

Crop Performance 1998-99

8.6 The year 1998-99 witnessed the resurgence of the agriculture sector, which steered the overall growth of the economy of the country. For the first time foodgrains production has crossed the magical 200 million tonnes mark and touched 203 million tonnes, a new record impressive 5.6 per cent gain over the previous year's level. Wheat production reached 70.8 million tonnes, a 6.7 per cent gain over previous year. The production of coarse cereals also increased by 1.1 million tonnes to 31.5 million tonnes. Pulses production of 14.8 million tonnes was much better and represented a recovery from a low of 13 million tonnes in

the preceding year. Oilseeds production increased to 25.2 million tonnes from 21.3 million tonnes during last year registering an increase of 18 per cent over previous year. Sugarcane production emerged out of its cyclic phase of low growth to reach a new high of 295.7 million tonnes as against 279.5 million tonnes. Cotton production, affected by aberrant climatic conditions, at 12.2 million bales was better than previous year by 1.3 million bales but about 2 million bales less than previous highest level. Jute and mesta could not maintain the general performance momentum and at 9.7 million bales production, fell short by about 1.3 million bales of the previous year's