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OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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GROWTH AND RESPONSE OF AGRICULTURE TO TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT IN INDIA (A STUDY OF POST GLOBALIZATION PERIOD)

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture plays the important role in the development of the country. A large number of studies reveal that the agricultural development during the post independence period has not been very smooth rather it has been highly variable in terms of growth of output and its contribution to the national income. The variability is attributed to a large number of factors. The factors which have been identified for agricultural growth mostly related to the policies with reference to investment and technology. The growth and response of agricultural variables of yield, production and contribution to GDP are analyzed with linear and exponential growth measures and the use of production function taking bivariate and stepwise regression analysis. The results show that there is an increase during the period with a declining rate. The three variables respond significantly i.e., irrigation, power consumption and fertilizer used to agricultural GDP, production and yield.

KEYWORDS

Agriculture, Growth, Response, Deceleration.

INTRODUCTION

griculture sector has played pivotal role in the process of economic development and hence Indian planners have emphasized on the development of agricultural and allied sector right from the beginning of the economic planning process (Manoj Kamat et. al., 2007). As a result though it witnessed more than four fold increase in foodgrains production over time, but gradually in the general economic development process the sector lost its focus due to it's corroding contribution in the national income (Lewis, 1954 and Syrgnin, 1988). The share of agriculture to Gross Domestic Product in India declined from 55 percent in 1951 to the level of 13.52 percent in 2007-08 but employment in the sector remained unchanged. New economic policy of 1991 followed by the compulsions of WTO brought further structural changes in the Indian agriculture. The performance of the economy is though crucially depended on agriculture but the sector experienced the sharp deceleration in terms growth terms in recent past.

REVIEW OF LITRATURE

Tripathi and Prasad (2009) showed that growth of agriculture and its sub sectors except forestry have experienced continuous decline during the post – WTO period. Similar results of declining growth rate in Indian agriculture were observed by other agriculture economists since the 1990s, especially during the last several years (Alagh 2004; Bhalla 2004; and Gulati 2004), and agricultural production has started experiencing a decline in recent years (Bhalla 2006 and Vaidyanathan 2010). Bhalla (2007), Suri (2006) and Jayati Ghose (2001) found in their empirical studies that the most important reason for the deceleration in the growth of agriculture during the 1990s is decline in the public and overall investment in agriculture and withdrawal of subsidies from increasing the charges of water, electricity, fertilizer and other farming inputs. Kalirajan et.al. (2001) give two other important reasons for the slowing the output growth are there was no major breakthrough new high yielding variety seeds and decline in the environmental quality of land which reduced the marginal productivity of the modern inputs.

The share of gross capital formation in agriculture has also declined. The study of Biswajit Dhar and Murli Kallumal (2004) concluded that the through out the 1990s the share of agriculture in Gross Capital Formation has remained in single digits, which explains the slacking of growth momentum during the past decades.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The declining contribution of agriculture and stagnating foodgrains production are the cause of concern to the agricultural economists. Present paper intends to explore the growth trends in agriculture and the general response to agricultural technology and investment in agriculture sector. The main objectives of the present study are:

- To measure the growth trends of foodgrains production and yield after the globalization and
- To estimate the responsiveness of agricultural GDP, foodgrains production and yield to technology and investment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data, obtained from the handbook on Indian Statistics published by Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, for the period of 1990-91 to 2007-08. The growth rates are estimated with the help of linear, exponential and quadratic functions. Modified Cob Douglas production function is used for the measurement of responsiveness like other studies of Kata (1990), Chadha (1978), Bagi (1980), Mathur, Pattnayak and Nayak (2005), Das and Sircar (2006) and M.K. Sekhon et. al. (2010).

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

GROWTH OF PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

The production of foodgrains in India was 50 million tons in 1950 and faced acute shortage of foodgrains until mid - sixties. It is the Green Revolution during sixties only which brought foodgrains situation to a comfortable level but the growth gradually slowed down. The foodgrains production is increased during the post globalisation period but the pace of growth declined. The production of foodgrains was 168.38 million tons in 1991-92 which increased and reached the level of 199.44 in 1996-1997. In the ninth five year plan (1997 – 2002) government emphasized on building of the food stock to meet the increasing the demand and succeeded to increase but the production of foodgrains from 192.96 million tons at beginning and reached to 212.85 million tons at the end of the plan. In the next five year foodgrains production constantly increased to reach 230.78 million tons in 2007 – 08. The table gives the production of major crops.

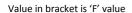
TABLE 1: PRODUCTION OF MAJOR CROPS FROM 1990-91 TO 2007-08 (In million tons)

Year	Paddy	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Total Cereals	Pluses	Oilseeds	Foodgrains
1990-91	74.29	55.14	32.70	162.13	14.26	18.61	176.39
1991-92	74.68	55.69	25.99	156.36	12.02	18.60	168.38
1992-93	72.86	57.21	36.59	166.66	12.82	20.11	179.48
1993-94	80.30	59.84	30.82	170.96	13.30	21.50	184.26
1994-95	81.81	65.77	29.88	177.46	14.04	21.34	191.50
1995-96	76.98	62.10	29.03	168.11	12.31	22.11	180.42
1996-97	81.74	69.35	34.10	185.19	14.24	24.38	199.44
1997-98	82.53	66.35	30.40	179.29	12.98	21.32	192.26
1998-99	86.08	71.29	31.34	188.70	14.91	24.75	203.61
1999-00	89.68	76.37	30.33	196.39	13.42	20.72	209.80
2000-01	84.98	69.68	31.08	185.74	11.08	18.44	196.81
2001-02	93.34	72.77	33.38	199.48	13.37	20.66	212.85
2002-03	71.82	65.76	26.07	163.65	11.13	14.84	174.77
2003-04	88.53	72.16	37.60	198.28	14.91	25.19	213.19
2004-05	83.13	68.64	33.47	185.23	13.13	24.35	198.36
2005-06	91.79	69.35	34.07	195.20	13.39	27.98	208.60
2006-07	93.35	75.80	33.92	203.08	14.20	24.29	217.28
2007-08	96.69	78.57	40.75	216.02	14.76	28.83	230.78

Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2010, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

TABLE 2: GROWTH RATE OF PRODUCTION OF MAJOR CROPS

Crops	Equations	b ₀	b ₁	b ₂	R ²
Rice	Linear	98.9033	1.4329		0.560
		(20.35)			
	Quadratic	98.8544	1.4476	-0.0008	0.560
		(9.54)			
	Exponential	99.4127	0.0126		0.545
		(19.20)			
Wheat	Linear	103.073	2.0025		0.703
		(37.96)			
	Quadratic	94.8813	4.4599	-0.1293	0.766
		(24.56)			
	Exponential	103.463	0.0169		0.708
		(38.74)			
Coarse Cereals	Linear	89.8559	0.9410		0.194
		(3.84)			
	Quadratic	100.565	-2.2717	0.1691	0.327
		(3.64)			
	Exponential	89.9301	0.0092		0.183
		(3.59)			
Cereals	Linear	98.4960	1.5276		0.650
		(29.68)			
	Quadratic	97.8485	1.7218	-0.0102	0.650
		(13.95)			
	Exponential	99.0444	0.0135		0.645
		(29.08)			
Pulses	Linear	91.7174	0.2330		0.023
		(0.38)			
	Quadratic	95.9239	-1.0289	0.0664	0.063
	E	(0.50)	0.0022		0.010
	Exponential	91.5303	0.0023		0.019
Oilsoods	Linear	(0.31)	2.0020		0.300
Oilseeds	Linear	100.075	2.0020		0.299
	Quadratic	(6.83) 112.097	-1.6046	0.1898	0.356
	Quauratic	(4.15)	-1.0046	0.1096	0.556
	Exponential	101.580	0.0154		0.243
	LAPOHEHUIII	(5.14)	0.0134		0.243
Foodgrains	Linear	97.9469	1.4230		0.618
i oougi airis	Lilleai	(25.87)	1.4230		0.018
	Quadratic	97.6937	1.4989	-0.0040	0.618
	Quauratic	(12.13)	1.4303	-0.0040	0.018
	Exponential	98.4362	0.0127		0.611
	LAPONEIRIAI	(25.13)	0.0127		0.011
		(40.10)			





The growth trends show higher growth rates in superior crops compared to coarse grains. The production of pluses and oilseeds has increased marginally with high fluctuations during the study period. The growth rates of the production of superior crops are statistically significant. The growth rate of pluses and oilseeds are not significant. The quadratic function shows the deceleration trends for the production of all major crops.

GROWTH OF YIELD OF FOODGRAINS

The increase in production of agriculture depends only on the growth in the yield because the other two factors i.e.; land availability and multiple utilization of land are mostly constant. The yield of crops radically changed and increased many folds in the post green revolution period with the introduction of chemical fertilizer, and high yielding variety seeds.

The general conclusion about the yield of different crop is that it has not changed significantly during the post globalisation period. In 1991 the average yield of foodgrains was 1380 Kg per hectare that increased marginally only to the level of 1854 Kg. per hectare in 2007 -08 despite the several efforts. The close look at the yield of different crops shows that there is a significant change in yield of wheat and rice but the yield of coarse grains, pluses and oilseeds have almost remained unchanged.

TABLE 3: YIELD OF MAJOR CROPS AND TOTAL FOODGRAINS (Kg./hectare)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Total Cereals	Pulses	Oilseeds	Total Foodgrains
1990-91	1740	2281	900	1571	578	771	1380
1991-92	1751	2394	778	1574	533	719	1382
1992-93	1744	2327	1063	1654	573	797	1457
1993-94	1888	2380	939	1701	598	799	1501
1994-95	1911	2559	929	1763	610	843	1546
1995-96	1797	2483	940	1703	552	851	1491
1996-97	1882	2679	1072	1831	635	926	1614
1997-98	1900	2485	986	1775	567	816	1552
1998-99	1921	2590	1068	1856	634	944	1627
1999-00	1986	2778	1034	1925	635	853	1704
2000-01	1901	2708	1027	1844	544	810	1626
2001-02	2079	2762	1131	1980	607	913	1734
2002-03	1744	2610	966	1753	543	691	1535
2003-04	2077	2713	1221	1983	635	1064	1727
2004-05	1984	2602	1153	1903	577	885	1652
2005-06	2102	2619	1172	1968	598	1004	1715
2006-07	2131	2708	1182	2020	612	916	1756
2007-08	2203	2785	1415	2146	638	1086	1854

Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2010, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

TABLE 4: GROWTH RATE OF YIELD OF MAJOR CROPS

Crops	Equations	b ₀	b ₁	b ₂	R ²
Rice	Linear	98.8346	1.2724		0.668
		(32.18)			
	Quadratic	101.007	0.6206	0.0343	0.678
		(15.81)			
	Exponential	99.3201	0.0114		0.661
		(31.14)			
Wheat	Linear	103.252	1.0435		0.647
		(29.27)			
	Quadratic	97.4040	2.7979	-0.0923	0.755
		(23.05)			
	Exponential	103.303	0.0094		0.651
		(29.81)			
Coarse Cereals	Linear	93.4090	2.4975		.680
		(33.96)			
	Quadratic	100.322	0.4234	0.1092	.707
		(18.14)			
	Exponential	94.9612	0.0212		.683
		(34.45)			
Cereals	Linear	100.220	1.7159		0.826
		(76.22)			
	Quadratic	99.0342	2.0715	-0.0187	0.829
		(36.26)			
	Exponential	100.878	0.0148		0.828
		(77.14)			
Pulses	Linear	98.7245	0.4023		0.121
		(2.20)			
	Quadratic	97.9922	0.6220	-0.0116	0.123
		(1.05)			
	Exponential	98.6132	0.0039		0.120
		(2.18)			
Oilseeds	Linear	96.9673	1.6922		0.417
		(11.43)			
	Quadratic	100.154	0.7361	0.0503	0.425
		(5.53)			
	Exponential	97.8201	0.0145		0.397
		(10.54)			
Foodgrains	Linear	100.866	1.6094		0.800
		(64.04)			
	Quadratic	98.7326	2.2495	-0.0337	0.808
		(31.48)			
	Exponential	101.393	0.0140		0.800
		(64.10)			



The growth rates calculated for the yield of crops show similar trends to that of production of the crops. The growth rates of pluses and oilseeds are not significant rather they show deceleration in yield over time.

RESPONSE TO TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT

Development of agriculture depends on a prevailing economic, demographic, technological conditions and policies pursued by state. The growth of agriculture is not only depends on irrigation and fertilizer but it is also the combination of the other factors (A. Vadhiyanathan, 2010). The declining contribution of agriculture to GDP and stagnating yield and production of foodgrains are attributed to a large number of factors but investment is the prime factor which affects the technological use of inputs in agriculture. The post globalization period is said to be characterized by both the conditions and therefore, the conditions of marginalization are observed. The response of agricultural GDP, yield and production of foodgrains towards investment and technology are estimated with the help of bivariate and stepwise regression model.

TABLE 5: BIVARIATE REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL GDP

Name of independent variable		0		R ²
Name of independent variable	α	β	ι	ĸ
Gross irrigated Area	- 7.590	4.80*	15.55	0.937
Fertilizer consumption	- 2.397	2.27*	11.74	0.895
Electricity consumption	- 2.514	2.22*	7.92	0.797
High yielding variety seeds	- 0.427	1.259*	11.85	0.897
Capital formation	- 2.328	2.27*	8.74	0.826
Investment	0.275	0.911*	12.44	0.906
Plan outlays	0.955	0.606*	12.45	0.906

The bivariate production function for the agricultural GDP shows positive response to technological and investment variables. Technological variables namely irrigation, consumption of fertilizer, consumption of electricity and High Yielding Variety seeds show the positive relationship with the agricultural GDP and also significant at 1 percent level of significance. Of these variables gross irrigated area shows the highest elasticity (β = 4.80) and the consumption of fertilizer and High yielding variety seeds give the 89 percent explanation to the total variance but fertilizer consumption have higher level of elasticity (β = 2.27) in comparison to High Yielding Variety seeds (β = 1.259). Although the consumption of electricity has lower level of explanation but it has high response (β = 2.22) to the agricultural GDP. The macro economic variables which are government plan expenditure and investment explain 90 percent of the total variance with relatively low level of the β coefficient. The β coefficients for both the variables are 0.606 and 0.911 respectively. Though the capital formation only explain the 82 percent of the total variance but it has the higher level of elasticity (β = 2.27). The result of the analysis indicates that proper investment in the agriculture sector with optimum utilization of the technology will give higher level of returns and growth to agriculture.

TABLE 6: STEPWISE REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL GDP

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.967(a)	.934	.930	.05311
2	.984(b)	.968	.964	.03806
3	.995(c)	.991	.989	.02131
4	.995(d)	.990	.989	.02157

a Predictors: (Constant), gia

b Predictors: (Constant), gia, capital formation

c Predictors: (Constant), gia, capital formation, electricity consumption

d Predictors: (Constant), capital formation, electricity consumption

COEFFICIENTS (a)

COLITICIENTS (a)								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.		
		В	Std. Error	Beta				
1	(Constant)	-7.486	.654		-11.446	.000		
	gia	4.757	.315	.967	15.104	.000		
2	(Constant)	-4.171	.949		-4.397	.001		
	gia	2.847	.526	.579	5.413	.000		
	capital formation	.275	.068	.430	4.020	.001		
3	(Constant)	-1.684	.682		-2.469	.027		
	gia	.574	.489	.117	1.172	.261		
	capital formation	.375	.042	.587	8.937	.000		
	electricity consumption	.903	.155	.359	5.817	.000		
4	(Constant)	910	.172		-5.276	.000		
	capital formation	.416	.024	.650	17.274	.000		
	electricity consumption	1.048	.095	.417	11.083	.000		

a Dependent Variable: agri GDP

To avoid the problems of collinearity stepwise regression analysis is carried out to find out the core variables which affect the growth of agricultural gross domestic product. The result of the stepwise analysis shows that the gross irrigated area, capital formation and consumption of electricity for the purpose of agriculture are the most important variable for the growth of agricultural GDP. All these variables together explain 99.1 percent of the total variance. It clearly indicates that withdrawal of governmental investment will adversely affect the agricultural output.

The growth of gross value of agricultural output is the result of the increasing yield per hectare and contribution of foodgrains to the total output of agriculture covers major part of it. Though the yield of different crops vary significantly between the superior and course grain. Yet, it is assumed that the average yield of the foodgrains is also the result of aggregate technological inputs and investment in agriculture sector. The log linear bivariate regression analysis results reveal that the technological variable such as irrigation, fertilizer consumption, electricity and the coverage of high yielding variety seeds have the positive bearing and elasticities provide high level of explanation to the variability in the yield of foodgrains. Irrigation emerges as highest explanatory variable followed by fertilizer consumption and high yielding variety seeds. The bearing of investment in agriculture and plan outlays also shows high level explanation to the yield. The coefficients of (R²) and 't' values also confirm the significant relationship.

^{*1} percent level of significant

TABLE 7: BIVARIATE REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF YIELD OF FOODGRAINS

Name of the independent variable	α	β	t	R ²
Gross irrigated Area	0.298	0.850*	12.136	0.902
Fertilizer consumption	1.242	0.390*	8.263	0.810
Electricity consumption	1.244	0.370*	5.880	0.683
High yielding variety seeds	1.587	0.212*	7.732	0.788
Capital formation	1.822	0.102*	7.712	0.788
Investment	1.273	0.380*	6.301	0.712
Plan outlays	1.698	0.157*	8.799	0.828

^{*1} percent level of significance

In the stepwise regression irrigation emerge as a sole variable which affect the yield of the foodgrains. It means that irrigation is the most important variable for increasing the yield of the foodgrains. It explains the 85 percent of the total variance and regression coefficient is significant at 1 percent level of significance. The production of foodgrains also reveals similar result. The increase in yield per hectare is directly related to increasing foodgrains output because the area under cultivation and double cropped area have remained constant during this period.

TABLE 8: BIVARIATE REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

Name of the independent variable	α	β	t	R^2
Gross irrigated Area	0.318	0.831	7.89*	0.795
Fertilizer consumption	1.247	0.379	6.201*	0.706
Electricity consumption	1.282	0.345	4.395*	0.547
High yielding variety seeds	1.597	0.200	5.354*	0.641
Capital formation	1.823	0.093	5.047*	0.614
Investment	1.310	0.353	4.589*	0.568
Plan outlays	1.696	0.150	6.112*	0.70

^{* 1} percent level of significance

The bivariate regression analysis results confirms the fact that the technological and investment variables have positive bearing on the increasing foodgrains output. The close examination of the results reveals that the coefficients of foodgrains production come out to be lower than the coefficient of yield. The variance explained individually by all the variables varies between 50 to 80 percent, though the order of explanation remains mostly unchanged. The core variable for the production and yield of foodgrains is gross irrigated area in stepwise regression and it gives same level of explanation to bivariate regression analysis.

CONCLUSION

The post globalization period is marked with the deceleration in agricultural growth foodgrains production, contribution to GDP, yield of different crops. Oilseeds and pluses show no change in terms of yield and production. The technological and investment variables show a positive bearing on the foodgrains production with significant response. Bhalla and Singh (2001) have also noted that the investment in irrigation and tubewells, and additional use of fertilizers and HYV seeds have helped in raising the productivity. They also found higher production elasticities to fertilizers, tubewells, tractors and irrigation. Desai and Namboodiri (1997) have also found that factors like HYV seeds and fertilizer have greater influence on the growth of agricultural productivity in India. Mathur and Das (2006) also concluded that the investment by government in agriculture sector, subsidy, agricultural prices and usage of electricity are the significant factors that decide the production flow of Indian agriculture. The results of the present analysis identify the irrigation; fertilizer and power consumption are the most important variables to which agriculture responds in India.

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