

Agricultural Production and Growth in 2006-07

8.7 Agriculture, and especially a variety of crops produced under diverse climatic situations in different cropping systems, supports 115.5 million farm families. Rice-wheat is the main cropping system of Indo-Gangetic Plains in North-West and North-East Regions, while monoculture of rice is prevalent on the coastal belt of Eastern and Southern States. Cotton-based cropping system dominates in rainfed conditions of Central (Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra), Southern (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) and Western (Gujarat) regions and irrigated areas of Northern (Punjab and Haryana) and Western (Rajasthan) regions. Sugarcane is predominantly grown in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

8.8 The distribution of farm holdings is dominated by small and marginal farmers. Rainfed agriculture constitutes about 60 per cent of the net sown area. These areas are the major domain of oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals production. The intensity and distribution of rainfall determine the crop prospects in a majority of the areas. Heavy rains during August-September 2006 in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan led to inundation/flooding in several parts of the States affecting a sizeable area of crops.

8.9 Late monsoon rains during September in several States have not only brightened production prospects of kharif crops but also triggered early sowing of crops on residual moisture during rabi, especially of wheat in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. In view of this factor, target for foodgrains production for 2006-07 has been fixed at 220 million tonnes (MT) (Table 8.5).

Table 8.5 : Agriculture Production Targets for 2006-07

<i>(Million tonnes)</i>			
Name of the Crop	Kharif	Rabi	Total
Rice	80.78	12.02	92.80
Wheat	-	75.53	75.53
Jowar	4.28	3.33	7.61
Bajra	8.55	-	8.55
Maize	12.54	2.85	15.39
Ragi	2.79	-	2.79
Barley	-	1.65	1.65
Small Millets	0.53	-	0.53
Total Coarse			
Cereals	28.69	7.83	36.52
Total Pulses	5.78	9.37	15.15
Total Foodgrains	115.25	104.75	220.00
Cotton*	185.00	-	185.00
Jute**	101.20	-	101.20
Mesta**	11.60	-	11.60
Sugarcane	-	-	270.0
* Lakh bales of 170 kgs each			
** Lakh bales of 180 kgs each			