

Agricultural production and growth in 2005-06

8.6 Prospects of agricultural production in 2005-06 are considered to be bright with near normal rainfall. The delayed monsoon and its somewhat uneven distribution over time and space had some limited adverse impact on the kharif crops (sown in June-July and grown mainly under unirrigated conditions). Coarse grains, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and plantation were affected the most, while the impact was less on the production of rice and sugarcane, where access to irrigation is the

greatest. However, loss of kharif crop is expected to be compensated by the rabi output. Total food grains production is estimated to increase marginally in 2005-06.

8.7 Horticulture, floriculture, fishery, poultry and animal husbandry, which account for 30 per cent of production in agriculture and allied sectors, are expected to achieve a growth rate of 6 per cent. Production of commercial crops like jute, tea, coffee, oilseeds and sugarcane is also expected to increase, although by a lower rate. Consequently, overall value added in the primary sector is expected to increase by 3 per cent in 2005-06.