

## An empirical study of trends in production and marketing of pulses in two villages of U.P. and M.P.

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### ABSTRACT

Despite the implementation of various programmes, the growth of pulse production is far away from the rate of population growth in the country. This research is an effort to find out constraints faced in the pulses production, trends in the cultivation, production, processing and marketing in two different villages under different geographic and demographic areas.

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**P**ulse (*Dal*) is considered as most nutritious and adoptive dish in India. Be it Sambhar in south, Dal-bati in Mewar region of Madhya Pradesh or Dal fry in Punjab, people eat it with proud but now it is difficult for a common man to purchase it since the prices of Arhar(Tur) pulse touched Rs. 100 per kg in December 2009 which was Rs. 28 per kg in 2005-06. Due to sharp increase in the price of arhar pulse, consumers are moving to lower grade of pulses like pea etc. Even Delhi government advertised its cheap pulse pea for the consumption as pulse. The protein content in pulse is about 18-25 per cent. This makes pulses one of the cheap sources of protein for human consumption. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) defines pulses as an annual leguminous crop yielding from one to twelve seeds within the pod and harvested for dried seeds. Pulses are grown in 23.31 million ha accounting for 31.79 per cent of the world's cultivated area with a total production of 14.50 million tones constituting 23.64 per cent of world production in 2007. While the world average yield average stood at 836 kg/ha, USA, China and Canada attained yields of 1908 kg/ha, 1752 kg/ha and 1804 kg/ha, respectively. The Indian yield of 622 kg/ha is far below (FAO, 2007).

India produced pulses 18.78 million ha as lowest cultivated area in 1951-52 and highest 24.83 million ha during 1959-60. Production of pulses was 8.35 tons during 1966-67 and 15.12 tons during 2007-08. Pulses are grown

in an area of 73.33 million ha with a production of 61.34 million tons in world. In India, lowest yield of pulses was recorded at 377 kg/ha in 1966-67 and 635 kg/ha in the years of 1996-97, 1999-00 and 2003-04. Production of pulses is largely done on rainfed areas in India. Total irrigated area under the pulse cultivation was 7.1 per cent in 1977-78 and 15 per cent in 2005-06. While it was 27.6 per cent to 52.3 per cent for cereals and 24.1 per cent to 45.5 per cent for total food grains. Productivity of pulses increased by 14 per cent during 1960-61 to 2006-07 in comparison to 146 per cent increase in the productivity of food grains (Banerjee and Palke, 2010).

The Technology Mission on Oilseeds is being implemented for two decades for oilseeds. Pulses, oil palm, and maize were brought under the ambit of the mission in 1990-91, 1992, 1995-96, respectively. Although there has been a fairly substantial increase in production of oilseeds since its inception in 1986, domestic production of oilseed is short of the demand of edible oils in the country. The pulses production in the country has continued to be stagnant for decades suggesting that the pulses mission has not been effective.

India's agriculture sector has an impressive long-term record of taking the country out of serious food shortages despite rapid population increase. This was achieved through a favourable interplay of infrastructure, technology, extension, and policy support backed by strong political will. The main source of long-run growth was technological augmentation of yields per unit of cropped area. This resulted in tripling of foodgrain yields and foodgrain production increased from 51 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 217 million tonnes in 2006-07. Production of

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