

Foodgrain Area and Production

8.13 In the 10 year period 1990-2000, foodgrains area has ranged between 123 million ha. to 130 million ha., the inter-year variation being influenced by weather conditions. The country has thus reached a plateau in so far as area devoted to foodgrains production is concerned. Any increase in foodgrains production in the country has therefore, to come through increase in productivity. The trend in respect of area, production and productivity of foodgrains is given in Table 8.5.

8.14 Within foodgrains, rice with 42 to 45 million ha. area (about one third of foodgrains area), and wheat with 25 to 27 million ha. area (about one fifth of foodgrains area) have gained at the cost of coarse cereal area, which is now 29 million ha. as compared with 40 million ha. in the 1980s. The area under pulses has

remained stagnant at about 21 to 23 million ha. for over thirty years.

| Year | Area (Million hectares) | Production (Million tonnes) | Productivity (Kg./ha.) |
|-------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1950-51 | 97.3 | 50.8 | 522 |
| 1960-61 | 115.6 | 82.0 | 710 |
| 1970-71 | 124.3 | 108.4 | 872 |
| 1980-81 | 126.7 | 129.6 | 1023 |
| 1990-91 | 127.8 | 176.4 | 1380 |
| 1997-98 | 123.8 | 192.3 | 1552 |
| 1998-99 | 129.6 | 203.5 | 1571 |
| 1999-2000* | 123.1 | 208.9 | 1697 |

* Anticipated.