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# CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	JOB SATISFACTION AS MEDIATOR IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORK SPIRITUALITY AND PERFORMANCE: A CASE STUDY OF EMPLOYEE'S SHARIA BANKING SECTOR IN SURAKARTA DISTRICT, INDONESIA <i>ACHMAD CHOERUDIN, TULUS HARYONO &amp; MUHAMMAD CHOLIL</i>	1
2.	WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT: AN ANALYSIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SMALL URBAN INDIA <i>DR. SUJIT ROY &amp; DR. SAMITA MANNA</i>	8
3.	ERP APPLICATION IN INDIAN INDUSTRIES: AN ANALYSIS WITH RESPECT TO MANUFACTURING UNITS IN PONDICHERRY <i>DR. D. ARAVAZHI IRISSAPPANE &amp; S. YASODHA</i>	13
4.	INFLUENCE OF ADVERTISING IN MEDIA ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF YOUNG INDIAN CONSUMERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ORGANIZED FAST FOOD OUTLETS <i>DEEPAK ASHOKKUMAR &amp; DR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN</i>	20
5.	NATURE BASED TOURISM AND PROTECTED AREA (PA) MANAGEMENT <i>U.N. SHUKLA &amp; ALTAF AHMAD LONE</i>	24
6.	PRODUCTION TREND OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN BANGLADESH <i>MD. RASHIDUL HASAN, M. S. RAHMAN &amp; D. C. ACHARJEE</i>	29
7.	APPRAISAL OF SOCIAL MEDIA AS A STRATEGIC MARKETING TOOL <i>AAKRITI CHAUDHRY &amp; ASHIMA SHARMA</i>	33
8.	A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF INDIA-JAPAN BILATERAL TRADE: A TRADE INTENSITY APPROACH <i>P. SUNDAR RAJ &amp; DR. B. AMBROSE</i>	36
9.	TALENT MANAGEMENT AS A NEVER-ENDING WAR FOR TALENT: AN ANALYSIS <i>DR. R. UMA DEVI</i>	39
10.	A STUDY ON HUMAN RESOURCE ACCOUNTING <i>DR. CIRAPPA. I. B &amp; MUTTESHA. N</i>	46
11.	DETERMINANTS OF TOBACCO OUTPUT IN ZIMBABWE <i>DESMOND NDEDZU, VIMBAYI KETERO, TAMUKA MUKURA, TENDAI MAKOVA &amp; EDGAR MUHOYI</i>	53
12.	NATURAL RESOURCE ENDOWMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AN OIL EXPORTING COUNTRY: THE CASE OF NIGERIA <i>ALALADE S. A. &amp; EJUMEDIA P. E.</i>	59
13.	CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR WITH REFERENCE TO HOME APPLIANCES IN TIRUVARUR TOWN <i>R. AYYAPPAN &amp; DR. P.ASOKAN</i>	65
14.	SELF HELP GROUP-BANK LINKAGE PROGRAMME AS AN INSTRUMENT OF ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT OF POOR WOMEN OF ASSAM: A CASE STUDY OF RAHA BLOCK OF NAGAON DISTRICT <i>SUMIT DEY, LAKHIMI NATH &amp; PRIYAM KALITA</i>	68
15.	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SCENARIO IN INDIA <i>THOTA AMRUTHA VALLI &amp; T.RANGA VALLI</i>	73
	<b>REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK &amp; DISCLAIMER</b>	76

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**PRODUCTION TREND OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN BANGLADESH****MD. RASHIDUL HASAN****ASST. PROFESSOR****DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS & MARKETING****SHER-E BANGLA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY****DHAKA****M. S. RAHMAN****ASST. PROFESSOR****DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE****SHER-E BANGLA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY****DHAKA****D. C. ACHARJEE****ASST. PROFESSOR****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT****SYLHET AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY****SYLHET****ABSTRACT**

The study use secondary data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to capture the production trend of major crops in Bangladesh during 1990-2010. The findings of the study suggested that except pulses and oilseed production of different crops increased during the period. Positive and significant growth of production achieved during 1990-2010 for most of the crops. Among all the crops highest positive growth rate was achieved by Maize (37.9%). Negative production growth rate was found for different pulses and oilseed. Further steps need to be taken to increase the production all the crops to solve the food shortage problem in the country.

**JEL CLASSIFICATION**

Q110

**KEYWORDS**

Trend analysis, production, growth rate.

**INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture is the most prominent sector in Bangladesh. There are four subsectors in agricultural sector. These are crops and horticulture, animal farming, forest and related services and fishing. The growth rate of crops and horticulture, animal farming, forest and related services and fishing were 15.89, 12.13, 9.09 and 10.04 percent respectively (BBS, 2009). But most of the farmers of Bangladesh are poor. As a result they generally rely on subsistence farming. In a subsistence agrarian economy of Bangladesh, domestic food production has an important role to play in the quest for food security (Begum and luc, 2010). The productivity in the agricultural sector is critically important if agricultural production is to increase at a sufficiently rapid rate to meet escalating demands for food (Hayami and Ruttan, 1985; Mellor, 1976). Major food items in Bangladesh are rice, wheat, pulses, potato, vegetables and fish. These food items contribute almost 85% of the total calorie and protein intake. Rice and wheat alone contribute to 71% and 53% of the total per capita calorie and protein intake respectively (BBS, 2008). Bangladesh has pursued for decades a strategic goal of self-sufficiency in cereal production. Whatever progress been made would be difficult to sustain it due to high vulnerability of climatic shocks and the growing pressure of population on scarce natural resources thus, yet food security has not been achieved. Reducing the food insecurity problem at national level requires that the food production system be efficient. To formulate the policy regarding food production it is essential to know the long term trend of production. Keeping this in view the present study was undertaken to know the long term production trend and growth rate of major agricultural crops in Bangladesh.

**METHODOLOGY**

The study employed time series data on the production of various crop during the period of 1990 to 2010 in Bangladesh. The data were elicited from the various issues of BBS (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics). In order to gain some perspective on the growth rate of production of major agricultural crops time series data for 20 years were used for a trend analysis.

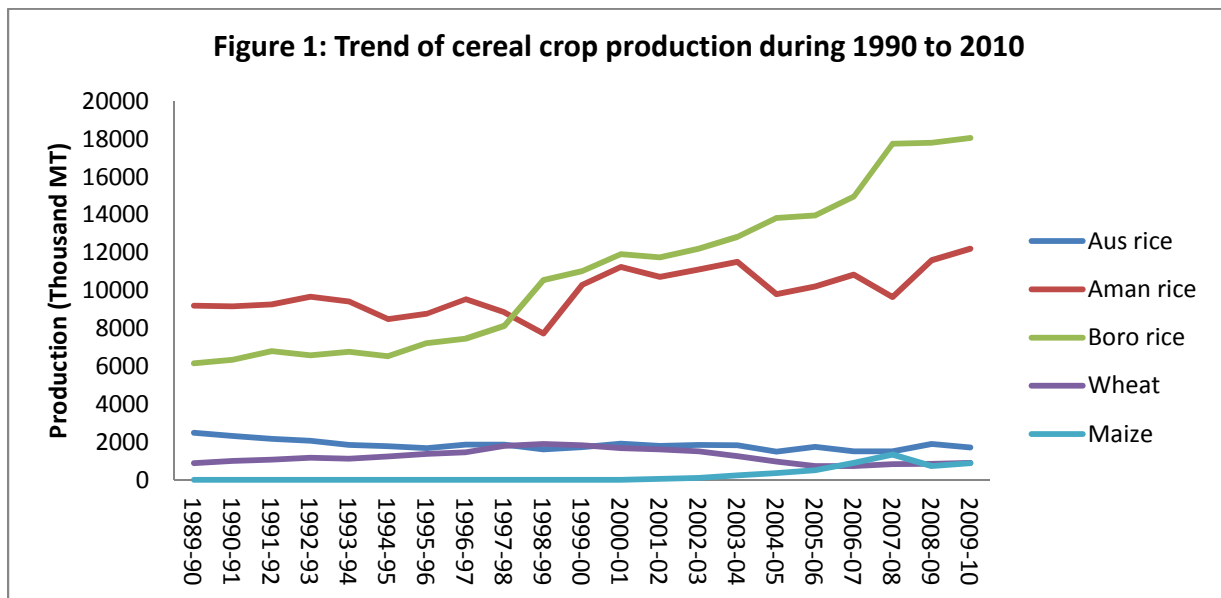
The compound growth rates of production of different crops were worked out by fitting a semi-log trend equation (1) of the following form:

$$y = e^{a+bt} \text{ or } \ln(y) = a + bt \quad [1]$$

Where, Y defines the time series data of production; 't' is the trend term (time) and 'a' is the constant coefficient. The slope coefficient 'b' measures the relative change in Y for a given absolute change in the value of explanatory variable 't'. If we multiply the relative change in Y by 100, we will get percentage change or growth rate in Y for an absolute change in variable 't'.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION****PRODUCTION OF MAJOR CEREAL CROPS**

Rice, wheat and maize are the major cereal crops in Bangladesh. Because of population and income growth, the demand for cereal foods (especially for rice) is expected to rise by over 1.5% per annum for the next few decades (Hossain *et al.*, 2009). Rice is the main food item in Bangladesh. It is evident from the figure 1 that production of aman and boro rice was increasing year by year while the production of aus rice decreased from 2487 thousand MT to 1709 thousand MT during the study period. The production of wheat was also declined during 1990-2010. Growth rate of wheat production was found to be negative. Among the cereal crops the highest and the most impressive growth occurred in the production of maize due to high yielding varieties and rapid expansion of poultry industries in the country. Aman and boro rice were also registered positive and significant growth rate during 1990-2010 (Table 1).



Source: Various issues of BBS

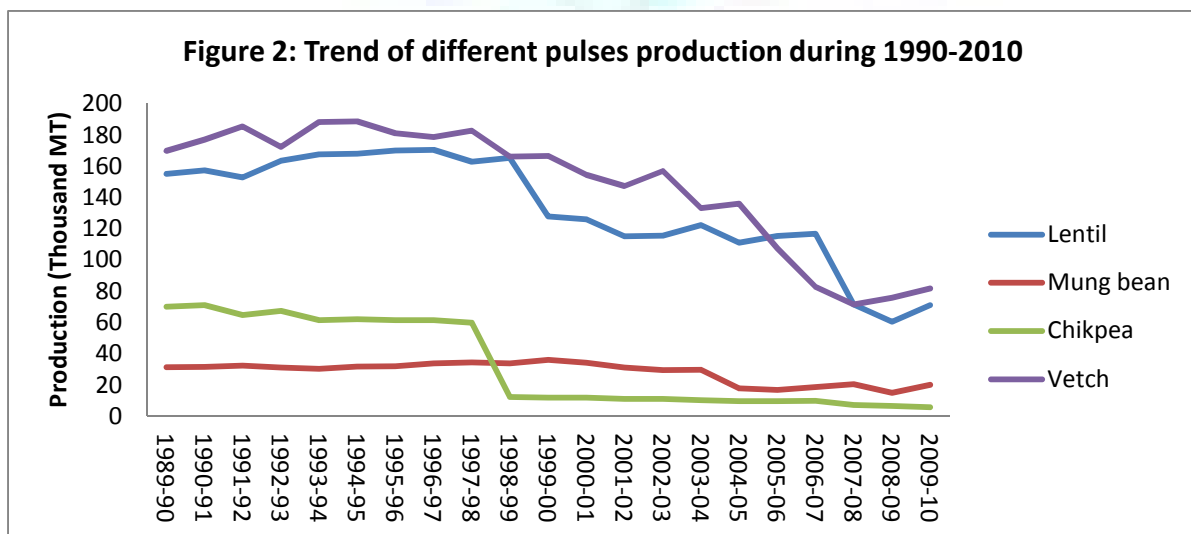
TABLE 1: GROWTH RATE OF PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT CROPS DURING 1990 TO 2010

Crops name	Growth rate (%)	Crops name	Growth rate (%)
Aus rice	-1.7***	Ginger	2.8**
Aman rice	1.1***	Turmeric	5.9***
Boro rice	6.0***	Pointed gourd	7.6***
Wheat	-1.2 <sup>ns</sup>	Cauliflower	4.5***
Maize	37.9***	Cabbage	5.8***
Lentil	-4.0***	Tomato	3.37***
Mungbean	-3.1***	Brinjal	4.6***
Chikpea	-15.1***	Okra	6.6***
Vetch	-4.5***	Bitter gourd	3.9***
Mustard	-0.8**	Banana	2.1***
Sesame	-3.34***	Pine apple	2.6***
Ground nut	0.01 <sup>ns</sup>	Guava	1.12***
Onion	10.2***	Mango	7.35***
Garlic	7.4***	Jackfruit	2.58***
Chilli	7.2***	--	--

Note : '\*\*\*' and '\*\*' indicate significant at 1% and 5% level respectively, ns = Not significant

**PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT PULSES**

Pulses are the major sources of protein. There are different types of pulses are grown in Bangladesh. It is evident from the figure 2 that production of different pulses was continued decreased from year to year. The production of chikpea was decreased from more than 70 thousand MT to only 5.74 thousand MT in 2010. Similar type of scenario is observed for other types of pulses. Despite the adoption of improved technology of pulses, the production registered negative growth rates during 1990-2010 in Bangladesh (Table 1). This may be due for an uphill battle in terms of profitability over the same period and as such its land coverage continuously fell.

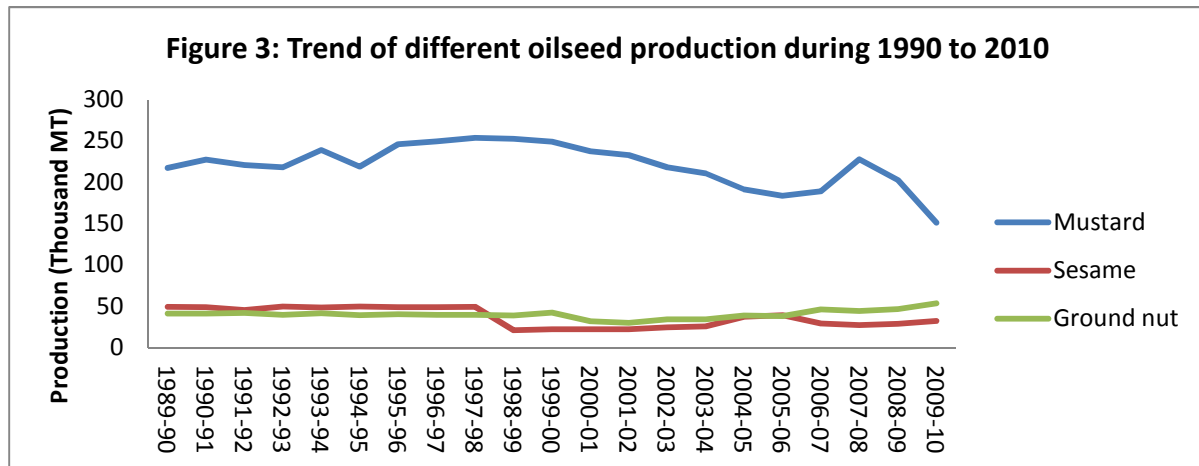


Source: Various issues of BBS



**PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT OILSEEDS**

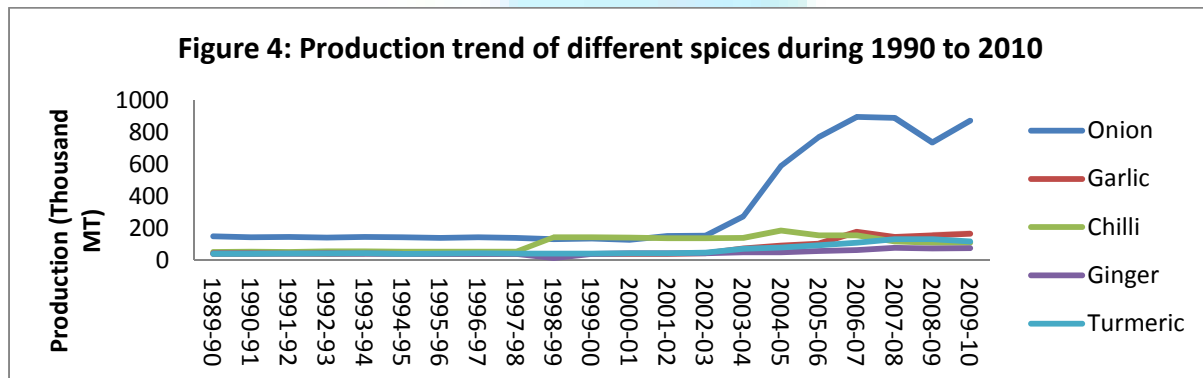
Different oilseeds like mustard, groundnut etc. are grown in Bangladesh although the production of all the oilseeds is decreasing over the period. It is revealed from the following figure that the production of mustard was decreased over the period from about 217 thousand MT to 151 thousand MT. Production of sesame decreased from 49 thousand MT to 32 thousand MT during 1990 to 2010. On the other hand production of groundnut increased to some extent during 1990 to 2010. Growth rate of mustard and sesame was found to be negative while the growth rate of ground nut was positive but not significant.



Source: Various issues of BBS

**PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT SPICES**

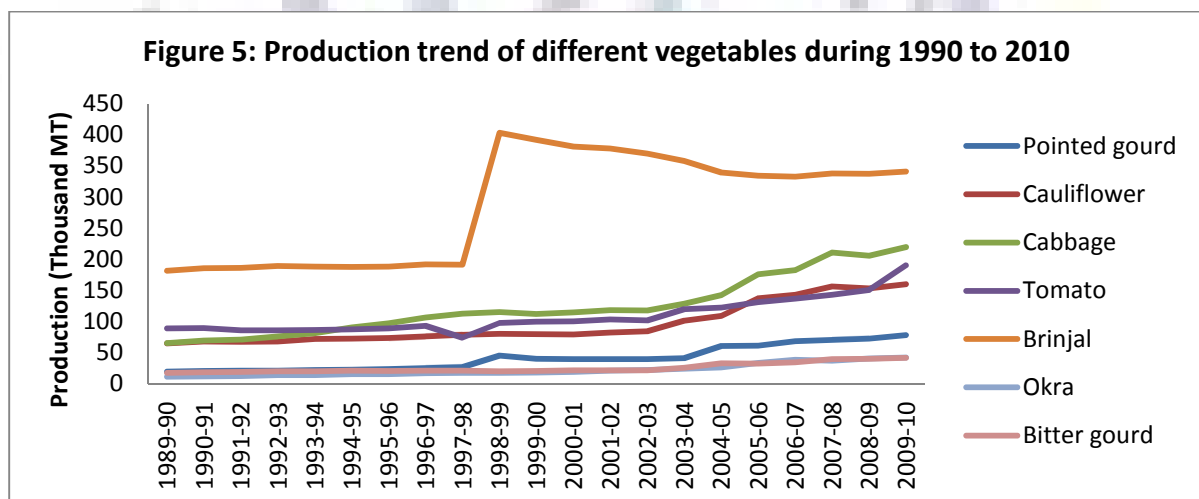
Bangladesh produces different types of spices. It is revealed from the figure 4 that the production of onion was more or less static up to 2002-2003, after that the production was jumped to more than double due to more area coverage and adoption of high yielding varieties. The production of chillies was almost doubled during 1990-2010. The production of garlic was 39 thousand MT in the year 1990 and it was increased up to 164 thousand MT in 2010. Production of other spices also increased from 1990 to 2010. Bangladesh achieved a steady growth in production of all types of spices crops. The highest growth rates were observed for onion followed by garlic and chili (Table 1). This may be due to fiscal incentives government gave to spice producers through concessional credit scheme.



Source: Various issues of BBS

**PRODUCTION TREND OF DIFFERENT VEGETABLES**

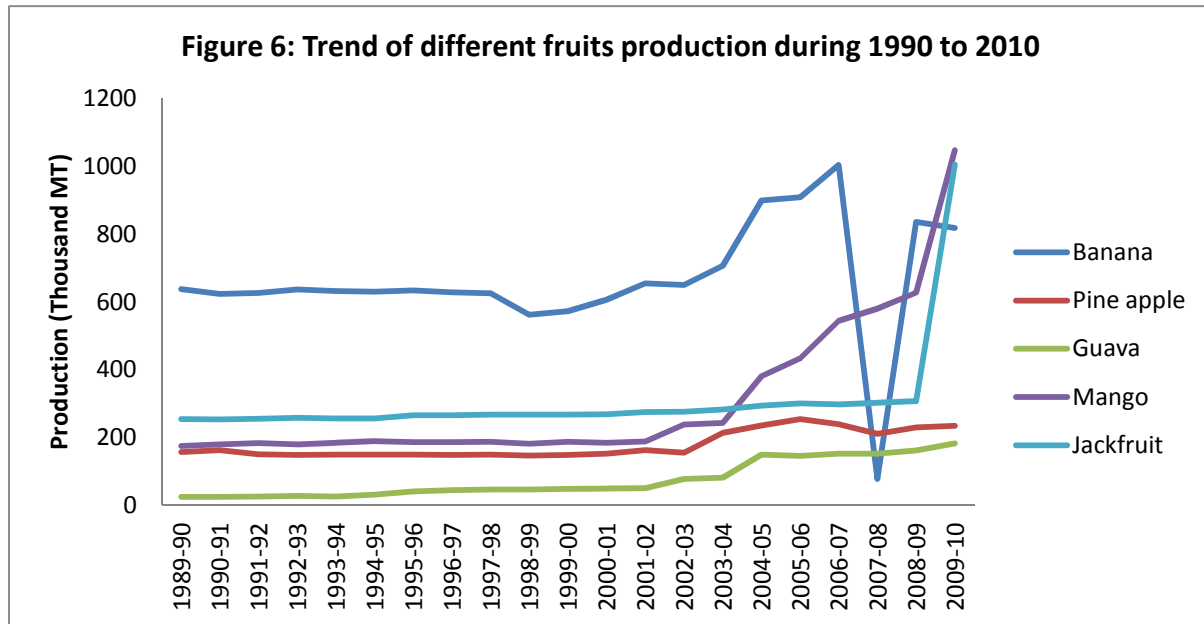
Different types of vegetables are grown in Bangladesh during winter and summer season. Among the vegetables brinjal, cabbage, tomato and cauliflower are the major. Bangladesh has high potential for export vegetables (Hoq *et al.*, 2012). Most vegetables are considered as high value crops in Bangladesh. A plenty of vegetables are exported every year to UK, Europe and Middle East countries for ethnic people. It is clear from the following figure that production of all the major vegetables are increased during 1990 to 2010. Production of brinjal was increased from 181 thousand MT to 341 thousand MT during 1990 to 2010. Production of all other major vegetables also increased up to 2/3 times from 1990 to 2010. Table 1 reveals that the production of major vegetables namely brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, okra, bitter gourd, tomato and pointed gourd registered highly positive growth rates during 1990-2010.



Source: Various issues of BBS

**PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT FRUITS**

The land of Bangladesh is suitable for growing different fruits. Banana, mango, pineapple, jackfruit and guava are the major fruits of Bangladesh. Among the different fruits banana is grown all the year round while the other fruits are seasonal. Growth rate of banana production is significantly positive during 1990-2010. Production of banana increased from 637 thousand MT to 818 thousand MT from 1990 to 2010. Production of mango was 187 thousand MT in 2002 and it was increased up to 828 thousand MT in 2009. Growth rate of all the major fruits registered positive and significant growth during 1990-2010. Among all the fruits mango registered highest 7.35% growth in production followed by pineapple (2.60%).



Source: Various issues of BBS

**CONCLUSION**

The study found that different type of cereals and non cereals crops are grown in Bangladesh. Trend analysis suggested that except pulses and few other crops production of all the crops are increasing over the period. This may be due to adoption of HVV varieties and better crop management technologies. Production of pulses decreases over the period due to poor adoption of high yielding varieties. Steps need to be taken to increase the production of pulses and other crops further more to solve the problem of food shortage in the country. Government may introduce credit schemes to support the poor farmers to grow different types of crops.

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