

## Land Holding and Cropping Pattern of the Maharashtra State

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### Abstract:

*Maharashtra is the second largest state in India in terms of population and third in geographical area. Distribution of land in rural Maharashtra indicates that there is unequal distribution of land among different categories of farmer households. The cropping pattern has greater importance in the state. The cropping pattern has undergone a change. Area under Food grains is declined but area under oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton is increased.*

**Key words-** land holding, cropping pattern, operational holding,

### Introduction:

Maharashtra is the second largest state in India in terms of population and third in geographical area (3.08 lakh sq. km.). As per census 2011 the state has a population of 11.24 crore. Agriculture is the main source of occupation for 70 percent of Maharashtra state. The percentage share of agriculture and allied sector in total employment in the state according to the 2011 census is 52.7 percent. Agriculture provides food to the increasing population, supplies raw material to the industrial sector and furnished goods for exports and helps to earn foreign exchange. Weather conditions, soil, topography are important factors influencing the cropping pattern and crop production. The other inputs like irrigation, fertilizers, seeds, pesticides are influencing the crop growth.

### Objectives of the study

- 1) To analyze the land holding pattern of Maharashtra State.
- 2) To analyze the cropping pattern of Maharashtra State.

### Nature of Soil

The Maharashtra state has variety of soils with its geographical location. The soil of Maharashtra State classified into six groups. These are black soils, red soils and yellow, brown soil, coastal alluvial soils, mixed red and black soils, lateritic soils, and saline alkali soils. The lateritic soils occur mainly in the Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts and in the Northern west part of Satara district and Western part of Kolhapur district.

### Climate and Rainfall

The state enjoys a tropical monsoon climate. The state experiences three distinct season's summer, winter and rainy season. The hot scorching summer starts from March to early June. The first week of June is the time for the beginning of the south-west monsoon. July and August is significantly rainy and September the south-west monsoonal currents weakens. The winter during November to February and in an unpleasant October transition, but turns into dusty, barren brown as the summer sets in again called 'October heat'.

### Agricultural Land Holdings Pattern in Maharashtra

Distribution of operational holdings, size and nature of land affects on agricultural business. These factors determinate the agrarian structure in the economy. Table No.1 shows the number of operational holdings and area in Maharashtra state.

**Table 1**  
**Agricultural Operational Holdings and Area in Maharashtra State (2010-11)**

Size class (ha)	No. of Operational Holdings (000)	Area of Operational Holdings (000ha)	Average Size of Holdings (ha)	
			2005-06	2010-11
Up to 1.0 hect.	6,709 (48.97)	3,186 (16.12)	0.46	0.47
1.0 to 2.0 hect	4,052 (29.58)	5,739 (29.03)	1.26	1.42
2.0 to 5.0 hect.	2,473 (18.05)	7,155 (36.20)	2.73	2.89
5.0 to 10.0 hect.	396 (2.89)	2,603 (13.17)	6.16	6.57
10.0 and above	68 (0.49)	1084 (5.48)	43.41	49.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,699</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>19,767</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>1.46</b>	<b>1.44</b>

Source: Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2013-14, pp. 87

Table No.1 shows that operational holdings and area in the Maharashtra state as per Agricultural Census 2010-11. Distribution of land in rural Maharashtra indicates that there is unequal distribution of land among different categories of farmer households. 48.97 percent of the landholders are having less than 1 hectare land. The ratio of land holders between 1 to 2 hectares is 29.58 percent. The proportion of landholders having land between 2 to 5 hectares is 18.05 percent and percentage of landholders having land more than 10 hectares is 0.49 percent. It shows the 50 percent land holders are marginal farmers in Maharashtra. Large number of marginal and small farmers having very small proportion of ownership of land and small number of large farmers owned large proportion of ownership of land. Average size of land holdings is also decreased from 1.46 ha. to 1.44 ha. in the period of 2005-06 to 2010-11.

### Cropping Pattern In Maharashtra State

Cropping pattern is important indicator to measure the level of agricultural development. It indicates allocation of different crops. The proportion of cropped area under different crops to the gross cropped area at particular period is treated as cropping pattern. If there is change in the preparation of areas under different crops, the cropping pattern undergone a change. The cropping pattern has greater importance in the state. Following Table No.2 shows the area under principal crops in Maharashtra State.

**Table No. 2**  
**Area under Principal Crops, Production and Yield per Hectare in Maharashtra State**  
(Area-'000 ha / Production- '000 MT / Yield- Per Ha kg)

Sr. No.	Crops	1990-91			2000-01			2012-13		
		Area	Production	Yield	Area	Production	Yield	Area	Production	Yield
1	Rice	1597 (7.30)	2344	1467	1512 (6.99)	1930	1277	1557 (7.97)	3057	1963
2	Wheat	867 (3.47)	909	1049	754 (3.49)	948	1256	785 (4.02)	1199	1527
3	Jawar	6300 (28.82)	5929	941	5094 (21.56)	3988	783	3290 (16.84)	2108	641
4	Bajra	1940 (8.87)	1115	575	1800 (8.33)	1087	604	788 (4.03)	502	637
5	Other Cereals	432 (1.98)	443	1025	664 (3.07)	544	819	1020 (5.22)	1993	1954
6	<b>All Cereals</b>	<b>11136 (50.94)</b>	<b>10740</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>9824 (45.44)</b>	<b>8497</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>7440 (38.08)</b>	<b>8859</b>	<b>1191</b>
7	Tur	1004 (4.59)	1004	417	1096 (5.07)	660	602	1214 (6.21)	1006	829
8	Gram	668 (3.06)	355	532	676 (3.13)	351	519	1135 (5.81)	868	765
9	Moong	--	--	----	714	244	341	431 (2.21)	211	490
10	Udid	--	--	----	574	205	357	360 (1.84)	214	593
11	Other pulses	1585 (7.25)	667	421	497 (2.30)	177	356	182 (0.93)	61	335
12	All pulses	3257 (14.90)	1441	442	3557 (16.45)	1637	460	3322 (17.00)	2360	710
13	<b>Total Food Grains</b>	<b>14393 (65.84)</b>	<b>12181</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>13382 (61.90)</b>	<b>10133</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>10762 (55.09)</b>	<b>11219</b>	<b>1042</b>
14	Groundnut	864 (3.95)	979	1132	490 (2.27)	470	958	271 (1.39)	286	1055
15	Soya bean	201 (0.92)	201	947	1142 (5.28)	1266	1109	3064 (15.68)	4690	1531
16	Sunflower	634 (2.90)	258	408	296 (1.37)	122	412	105 (0.54)	58	549
17	Other oilseeds	1127 (5.16)	455	404	631 (2.92)	241	382	212 (1.06)	338	3653
18	<b>All Oilseeds</b>	<b>2826 (12.93)</b>	<b>1882</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>2559 (11.84)</b>	<b>2099</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>3652 (18.69)</b>	<b>5106</b>	<b>1398</b>
19	Sugarcane	442 (2.02)	38154	86.40	595 (2.75)	49569	83.27	935 (4.79)	77592	83.00
20	Cotton	2721 (12.44)	1875	117	3077 (14.23)	1803	100	4187 (21.43)	6793	276
21	<b>Total</b>	<b>21859 (100)</b>			<b>21619 (100)</b>			<b>19536 (100)</b>		

Source: Economic Survey of Maharashtra, 2013-14, pp. -103 and 104.



The total gross cropped area in the state (55.09 percent area) was occupied by Food grains and remaining area by other crops in the year 2012-13. Cereal crops shared 38.08 percent of the gross cropped area. Among the cereal crops, Jawar stands out as the most important crop as it occupied 16.84 percent of the gross cropped area followed by rice (7.97%), other cereals (5.22%), wheat (4.02%) and Bajara (4.03%). Pulses occupied 17.00 percent are of these crops. Among the pulses Tur and Gram were prominent crops occupied 6.21 percent and 5.81 percent are of total gross cropped area. All oilseeds occupied 18.69 percent area in the state. Among oilseeds, Soya bean is the important oilseed crop and share of it is 15.68 percent followed by Groundnut 1.39 percent. Among the cash crops share of Cotton is 21.43 percent and share of Sugarcane is 4.79 percent.

Change in the cropping pattern over a period of time shows that area under Food grains shows declined trend. In 1990-91, area under Food grains was 65.84 percent, which decreased to 55.09 percent in 2012-13, due to reduction in total cereal crops area. In 1990-91, cereal crops occupied area declined from 50.94 percent in 1990-91 to 45.44 percent in 2000-01. Area under Jowar has shown declining trends while wheat and rice had constant trends during 1990-91 to 2012-13. In case of pulses, area under these crops has increased from 14.90 percent in 1990-91 to 17.00 percent in 2012-13.

In case of oilseed crops, area under these crops has increased. In 1990-91, it was 12.93 percent increased to 18.69 in 2012-13. In case of cash crops, area under sugarcane and cotton has increased during this period. Area under sugarcane was 2.0 percent in 1990-91 increased to 4.79 percent in 2012-13 and cotton 12.44 percent in 1990-91 to 21.43 percent in 2012-13.

Farmers' grow many crops which are suited to or appropriate from point of view of production and yields. The principal crops of the state are Rice, Wheat, Jawar, Tur, Groundnut, Soya bean, Sunflower, Sugarcane and Cotton. Table No. 2 analyze the total and per hectare production of main crops in the state.

The first observation is that the trends are towards an increase in the production of Rice, Wheat, Tur, Gram, Soya bean, Sugarcane and Cotton in the period of 1990-91 to 2012-13. It is to be noted that the total production as well as per hectare production is increased. The state government provides high yields varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers and the new technology which also caused changes on the cropping pattern and farmers motivated to cultivate these crops. It is to be noted that the production and yield of Jawar, Bajara, Groundnut and Sunflower where the unsatisfactory output performance in the state. All these crops were mostly depends upon monsoon. Insufficient and irregular monsoon results in the low productivity of these crops.

### **Conclusions:**

Over a period of time agrarian relations are changed in Maharashtra. It indicates that there is unequal distribution of land among the different categories of farmers. Large number of marginal and small farmers having very small portion of ownership of land and small number of large farmers owned large proportion of ownership of land. Area and production under Wheat, Jawar, Bajara, Sunflower and Groundnut is decreased in this period. But Soya bean, Sugarcane and cotton shows significant progress.

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