.	Sugercane	40300	2378.50	5678	39.58	-34622	-2338.92
18.	Coton	4600	47.99	8330	32.82	3730	-15.11

Source : Directorate of Economics and statistics Economic and Social Review Report Year 2010-2011 to 2020-2021, Mumbai.

Analysis

Areas under of Cultivation :

According to the year 2020-21, the total geographical area of Latur district is 7,15,054 hectares out of which the forest covered area is 4,166 hectares. Among them, the non-agricultural land area under non-agricultural use is 10,748 hectares. The fallow and uncultivable land is 25,077 hectares. The total non-cultivable land is 35,825 hectares. The total uncultivated land other than fallow land is 22,203 hectares. In fallow land, continuous fallow land is 26,367 hectares and other fallow land is 6,336 hectares, making the total fallow land 32,703 hectares. The net cultivated land

area in the district is 6,09,029 hectares and the dusota land area is 3,11,458 hectares. The total area of such cultivable land is 6,63,935 hectares. The total area under cultivation including dusota and net area is 9,20,487 hectares. Such a condition is seen in the cultivated area of the district. The topic of this research paper is Geographical study of major crops and production changes in Latur district and for this purpose the main crop area of the year 2010-11 to 2020-21 has been taken. In this, out of the total geographical area of Latur district, the area under major crop, in hectare the total production of crop has been taken in metric tonnes. Also the change in area and production of major crops is shown in table no.1.

Major crops and production :

Mainly whole grain crops like rice, wheat, sorghum, millet and maize are grown in Latur district. In Table No.1, the area under rice crop in the year 2010-11 is 6,700 hect. And production is seen as 109.78 MT. In the year 2020-21, the area of this crop of rice is 455 hect. And the production is seen to be 1410.36 million tons. Among them, 6,245 hect. is the rice crop in the decade 2020-21. A decrease in area is observed while production is observed to decrease by 140926.22 MT. Thus, when the area and production of rice crop is studied in both decades, the area of this crop is more in the year 2010-11 but the production is less. So in the year 2020-21, the area of that crop is less but the production is higher, because the effect of change in agricultural technology is visible year by year. As given in the table no.1 the area under wheat crop is 41,000 hect. In year 2010-11. So the production is seen as 109.78 MT. The area under this crop in the year 2020-21 is 14,339 hect. So the production is seen as 199.35 MT. In this, decade 26661 hect. of this crop in this decade. A decrease in area shows 277.72 MT. decrease in production. This shows that there has been a huge decrease in wheat production and area in the year 2020-21.

Table No. 1. The area under sorghum in the year 2010-11 is 151100 hect., and the production is 1091.91 MT. So in the year 2020-21 it is 14339 hect. There is so much area. So the production is seen as 634.14 MT. 96465 hect. decreased in sorghum the decade. A decrease in area shows a decrease in production of 634.14 Mt. When we study the sorghum crop in the decade, the area and production of this crop is decreasing year by year.

As per Table No.1, the area under cereal crops of Bajra and Maize is the same i.e. 4900 hect., in the year 2010-11. The production of millet is 37.17 MT. So in the year 2020-21 millet production is 1.92 MT and the area appears is 556 hect. In the same decade, the area of maize was 4602 hectares, So the production was 49.46 MT. Millets is 4344 hect. as per the decade 2020-21. There is a decrease in the area 298 hect. in maize production area. While the production of millet has decreased by 35.25 MT.

In the year 2010-11, the total area under cereal crop in Latur district was 203749 hect. If the production is 1712.93 Mt in the year 2020-21 the area of this crop is 74769 hect. So the production is seen as 5428.01 MT. Year 2020-21 as per decade of food grains is 128980 hect. A decrease in area shows a decrease in production of 828.05 MT. The total cereal area is decreasing year by year. Because the majority of the farmers are more inclined towards cash crops.

Give in the table no.1 the total area under this food grain crop in the year 2011 is 458976 hect., So in the year 2020-21 the area of this crop is 54635 hect. The production was 634.15 MT. In the year 2020-21, there is a decrease of 412881 hect. in area and 5428.01 mt in production of this crop.

According to the decade 2010-11, the total amount of food grains has decreased. In the decade of 2010-11, the area and production of these crops is found to be high as most of the farmers gave importance to food grains, but in the year 2020-21, it is seen that the amount has decreased.

As per Table No. 1, Gram, Tur, Udid, Mung are the main pulse crops grown in the district in the year 2010-11. It can be seen that the production of Gram 464.95 Mt, Tur 866.89 Mt, Mung 158.19 Mt, Udi 666.29 Mt is observed in this decade. In the year 2020-21 Gram 27594 hect., Tur 8892 ha., Mung 11860 ha., Udid 9405 hect., area appears under these crops. So in this decade the production of this crop is observed as Gram 3085.63 Mt, Tur 1292.45 Mt, Mung 82.71 Mt, Udid 82.34 Mt. In the year 2010-11, the total area under pulses was 255227 hect., And the production is seen as 1956.32 MT and the total area under this crop in 2020-21 is 386190 hect., And the production is seen as 4543.13 Mt. In the year 2020-21, the total area under pulses has increased by 130963 hectares and the production has increased by 2586.83 million tons. In this decade, the area under pulses and production have increased as compared to the year 2010-11. Mainly, groundnut, sunflower, soybean, sorghum and total oilseed crops are grown in Latur district.

In Table No.1, was used for in the year 2010-11 is groundnut 2200 hect, sunflower 26600 hect., soybean 184300 hect., While the production of groundnut is 67.50 MT, sunflower is 461.56MT. So in the year 2020-21 groundnut 1084 hect., sunflower is 179 hect, soybean 4599 hect. In the year 2020-21 the area under groundnut oil seed crop is 1116 hect., Sunflower is 26441 hect., Soybean is 17970 hect., This increase took place because of the view looking at it as a cash crop. The area appears under the crop. In the year 2020-21, groundnut under oilseed crop is 1116 ha., sunflower 26441 ha., soybean 179701 hect.

Given in the table no 1., Sugarcane is a cash crop of Latur of the district. Table No.1 the area of this crop in the year 2010-11 was 40300 hect. And the production was seen as 2378.50 MT while the area of this crop in 2020-21 is 56.78 hect. And the production was seen as 39.58 MT. from 34622 hect., under this crop in the year 2020-21. The area appears to be reduced. Whereas in this decade, the production of sugarcane has decreased by 2338.92 Mt as the production of this crop is mostly taken in irrigated areas.

As per the table no.1 the area under cotton crop in the year 2010-11 is 4600 hect., and the production was seen as 47.99 MT., In 2020-21 the area under cotton crop increased by 3730 hect., So

Thus in Latur district in the year 2010-11, the area and production of cereal crops such as rice, wheat, sorghum, millet, maize was the highest, while in the year 2020-21, the area and production under this crop has decreased. Also, during this decade, the area and production of Soybean, Harbara, Tur crops are found to be more. It is observed that the production and area of sugarcane crop is decreasing. In recent times, due to the irregularity of rainfall and the continuous decrease in ground water level, the tendency of farmers in Latur district to take up sugarcane crop is decreasing.

Conclusion:

1) In the present research paper, the area and production of total cereal crops such as rice, wheat, sorghum, millet, maize in Latur district in the year 2010-11 and 2020-21 is seen decreasing year by year. Because there has been an increase in the trend of farmers towards cultivating cash crops rather than cereal crops.

2) Sorghum area in 2010-11 is 151100 ha and production is 1091.91 mt. The production of sorghum was seen to be the highest in this decade. In the same decade, the production of millet, cotton groundnut have decreased by 37.17MT., 47.99MT., 67.50MT. Respectively.

3) The year 2020-21 shows the highest production of soybean crop. The area under this crop was 4599hect.,and the production was7804 MT. Because this crop does not need much rain. Means this crop is vigorous with less irrigation. In the year 2010-11, the production and area of this crop was found to be less. Because soybeans are being cultivated in large quantities in recent times.

4) In the year 2020-21, it was observed that the lowest production of Bajra1.92 Mt, Sunflower 2.50 Mt, Groundnut 10.36 Mt, Cotton 32.82 Mt. At the same time, there is a big decrease in their area.

5) Harbara (3085.63 Mt) and Tur (1292.45 Mt) crop production increased in the year 2020-21, during this decade Harbara increased by 262068 Mt, Tur by 425.56 Mt. Although harbara and tur are traditional crops, the demand for this crop has increased in recent times. Also pulses are the most widely used crops in daily life. So it was seen that the area of this crop is increasing year by year.

6) In the year 2010-11 the area under sugarcane crop was more. The area of this crop was 40300hect.,And the production was seen as 2378.50 MT while the sugarcane area was 5678 in the year 2020-21. While the production was seen to be 39.58 M.tons, it is seen that the production of sugarcane is decreasing year by year.

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