

Growth In Foodgrains Production

8.11 There are limits to increasing production through area expansion as the country has almost reached a plateau in so far as cultivable land is concerned. Hence the emphasis has to be on increasing productivity levels. The area under foodgrains has more or less remained constant at around 125 million hectares since 1970-71. However, due to aberrant weather conditions during the current year, the area is likely to go down to 123.3 million hectares. An increase in production, thus, reflects gains in productivity (Table 8.5).

| Year | Area (Million hectares) | Production (Million tonnes) | Production per hectare (Kgs) |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1950-51 | 97.32 | 50.82 | 522 |
| 1960-61 | 115.58 | 82.02 | 710 |
| 1970-71 | 124.32 | 108.42 | 872 |
| 1980-81 | 126.67 | 129.59 | 1023 |
| 1990-91 | 127.84 | 176.39 | 1380 |
| 1997-98 | 123.85 | 192.26 | 1552 |
| 1998-99 | 125.36 | 203.04 | 1620 |
| 1999-2000* | 123.31 | 199.06 | 1614 |

* Anticipated.

8.12 Overall growth rate decelerated to 1.80 per cent per annum during the decade of nineties which is just about equal to annual population growth and therefore, is a matter of concern. Annual growth in wheat continues to be robust but in rice it tapered off in Nineties after fairly high growth in Eighties. Whereas decline in coarse cereals output is understandable because of substitution effect, failure in improving growth in pulses is quite a setback (Table 8.6).

| Crop | 1967-68 to 1979-80 | 1979-80 to 1989-90 | 1989-90 to 1998-99* |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Rice | 1.99 | 4.29 | 1.60 |
| Wheat | 5.68 | 4.24 | 3.62 |
| Coarse Cereals | 0.67 | 0.74 | -0.48 |
| Total cereals | 2.47 | 3.63 | 1.88 |
| Pulses | -0.44 | 2.78 | 1.19 |
| Foodgrains | 2.02 | 3.54 | 1.80 |

* Provisional.
Note : Exponential function using least square method has been used to obtain the compound growth rates.