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A STUDY ON COCONUT CULTIVATION IN INDIA

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A Study on Coconut Cultivation in India

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Abstract – India is an agricultural country and one third population depends on the agricultural sector directly or indirectly. Agriculture remains as the main stay of the Indian economy since times immemorial. About 18 % of the country's income is from agriculture sector which provides employment to more than half of the work force in the country. With food being the crowning need of mankind, much emphasis has been on commercializing agricultural production. In earlier days when the village economy was more or less self-sufficient the marketing of agricultural products presented no difficulty as the farmer sold his produce to the consumer on a cash or barter basis. Since it would cause diversification and commercialization of agriculture, it was thus enhance the incomes of farmers and create food surpluses. The agro-industry mainly comprises of the post-harvest activities of processing and preserving agricultural products for intermediate or final consumption. It is a well-recognized fact across the world, particularly in the context of industrial development that the importance of agro-industries is relative to agriculture increases as economies develop.

Keywords: Coconut, Cultivation, India, Agriculture, Economies, Increase, Country, Food, Village, Farmer, Consumer, Agro-Industry, Development, etc.

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INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the trend in area, production and productivity of coconut in India from 1974-75 to 2007-2008. The analysis has been made in detail as regards the district-wise and state-wise trend in coconut cultivation during the pre and post-Liberalization period. The study covers a period of 34 years which has been divided into two-pre and post-Liberalization period, covering 17 years before and after 1991. In India, coconut is grown in 17 states and 3 union territories under varying soil and climatic conditions. Coconut plant is versatile in its adaptability to a wide range of soil conditions. 91 per cent of the total area and production of coconut in the country is concentrated mainly in the four southern states, namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Table 1- Area of Coconut Cultivation in India

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Goa	Karnataka	Kerala	Maharashtra	Orissa	Tamil Nadu	Tripura	West Bengal	A & N Islands	Lakshadweep	Pondicherry	All India
1974-75	3.62	0.39	1.68	12.95	67.02	0.79	1.02	9.73	0.06	0.60	1.74	0.25	0.14	100
1975-76	3.79	0.42	1.75	14.12	64.76	0.86	1.08	10.27	0.07	0.63	1.84	0.26	0.15	100
1976-77	3.66	0.46	1.74	14.30	64.68	0.84	1.23	10.13	0.07	0.62	1.86	0.26	0.15	100
1977-78	3.77	0.46	1.77	14.74	63.75	0.86	1.31	10.39	0.09	0.63	1.82	0.27	0.15	100
1978-79	3.77	0.48	1.77	15.54	62.62	0.86	1.58	10.38	0.10	0.64	1.84	0.27	0.15	100
1979-80	3.84	0.50	1.74	15.62	61.77	0.95	1.92	10.72	0.10	0.62	1.81	0.26	0.15	100
1980-81	3.92	0.55	1.73	15.81	61.51	0.94	2.08	10.71	0.13	0.30	1.91	0.26	0.15	100
1981-82	3.97	0.60	1.71	16.17	61.11	0.94	2.06	10.65	0.13	0.30	1.95	0.26	0.15	100
1982-83	3.89	0.57	1.88	15.89	58.68	0.97	2.03	12.52	0.12	1.25	1.81	0.24	0.14	100
1983-84	3.99	0.64	1.91	16.33	58.54	0.91	2.25	11.76	0.23	1.28	1.78	0.24	0.14	100
1984-85	3.98	0.63	1.87	16.94	58.10	0.90	2.10	11.82	0.23	1.29	1.76	0.24	0.14	100
1985-86	3.87	0.65	1.87	16.78	57.50	0.57	2.25	12.21	0.22	1.39	2.34	0.23	0.13	100
1986-87	3.91	0.76	1.88	16.85	57.35	0.56	2.01	12.69	0.33	1.46	1.84	0.23	0.13	100
1987-88	3.63	0.68	1.72	15.83	57.61	0.58	2.01	14.08	0.42	1.42	1.69	0.21	0.13	100
1988-89	3.65	0.65	1.64	15.45	57.31	0.55	1.90	15.03	0.49	1.39	1.63	0.20	0.12	100
1989-90	4.01	0.67	1.60	15.37	56.53	0.53	2.21	15.34	0.48	1.34	1.62	0.19	0.12	100
1990-91	4.04	0.65	1.57	15.38	57.08	0.52	2.15	14.95	0.46	1.31	1.58	0.18	0.12	100

It is evident from the table that the total area of coconut cultivation in Kerala was the highest, compared to other Indian states during the pre Liberalisation period. In 1974-75, Kerala's share in the total area of cultivation of coconut stood at 67.02 per cent of India's total area of cultivation of coconut. But it showed a diminishing trend till 1990-'91 and it was 57.08 per cent in 1990-91. The States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu stood in the second and third position. The share of the State of Tripura was the lowest and the percentage was less than. 10 till 1977-78 and thereafter it was less than 0.5 per cent. The area of cultivation of coconut in India shows a

decreasing trend till 1986-87 and thereafter it registers an increase. The exponential growth rate and annual average growth rate are 2.16 and 1.93. The area under cultivation was 1116.3 (1000ha) in 1974-'75 which has increased to 1513.9 ('000ha) in 1990-91.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The agricultural produce sector has been one of the most important components of the Indian economy. Coconut, predominantly a small holder crop, occupies a prime position in the cultural, social and economic lives of millions of people across the world (Sandip, 1995). Even though, India is the third largest coconut growing country in the world, its contribution to international market remains insignificant. With regard to the production of coconut, in traditional coconut growing states like Kerala and other growing states in the north east, cultivation undertaken is small, fragmented and non-commercial holdings. Coconut industry, all round efforts made for integrated development of coconut sector in the areas of production, processing and marketing (Khatkar, 1995. Lathika, 2003. Sugata and Raveendran, 1993).

A concerned effort from all stakeholders in the development of coconut cultivation is vital for inducing a sustainable progress in this sector. In view of the changed scenario in the coconut sector, it was felt necessary to revise the report on production and marketing of coconut and make fresh appraisal of the changing pattern of coconut production, trade and its ancillary industries (Giriappa, 1996). In connection with these, a study is needed for exhibit many facts relating to coconut cultivation and marketing in the study area.

Coconut Cultivation in Kerala:

Coconut cultivation and industry play a vital role in the sustainability of the rural economy of Kerala State. Globalization, global warming, acute shortage of labour inputs and high cost of production, huge fluctuation in coconut price, etc. seriously affected this sector. The following paragraphs describe the districtwise area, production and productivity of coconut in Kerala. For Wayanad, Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod districts, the data relating to coconut were not available for the initial periods, since these districts came into being after these periods. Coconut is widely cultivated in all the fourteen districts of the State (Nilakanta, 1995. Sandip, 1997. Bhagban 2000). The area of production is mainly concentrated in the districts of Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Kannur, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kollam, etc. The district-wise area of coconut cultivation in Kerala during the pre-Liberalisation period is presented in the following table.

Table 2 - District-wise Area of Coconut Cultivation in Kerala

Year	Thiruvananthapuram	Kollam	Pathanamthitta	Alappuzha	Kottayam	Idukki	Ernakulam	Thrissur	Palakkad	Malappuram	Kozhikode	Wayanad	Kannur	Kasaragod	STATE
1974-75	77270	107409		79963	66479	23040	52857	57328	24819	69749	96983		92277		748174
1975-76	74074	98073		72824	58168	11472	50726	50699	16994	70269	97448		92198		682945
1976-77	74074	98073		72824	57005	11472	50726	50699	16994	70269	97448		94964		694548
1977-78	79335	93465		64338	56535	14594	53524	50530	18508	68053	104885		95352		699119
1978-79	75806	87563		59354	51300	14257	57304	49641	19694	68277	99440		98026		678662
1979-80	72775	81381		61814	53959	14526	61304	51704	19966	62979	97725		85541		663674
1980-81	73485	84488		62907	49747	15952	61872	53549	22003	60652	103672		77889		666216
1981-82	73515	84544		62118	50751	17371	62317	57312	22916	57919	97308	3535	77012		666618
1982-83	73727	85178		62118	50676	17371	62916	57312	23688	60970	98392	3535	78295		674378
1983-84	73568	75018	28807	49907	50914	16523	62038	58929	23186	60739	100164	3612	81876		682281
1984-85	76969	68927	25926	45699	48179	15036	55678	62438	25504	62214	107599	3251	90063		687483
1985-86	73094	68769	27521	48702	49033	17585	59632	60366	26349	63230	111473	3565	60386	34977	704682
1986-87	75528	70599	26158	49126	49118	16188	59251	61200	25681	65387	106412	3684	63303	34472	706107
1987-88	81028	76172	29403	54292	48384	17880	65244	69715	29015	75917	114200	4114	71705	36280	775365
1988-89	87287	80510	31845	68200	44881	18726	75709	75005	35452	96723	121780	5285	88224	47840	866467
1989-90	87091	76752	28752	61088	48360	17351	65798	77452	34468	87380	117552	4046	82153	43931	832174
1990-91	85581	77874	27505	66664	47217	14864	66264	80856	38153	102245	122062	4510	91893	44334	870022

Table shows the district-wise area of coconut cultivation in Kerala during the pre-Liberalisation period. During the pre-Liberalisation period, there was an increase in the area of cultivation of coconut in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod districts, whereas the area of cultivation has decreased in Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam and Idukki districts. It is revealed from the table that Kollam district has the largest area of coconut cultivation with 107409 hectares followed by Kozhikode district with 96983 hectares and Kannur district with 92277 hectares. Idukki district has the smallest area of coconut cultivation with 23040 hectares in 1974-75. In 1990-91, the area of coconut cultivation of Kozhikode district increased to 122062 hectares with Malappuram district standing in the second position with 102245 hectares and Wayanad district having the smallest area of coconut cultivation (4510 hectares). In 1974-75 the area of cultivation of coconut in Kerala was 748174 hectares and it showed a steady decrease till 1985-86. From 1985-86 onwards, it registered a positive increase.

Coconut Productivity in India:

Considering productivity, India has recorded an increase in percentage of 54 over the period from 1985-86 to 1995-96. In 1983-84 the productivity was only 4983 nuts per hectare which has increased to 7779 nuts per hectare in 1995-96. Productivity increase in the Kerala State is from 3814 nuts per hectare in 1983-84 to 6013 nuts per hectare in 1995-96; in Tamil Nadu the increase is from 9979 nuts per hectare to 14925 nuts per hectare; Andhra Pradesh recorded a significant increase of 13682 nuts per hectare in 1995-96 compared to mere 4138 nuts per hectare in 1983-84; however, Karnataka has seen only marginal increase in productivity from 5204 to 5220 nuts per hectare. The other Indian States with substantial increase in productivity are Maharashtra, Pondicherry and West Bengal. The productivity in 2007-08 in Maharashtra was 8338 nuts per hectare and 12954 nuts per hectare in Tamil Nadu. The

following table throws light on the coconut productivity of India. India experienced a more or less steady and gradual increase in the productivity of coconut from 1974-75 to 1982-83. But after 1980s there have been significant variations in productivity of coconut. The exponential growth rate and annual average growth rates are 0.7 and 1.25 respectively. The productivity of coconut during the post-Liberalisation period was the highest in Maharashtra with 15379 nuts per ha. In 1991-92 which decreased to 8338 nuts per ha. In 2007-08. Lakshadweep had the highest productivity of 19630 nuts per ha. In 2007-08 which was 7500 Nuts per ha. In 1990-91. Unlike in the pre-Liberalisation period, the trend in productivity increase noticed for the last two decades has not been encouraging mainly due to less increase in productivity in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Table 3 - Productivity of Coconut in India

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Goa	Karnataka	Kerala	Maharashtra	Orissa	Tamil Nadu	Tripura	West Bengal	A & N Islands	Lakshadweep	Pondicherry	All India
1991-92	15129	6933	4583	5145	4969	15379	5890	11468	466	13244	3502	7500	14500	6592
1992-93	15087	6615	4669	5161	5844	16582	5716	14109	433	13975	3502	7500	16315	7310
1993-94	13811	6734	4833	5172	5890	18797	5716	12138	500	14706	3495	9392	14578	7323
1994-95	13642	6606	4796	5170	5856	21780	5466	14553	500	12703	3500	9285	16238	7760
1995-96	13682	7709	4818	5204	6029	20622	5218	10101	670	12095	3500	9464	15000	7074
1996-97	7547	6474	4899	5141	5802	16245	5122	11622	670	13207	3543	9893	15000	6908
1997-98	8588	6442	4855	5127	5793	15020	7641	11620	670	12601	3492	9893	14095	6834
1998-99	7123	7421	4859	5192	5817	13981	14589	11703	824	12935	3543	10000	14045	7145
1999-00	10342	7431	4864	5210	5747	15013	5631	10599	824	13401	3543	10107	14182	6892
2000-01	10650	6476	5004	5255	5980	14548	6209	9867	2258	13490	3532	13667	11227	6951
2001-02	10817	7754	5004	4066	6114	11536	4458	9808	2121	12968	3560	19667	10435	6709
2002-03	11013	7665	4861	4063	6349	11018	3856	8270	2121	12968	3727	19630	10435	6523
2003-04	11490	7244	4869	4067	6052	15189	4394	7260	2121	13012	3748	19630	13348	6298
2004-05	11532	7244	4901	3139	6379	15189	5442	9083	2121	12638	3402	19630	13636	6632
2005-06	8577	10728	4953	3139	7046	15189	5406	13133	2121	12992	3416	19630	13286	7608
2006-07	13017	8053	4969	4052	6951	8338	5408	14495	2121	14307	4159	19630	13286	8179
2007-08	11047	7158	5004	4037	6889	8338	5408	12959	1966	12430	3731	19630	12091	7747

At the national level also, the trend in productivity is not very impressive. Kerala has been showing an increase trend in productivity in the post-Liberalisation period, but it has been at much less rate when we compare the growth of productivity of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra in the pre-Liberalisation period. There has been a significant fluctuation in the productivity of coconut in the post-Liberalisation at the national level and it reestablishes the State-wise trends in productivity, analyzed earlier (Mishra, 2000. Som Nath, 1992). It shows that the reform-related policy changes have a far reaching impact on the coconut economy of India. The exponential growth rate and annual average growth rates are 0.2 and 1.20. The above graph lines show the trend in productivity in the pre and postLiberalisation period. It is very clear that there has been an increasing trend in productivity in the pre-Liberalisation period, but in the post-Liberalisation period there has been stagnation in productivity at the national level and many factors including New Economic Policy related factors are also responsible.

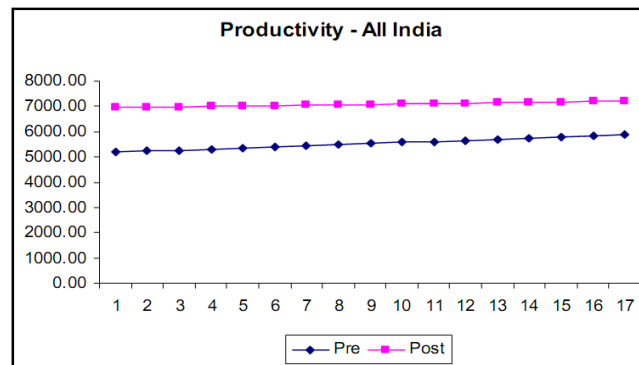


Figure 1 - Productivity of Coconut in India

CONCLUSION:

The agro based industry is regarded as an extended arm of agriculture. The development of the agro industry can help stabilize and make agriculture more lucrative and create employment opportunities both at the production and marketing stages. The broad-based development of the agro-products industry was improving both the social and physical infrastructure of India. Further, the average age of the coconut palm is decline stage, so its productivity is reduced. In this situation, the policy makers and other stakeholders are urging to take necessary steps to boost up coconut cultivation practices in the study area. As the consumer price for a coconut farmers getting very low, it clearly shows that the marketing system is not favorable to the farmers. If the government takes necessary steps to regulate coconut marketing process and gives, financial assistance to make value added products from core products it may encourage the coconut production. Coconut play a vital role in offering more employment opportunities to the rural people and it is a profitable venture for all categories of farmers in spite of their high initial investment and the fluctuating nature of nut price. Hence, it deserves a planned and continuous attention from the various stakeholders. The present study has brought out the profitability involved in the cultivation and economic aspects of coconut. The suggestions made in the study are of immense use for the policy makers to make appropriate decision for mitigating the problems faced by coconut growers.

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