

Growth in Foodgrains Production

12. It has been realised that there are limits to increasing the foodgrains production through increase in area under cultivation because the country has almost reached a plateau in so far as cultivable land is concerned (Table 8.4). The

Year	Area (Million Hectares)	Production (Million tonnes)
1950-51	97.32	50.82
1960-61	115.58	82.02
1970-71	124.32	108.42
1980-81	126.67	129.59
1990-91	127.84	176.39
1997-98	124.00	192.43
1998-99	NA	195.25

contribution of high yielding varieties which has been the basis of green revolution in Seventies has now plateaued and there is hardly any fresh contribution to growth in yields. There is a new awareness that a substantial proportion of food

crop output is lost after harvest. 'A grain saved is grain produced' should be India's motto as ten per cent of the foodgrains produced in the country is lost before it reaches the consumer.

Slowdown in Growth

13. Foodgrains production increased annually by 3.22 per cent during fifties mainly because of expansion in foodgrains area. Sixties recorded a low annual growth of 1.72 per cent necessitating large scale imports of foodgrains. Annual growth of 2.08 per cent was recorded during seventies. This decade was the turning point in the India's foodgrain economy and the path to self sufficiency was marked by the revolutionary changes in the seed technology that pushed up productivity levels first in wheat and, later in rice in the eighties.

14. An annual growth of 3.5 per cent in foodgrains in eighties is the hallmark of the green revolution that enabled India to become self sufficient in foodgrains and even a marginal exporter (Table 8.5). The decade of nineties could not maintain this pace and annual growth having fallen to 1.7 per cent is just about equal to annual population growth. This trend has to be reversed.

Crop	1950-51 to 1959-60	1960-61 to 1969-70	1970-71 to 1979-80	1980-81 to 1989-90	1990-91 to 1997-98
Rice	3.28	-8.05	1.91	4.29	1.53
Wheat	4.51	5.90	4.69	4.24	3.67
Coarse Cereals	2.75	1.48	0.74	0.74	(-) 0.49
Total cereals	3.0	2.51	2.37	3.63	1.84
Pulses	2.72	1.35	-0.54	2.78	0.76
Total Foodgrains	3.22	1.72	2.08	3.54	1.66