

TRENDS OF INTER BLOCK DISPARITIES IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY ON DISTRICT GARHWAL

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ABSTRACT

The present paper seeks to examine trends of inter block disparities in agricultural development in fifteen block of district Garhwal. To measure the trends of regional disparities in agricultural development we have taken 10 indicators and three following methods; method of percent proportional standardized mean and composite index of development, Balance ratio, Index of regional imbalance. The analysis made in study suggests that there is high degree of imbalance in the economy of district Garhwal and its reduction demands for adoption of micro-level or area based planning would take proper care of the diversities of different areas and reduce them. Area planning implies close identification of activities suitable to a particular area and capable of absorbing local labour surpluses.

Keywords: Agricultural Development, Inter-block disparities, Garhwal

INTRODUCTION

The economy of District Garhwal is predominantly based on agricultural and its related activities, as a consequence population in the region is mainly depending on agricultural activities both for livelihood and employment but agricultural economy is unable to provide regular and gainful employment opportunities to the labor force and adequate income to the households which are engaged in it. Yet the pressure of population is consistently increasing on agriculture due to non availability of employment and source of income generation outside agricultural economy. Agriculture in the district is characterized by limited agricultural land potential, scarcity of cultivated land, dominance of dry farming and low proportions covered by irrigation facilities. The levels of agricultural productivity and income are cumulatively depressed by the preponderance of small holding, their fragmentation and sub divisions, by the prevalence of the terrace farming systems prohibiting both in time and energy, by the scattered fields and extensive cultivation and by the pressure of population on land together with high levels of underemployment and unemployment¹. The agricultural products that are supplied to

satisfy human wants and the land labour and capital with which to produce them are vital agricultural resources². Pattern of agriculture in the district is very old. The innovations in agriculture could not be applied by all farmers due to many reasons. To maintain the fertility of soil, a definite order of cropping system is found everywhere. The farmers have been practicing crop rotation since an only all over the district form practical experience. They have had various crop rotations to suiting to local conditions. This pattern differs from place to place, in accordance with, what the physical condition and dictate. The geographical and agro-economic features make this region a distinct socio-economic entity³. Disparities in agricultural productivity and thereafter, incomes between different regions and states may arise from differences in (1) social and cultural traits, organization and institutions (2) development policies pursued and public sector investments made in agricultural works by the states⁴.

METHODOLOGY

In order to make the results comparable of the selected points of time, fifteen blocks of district Garhwal have been selected for the present analysis.

Major Indicators:-To measure the trends of inter-block disparities in agricultural development we have taken 10 indicators, these indicators are as follows-

1. Percent of net irrigated Area to net sown Area.
2. Percent of gross irrigated area to gross sown area.
3. Percent of gross sown area to net sown area
4. Percent of gross irrigated area to net irrigated area.
5. Per capita output to food grains (Quintal).
6. Percent of forest area to total reporting area.
7. Per hectare use of fertilizers (kg).
8. Number of Bio-gas per 100 villages.
9. Number of primary agricultural credit institutions per 100 villages.
10. Number of livestock per 100 villagers.

Data for the present study is based on the secondary data collected from Statistical department of District Garhwal. There is very poor state of availability of data at block level in district Garhwal, hence only a limited number of indicators have been used in the present study. The study covers the period for 1981 to 2000-01. 1981 has been selected as primary year because the same year is providing the block level data

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Index of Regional Imbalance.

Table-3 shows the degree of imbalances of different block of district Garhwal for period 1981-90 and 1991-2000.

Table-3 Index of regional imbalance of Agricultural Development in fifteen blocks of District Garhwal.

S.N.	Blocks	Index of Regional Imbalance		% of Change
		1981-90	1991-2000	
1.	Pauri	37.88	47.21	24.63
2.	Kot	38.42	36.04	-6.19
3.	Khirsu	30.61	31.57	3.14
4.	Pabau	30.23	25.34	-16.17
5.	Thalisain	39.54	29.26	-25.99
6.	Kaljikhhal	39.83	33.37	-16.22
7.	Rikhnikhal	31.64	20.54	-35.08
8.	Bironkhal	28.03	25.26	-9.88
9.	Pokhra	33.89	35.05	3.42
10.	Dwarikhhal	41.82	32.4	-22.52
11.	Jaiharikhhal	27.11	24.91	-8.11
12.	Nainidanda	30.53	27.94	-8.48
13.	Ekeswar	28.71	30.12	4.91
14.	Yamkeshwar	25.57	26.61	4.06
15.	Dugadda	306.02	246	-19.61
	District	85.39	70.24	-17.74

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