

Agriculture of Bundelkhand - A Case Study on Land Holdings and Production of Crops

Abstract

Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is a agriculture dominating area. In this region the land holdings of the farmer are very high because population density is very low. But this region is divided into two parts according to irrigation facilities, cultivation and soil types. Few areas of this region is highly productive and availability of water is very high and having black cotton soil and other area of this region is totally rain-fed area and agriculture totally depends on monsoon and also having red soil (low productive soil).

Keywords: Bundelkhand Region, Black Cotton Soil, Production And Productivity, Green Peas And Methanol, Hectare, Population Density.

Introduction

Agriculture sector is a life line of Bundelkhand because around 85% population of this region depends upon on agriculture for their livelihood. Bundelkhand is a land warriors. Bundelkhand has an ancient name Jejabhukti in Mahajanapada. It lies between the Indo-Gangetic plain to the north and the Vindhya Range in the south. The region of Vindhya Range is a geographical and cultural region and isa mountain range in central India which is now divided between the UP and MP state. The principal rivers are Sindh, Betwa, Ken, Pahuj, Dhasan and Chambal of this region.

Objective of the Study

This research paper will try to analyze the importance of agricultural region of Bundelkhand in terms of production and productivity of major crops grown in this area.

Review of Literature

1. Mukherjee S.K. (1992) with the setting up of the planning commission in 1950 and the institution of Five-year plan, agriculture development assumed greater significance in the matter of stabilising the country economy.
2. Bhalla G.S. & G. Singh (2001) stated that the introduction of new seed fertiliser technology during the mid 1960's was a breakthrough that transformed the rural scenario in India.
3. Ledijensky W. (1973) is of the view that Green revolution has created disparity in income generated on farms of different sizes.
4. Chadha G.K. (1994) he expresses that a quickly growing and productive agricultural economy is able to promote well developed non-agricultural activity within the village of Bundelkhand.
5. Mustafa Ali, Anand Kr. & Vijay Lakshmi- a case study on agriculture of Bundelkhand, India for increasing and applying information system regarding agriculture of Bundelkhand for progress and productivity of the farmers.

Hypothesis

Bundelkhand region having lots of capacity in terms of production and productivity of few crops like green peas and methanol, if adequate water facilities are available.

Sample

Information collected from Orai and Konch tehsil of Jalaun, Rath in Hamirpur, Lalitpur, Chitrakoot and Mahoba regarding availability of agriculture land, population density and availability of water.

Data Collection

This study is based on primary and secondary sources of data.



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Remarking An Analisation

Agriculture is a dominating occupation in Bundelkhand but the land available and used for cultivation is lower when compared to other agriculture region of the India; only 60% of total land are available for cultivation and out of which 42.3% land are irrigated land of total land area in the Bundelkhand.

However due to large area of wasteland in the Bundelkhand region, the percentage of land used for cultivation fall considerably. Agriculture productivity and production is also determined by the availability of water because irrigation facilities promotes multiple cropping system, over a year and also protect cultivation from vagaries of monsoon.

The availabilities of irregular facilities are low level from the state average which reduced the productivity of agriculture.

The other factor that affects productivity is quality of irrigation which relates to required quantum of water supplied at the right time. The quality of irrigation in Bundelkhand is badly affected by poor maintenance of canals, erratic and irregular supply of water from dam and tubewells and quick depletion of ground water sources due to the topography.

Example- Konch tehsil of Jalaun district also known as niranjan belt agricultural zamindar community of jalaun.

This Konch region of Jalaun district is most prosperous region of Bundelkhand, it is also known as

economic capital of Bundelkhand because in this region the production and productivity of agricultural land is very high and multiple cropping pattern are most popular in this region. The production of peas (green matter) and methanol (peppermint) are highest in UP region. The production of these crops are golden key of the region the availability of ground water land is also high and there are pure black cotton soil is found here.

The other crops grown in this region are wheat, gram, masur, til etc. Geographical condition and good connectivity makes this region a advance agro region of Bundelkhand. The famous of this konch region especially Niranjan zamindar are very prosperous and progressive farmers. The scarcity of water is one of the major problem in the Bundelkhand region of UP especially in Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot because these districts are located on the Bundelkhand plateaus that in this region irrigation of agriculture land is totally depends on seasonal rainfall or storage of water in the dams.

Since 2007, Bundelkhand region has been facing severe drought problems. The normal rainy days in Bundelkhand is 52 days as per metrological depts. of India but last six years its restricted to 25 days and concentrated only in few month. The average rainfall in Bundelkhand and region receive only 400-500 mm annual rainfall which is for low 800-900 in last few years.



But in Orai-Jalaun, Rath tehsil and some area of Jhansi district have adequate facilities of irrigation like tube wells, canals and ground water level in also high. The average land holdings are also high in this region mostly farmers having average 4-10 hectare of land. Therefore they are institutionally at optimum level and they applied most technology HYVs, irrigation, fertilizers and mechanization of farming in efficient way in fruitful manner. It is exceptional agro region of Bundelkhand in progressive aspect

Cropping Region

Although the rainfall pattern and the extent of irrigation in Bundelkhand theoretically favours kharif (monsoon) crops cultivation, but most of the land is

cultivated in the rabi season. Only 30% area of this region is cultivated more than one time. The cropping intensity is also low in Bundelkhand. It is 126% and average is 152%.

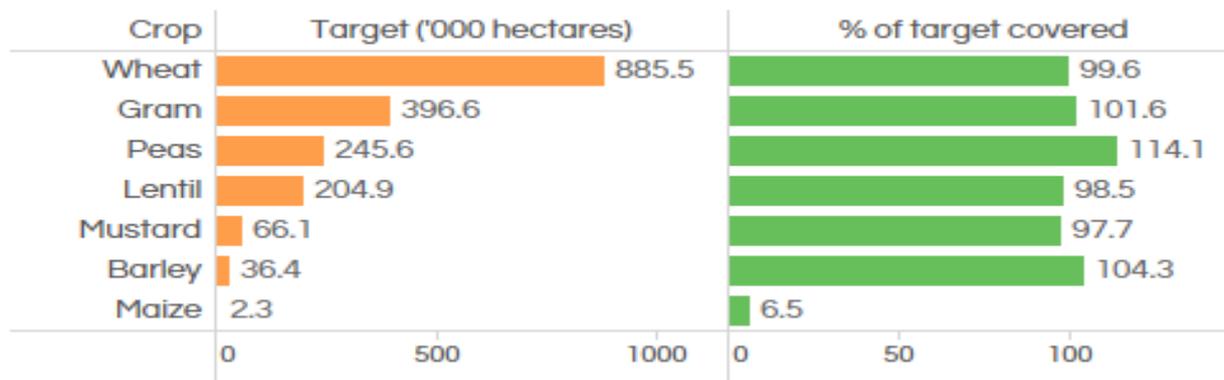
Main Crop Categories

U.P Bundelkhand is predominantly a pulses-growing region especially when viewed against the U.P average for land under cultivation of this category of crops, wheat accounts for the largest area under cultivation in most district of Bundelkhand. In 2003 - 2004 cereal and millets account 39.1% of total crop area, pulses 56.5%, oil seeds 4.1% and fodder crops only 0.6%, but in Jalaun district peas and peppermint is also main crop along with others.

I want to quote an example of one village Kharusa & Purba of oraitesil (Jalaun). This village account around 1000 acre of land, the major crop growth in this village is wheat,peas,masoor, and

gram. This village has the black cotton soil which are highly productive for such crops. The water level is also high in this area so that around 200 tube well & many canal are used for irrigation purpose.

What happened to Bundelkhand's Rabi Crop? (FY 2015-FY 2016*)



Land holding in Bundelkhand

The size of operational (cultivated) land holding is a basic factor affecting agricultural production especially in absence of advanced cultivation technologies. In India as a whole, marginal holdings of less than 1 hectare accounted for only 60% of all holdings and 10 hectare accounting for just 1% of holdings.

The availability of land holdings in Bundelkhand small (1-2 hectare) medium (4-10 hectare) & large (>10 hectare) is 24%, 26%, 27% respectively which is higher than average U.P land holdings.

Conclusion

In 2000 this region used to contribute 15% of state total food grain production which is now 7%. A once food secure zone has been now become a symbol of insecurity and migration due to climate change. In this area various lively goods such as fishing, vegetable production and traditional betel leaf farming are facing one of the worst crises ever. Since 2007, Bundelkhand region has been facing severe drought problems because the rainy day in this region has been decrease from 52 to 24 days per year which has been creating severe water problem for drinking

and for agriculture. so that we should focus on the development of this region properly

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