

Agriculture and Food Management

Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy because of its high share in employment and livelihood creation notwithstanding its reduced contribution to the nation's GDP. The share of agriculture in the gross domestic product has registered a steady decline from 36.4 per cent in 1982-83 to 18.5 per cent in 2006-07. Yet this sector continues to support more than half a billion people providing employment to 52 per cent of the workforce. It is also an important source of raw

material and demand for many industrial products, particularly fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural implements and a variety of consumer goods. Growth of agriculture over a period of time remained lower than the growth in non-agriculture sectors and this decelerating trend is cause for concern (Table 7.1). The gap between the growth of agriculture and non-agriculture sector began to widen since 1981-82, and more particularly since 1996-97, because of an acceleration in the growth of industry and services sectors.

Table 7.1 Average GDP growth rates of agriculture and other sectors at 1999-2000 prices (per cent)

Period		Total economy	Agriculture & allied	Crops & livestock	Non-agriculture
Pre-Green Revolution	1951-52 to 1967-68	3.7	2.5	2.7	4.9
Green Revolution period	1868-69 to 1980-81	3.5	2.4	2.7	4.4
Wider technology dissemination period	1981-82-1990-91	5.4	3.5	3.7	6.4
Early Reforms period	1991-92 to 1996-97	5.7	3.7	3.7	6.6
Ninth and Tenth Plan	1997-98 to 2006-07	6.6	2.5	2.5	7.9
	2005-06 to 2006-07	9.5	4.8	5.0	10.7