

Agricultural Development in Karnataka: A Critical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Karnataka is a progressive state with 192000 km² of geographical area located in the southern part of India. Karnataka, a state of the knowledge, research and innovation hub of Asia. However, the Karnataka is known for IT industry and developed service sector has not lagged behind in the development of agriculture. The contribution of agricultural sector towards state income is increasing decade by decade and year by year. Karnataka consists of both urban and rural economy. As per 2011 census, in Karnataka 27,397 inhabited and 1943 uninhabited villages. Agriculture is the main occupation of the rural population of Karnataka. It has given shelter to the rural people of Karnataka and contributing not only to the Karnataka economy but also to the national economy. The agricultural output depends on the area sown and irrigated area. Paddy, Ragi, Jowar, Maize, Cashew, Coconut, areca nut, chilies, cotton, sugarcane, etc., are major crops grown in Karnataka. This article is divided into different parts such as Introduction, Objectives, Methodology, Data Base, Importance of Karnataka Agriculture, Production of Major Crops in Karnataka, Trends in Net Area Sown, Gross Cropped and Gross Irrigated, Findings, Conclusion, Suggestion etc.,

Key Words: *Agricultural census, Floriculture, Horticulture. Progress, Cultivation and Production.*

INTRODUCTION

Karnataka is a progressive state with 192000 km² of geographical area located in the southern part of India. Karnataka, a state of the knowledge, research and innovation hub of Asia. The income of Karnataka economy comes from all the three sectors such as Agriculture, Industry and Service sector and ranked 4th in India. Though the Karnataka is known for IT industry and developed service sector has not lagged behind in the development of agriculture. The contribution of agricultural sector towards state income is increasing decade by decade and year by

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year. Karnataka consists of both urban and rural economy. As per 2011 census, in Karnataka 27,397 inhabited and 1943 uninhabited villages. Agriculture is the main occupation of the rural population of Karnataka. Totally, 25.3 percent of the land area of Karnataka 123,100km² land is cultivated. The agriculture of the state depends mainly on southwest monsoon and hardly 26.5 percent of cultivated land is subject to irrigation *i.e.*, 30,900 km². There are three agricultural seasons in Karnataka such as Kharif (April to September), Rabi (October to December) and Summer (January to March). According to the Agricultural census the number of operational holdings were 3551 thousand in 1970-71 increased to 7832 thousand. The area of operational holdings was 11368 thousand in 1970-71 increased to 12385 thousand hectares in 2005-06 and again decreased to 12162.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

Following are the objectives of the paper,

1. To know the importance of agriculture in the Karnataka and Indian economy.
2. To study the development of agricultural sector in Karnataka.
3. To analyze the trend of area under cultivation and production in Karnataka.

METHODOLOGY

DATA BASE

For the preparation of the paper, only secondary data is used and presented in the form of tables and graphs. Decade wise trends and growths are analyzed with percentage.

IMPORTANCE OF KARNATAKA AGRICULTURE

The agriculture is base and necessary for the development of the economy. It has given shelter to the rural people of Karnataka and contributing not only to the Karnataka economy but also to the national economy. The contribution to the Karnataka economy was Rs. 432 crore in the year 1960-61 increased to Rs. 1063 crore in 1970-71, to Rs. 2573 crore in 1980-81, to Rs. 7626 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 31473 crore in 2000-01 to Rs. 80051 crore in 2011-12 and to Rs. 1311567 crore in 2017-18. The national output share of important crops in 2015 was Mulberry-98.7 percent, Coffee-82.7percent, Safflower 62.1 percent, Ragi-59 percent, Arecanut-58.6percent, Sunflower55.2percent, Tamrid-32.4percent, Sericulture and Apiculture-28.9percent, Jowar-26.9percent, Horsegram-25.6percent, Sapota-24.6percent, *etc.*,

The agricultural output depends on the area sown and irrigated area. The net sown area was 10228 thousand hectare in 1960-61 increased to 10248 thousand in 1970-71 decreased to 9899 thousand hectares in 1980-81, to 10381

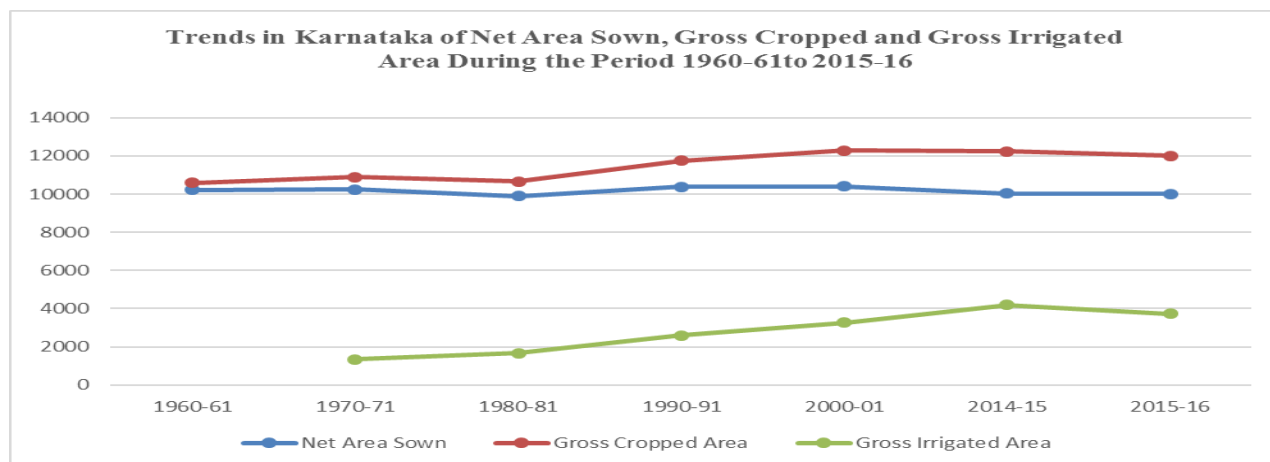
thousand hectares in 1990-91 to 10410 thousand hectares in 2000-01. The positive and increasing trend was observed. However, after 2014-15 the trend is negative and decreasing. The net sown area was 10044 thousand hectare in 2014-15 decreased to 10006 thousand hectares in 2015-16. The gross cropped area varied between 10558 thousand hectare and 12008 thousand hectares between the period 1960-61 and 2015-16. The gross irrigated area increased during the period. The following table gives details, the graph shows the trend in net area sown, and gross cropped area in Karnataka in different decades and years.

TRENDS IN KARNATAKA OF AREA SOWN, GROSS CROPPED AND GROSS IRRIGATED

Agriculture	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2014-15	2015-16
Net Area Sown (In Hectares)	10228	10248	9899	10381	10410	10044	10006
Gross Cropped Area (In Hectares)	10588	10887	10660	11759	12284	12247	12008
Gross Irrigated Area (In Hectares)	NA	1355	1676	2598	3271	4186	3742
Gross Irrigated Area to Gross Cropped Area (In Percentage)	NA	12.45	15.72	22.09	26.63	34.18	31.16

Source: (Karnataka at Glance) Economic Survey of Karnataka 2017-18

Table 1. Trends in Karnataka of Net Area Sown, Gross Cropped and Gross Irrigated during the Period 1960-61 to 2015-16



PRODUCTION OF MAJOR CROPS IN KARNATAKA

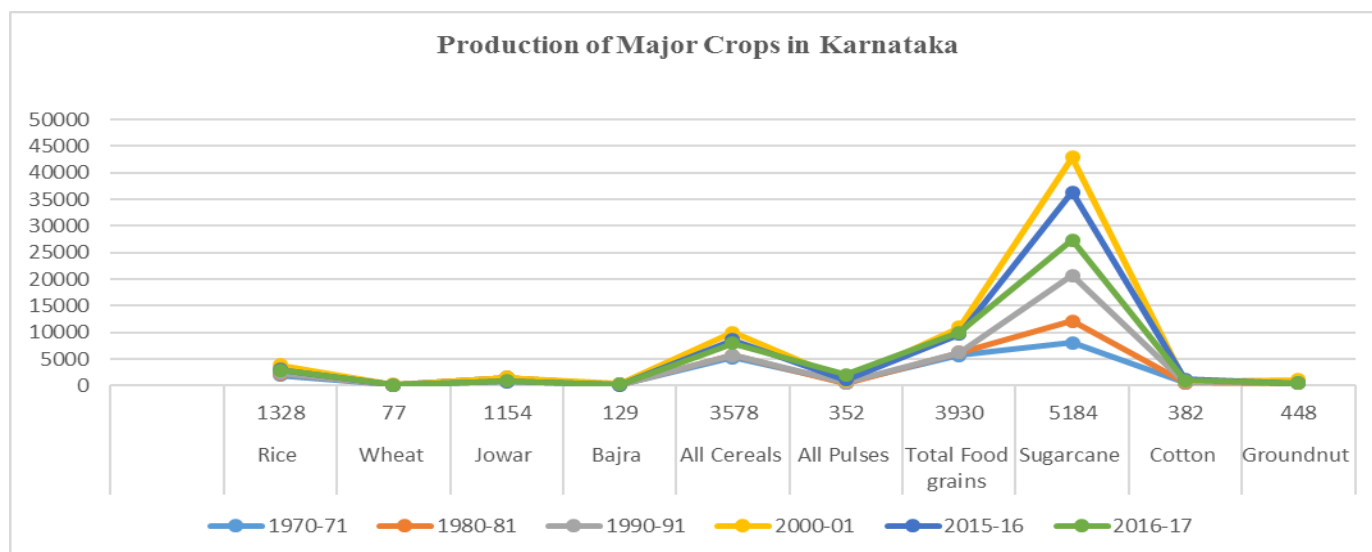
Paddy, Ragi, Jowar, Maize, Cashew, Coconut, areca nut, chilies, cotton, sugarcane, etc., are major crops grown in Karnataka. In Karnataka, coffee, coarse cereals, raw silk, tomato, etc., are produced at large level. Horticulture and floriculture bring more income to Karnataka. Karnataka ranks second in the production of flowers in India. The above table gives detailed picture of the major crops grown in Karnataka and the graph depicts the trends of production of different crops.

Production of Major Crops in Karnataka

Production of Principal Crops (In Tonnes)	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2015-16	2016-17
Rice	1328	2000	2258	2428	3847	3021	2874
Wheat	77	130	174	123	250	156	171
Jowar	1154	1565	1506	1282	1547	796	846
Bajra	129	211	192	203	342	111	255
All Cereals	3578	5235	5714	5705	10004	8592	7958
All Pulses	352	511	488	539	956	1052	2041
Total Food grains	3930	5746	6202	6244	10960	9644	9999
Sugarcane	5184	8106	12127	20750	42924	36314	27378
Cotton	382	570	597	640	855	1152	1024
Groundnut	448	780	475	816	1081	396	419

Source: Source: (Karnataka at Glance) Economic Survey of Karnataka 2017-18

Table 2. Production of Major Crops in Karnataka



Paddy, Ragi, Jowar, Maize, Cashew, Coconut, areca nut, chilies, cotton, sugarcane, *etc.*, are major crops grown in Karnataka. The area under cultivation of these crops varied during the period 1960-61 and 2016-17. The variation is due to change in cropping pattern, development of irrigation, *etc.*, The area under cultivation of Paddy (Rice) was 1028 thousand hectares in 1960-61 and was maximum in 2000-01 *i.e.*, 1483 thousand hectares. In 2016-17 the area decreased to 1034 thousand hectares. The wheat-cultivated area was 324 thousand in 1960-61 decreased to 168 thousand hectares in 2016-17. It was maximum of 343 thousand hectares in 1970-71. The area under Jowar decreased tremendously to 948 thousand hectares in 2016-17 from 2969 thousand in 1960-61. The cultivated area of Bajra decreased to half of the area in 1960-61 in 2016-17. The decrease in the area of Wheat, Jowar and Bajra cultivation is mainly due to increase in the area of cultivation of Rice, pulses, sugarcane, *etc.*,. The area under cultivation of all cereals varied between 4381 and 6274 thousand hectares between the period 1960-61 and 2016-17 and shown decreasing trend. And the trend concerned with all pulses is reverse *i.e.*, shown increasing trend. It was 1306 thousand hectares in 1960-61 increased to 2966 thousand hectares. The total food grains producing are shown fluctuating trend during the period and decreased to 7347 thousand hectares in 2016-17 from 7804 thousand hectares in the year 2000-01 and this was 7579 thousand hectares in 1960-61. The similar scene (decreasing trend) was notices in the case of sugar cane, cotton and groundnut during the same period.

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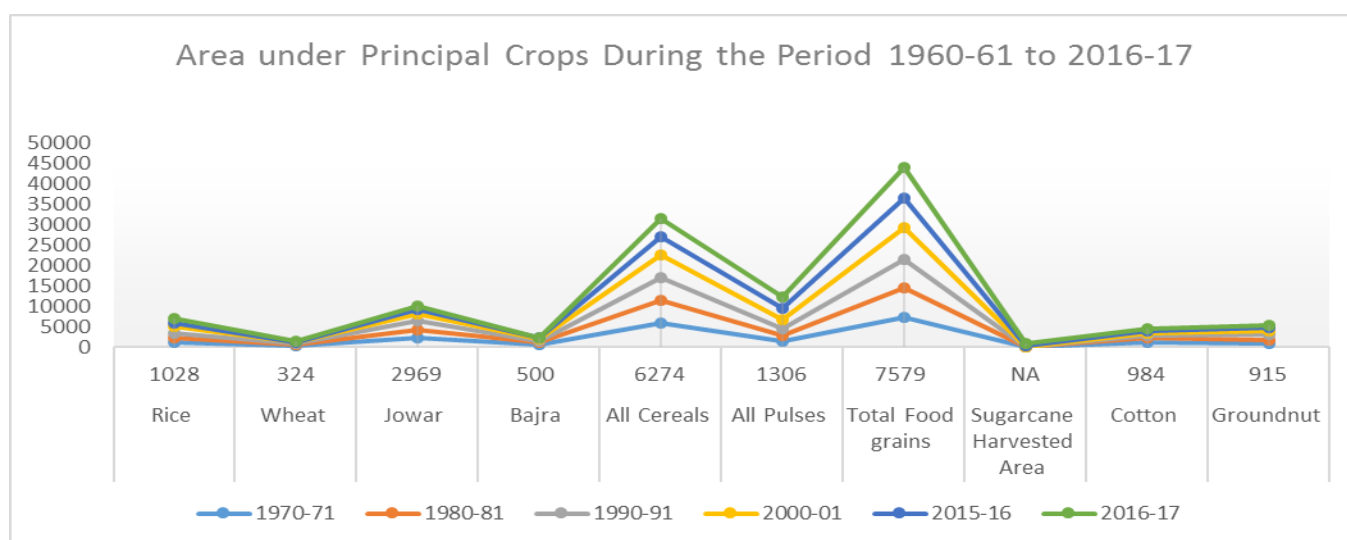
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Area under Principal Crops	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2015-16	2016-17
Rice	1028	1170	1114	1173	1483	1110	1034
Wheat	324	343	322	198	266	174	168
Jowar	2969	2224	1991	2155	1782	1104	948
Bajra	500	562	564	425	462	166	242
All Cereals	6274	5971	5573	5415	5757	4507	4381
All Pulses	1306	1444	1531	1621	2047	2831	2966
Total Food grains	7579	7416	7104	7036	7804	7338	7347
Sugarcane Harvested Area	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	450	397
Cotton	984	1142	1012	596	552	642	510
Groundnut	915	1027	790	1212	1063	570	666

Source: (Karnataka at Glance) Economic Survey of Karnataka 2017-18 **Table 3 Area under Principal Crops during the Period 1960-61 to 2016-17**



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The above table is witness for Area under principal crops during the Period 1960-61 to 2016-17. and the graph above, shows the trends in area under the cultivation of All Cereals, All Pulses and total Food grains.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The major findings of the present study are given below.

1.As per 2011 census, in Karnataka 27,397 inhabited and 1943 uninhabited villages.2. Totally 25.3 percent of the land area of Karnataka 123,100km² land is cultivated.3. The contribution to Karnataka economy by agricultural increased from 432 crore to 1311156 crore in 1960-61 and 2017-2018 respectively.4. Share of the production in India is .Mulberry 98.75%, coffee82.7%, safflower 62.1% and arecanut 58.6%.

SUGGESTIONS

The suggestions of the present study are,

1. Share of the Indian agriculture to nation income should be increased.
2. Application of technology in agriculture should be promoted even to small landholders
3. Taluk wise appreciation programmes should be conducted.
4. Proper procurement and support prices must be assured.

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