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SURVELOGICAL RESEARCH ON GROWTH TRENDS OF PULSES IN DISTRICT SOLAN (HP)

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ABSTRACT

In the present scenario the profit and money making has become the mainstay of economy. In the present research paper, the survey based research is being carried out based on the growth trend of pulses. The results of the research were shocking as the area as well as production shows a declining trend. Moreover, the rising prices of the vegetables have further pulled back the farmers to indulge in the pulses.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy and has provided the economy to stand still in highly unstable world. This sector helps in absorbing the shocks of worldwide economic recession. Sustained growth in agricultural production is essential for overall stability of any economy. Area under agriculture plays a vital role in the overall agricultural production. Pulses play a vital role in general livestock as well as has got medicinal importance in recent times curing various body ailments. But in the last few decades, the area and the production of pulses in Himachal Pradesh has drastically declined. There are large numbers of reviews available in literature which supported the same [1-5]. Moorti et al. [6] examined the trends in the production of pulses and oil seeds in Himachal Pradesh. According to them area, production and productivity of all pulses show significant negative trends of 3.69, 10.31 and 6.87 per cent per annum respectively over the study period (1970-71 to 1987-88). There has been marginal non-significant increase in the area under other pulses which included lentil, green gram, red gram and beans etc. Mitra and Jena [7] studied area, production and yield per hectare of groundnut crop. They calculated compound growth rates in relation to area, yield and production. They found in their study that only extension of the area under groundnut cultivation will not solve the problem of increasing the production but adequate attention has to be paid to increase the productivity of the crop. Bhatnagar [8] investigated the trends and pattern of growth in area, production and yield of sunflower in Haryana. He used secondary data for 11 years 1991-92 to 2001-02 and analysed the time series data with the help of linear function. He found that area and production of sunflower in Haryana has been reduced. According to his study area of sunflower has wide variation of 62.29%, whereas the area of oilseed in Haryana has a very slow variation of 14.27%. Similarly, the production of sunflower has a shown a variation of 64.52% and on the other hand oil seed production has a variation of 21.01%. He derived the conclusion that the variation in yield has been obtained 12.95% and 17.65% for sunflower and oilseed respectively in Haryana. Sunflower has maximum variability in the area and production. Kumar et al. [9] studied growth trends of area and production of pigeonpea in India. They utilized the time series data (1949-50 to 2001-02) on area, production and yield of

pigeonpea. The growth trends of area and production were expressed by the functional form $y=a+b^t$. According to study the growth in pigeon pea area and production in the country has shown increasing trends. The study shows that the best trend in area and production is quadratic in nature. The significantly positive square turn in the quadratic equation indicates acceleration in pigeonpea area and production in the country during the study period. Kumar et al. [10] examined the time series data for lentil (1970-71 to 2006-07) to assess production status, growth patterns and growth trends of area and yield along with their interaction. During overall period, the country has shown growth in area (0.934%) and production (3.32%). The results reveal that co-efficient for area in the country varies from 7% to 13%. During the study period, the change in the total production of lentil was completely due to the change in area under the crop as the yield and interaction effects were very small. This present research paper is based on the survey to study the trends in the area and production of pulses in district Solan of Himachal Pradesh. A concised study of area has been taken into account because of the nonavalibilty of reliable data procured from the sources.

METHOD

Solan is selected for the present study based on the agriculture background. This particular area has been well known for the production of many commercial crops. Moreover, the area is well diversified with respect to climatic conditions. The study is based purely on secondary data provided by the department of Revenue of Himachal Pradesh. To support the data an individual survey has also been carried out. The data obtained was tabulated and further analysed giving statistical treatment.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows area under pulses has drastically declined. The area was 4540 hectare in 1993-94 and 2869 hectare in 2003-04. This highly declining trend was due to the shifting of area towards commercial crops specially vegetables in the study area. Farmers are fetching towering prices of vegetable crops while, prices of pulses are more or less stable specially gram and urad which are major crops of the area. Another factor is the Policy of Himachal government to distribute three common pulses at subsidised rates per ration card may also be the reason of shifting of farmers from growing pulses as they are not getting remunerative prices.

From the Table 1 it is also clear that the production of pulses as a whole has declined in study area but in a very uncertain manner. This may be due to change in weather condition in the area over the time period. Most of the irrigated area has been shifted towards commercial cropping. Therefore, production of pulses mainly depends upon the monsoon which too has shown the uncertainatity. This makes the growth rate slower and condition becomes worse.

Table 1 Area And Production Of Pulses In Distt. Solan

Years	Area	% Change in Area (Hectare)	Production	% Change in Production (Mt. Tonnes)
1993-94	4540	-	1109	-
1994-95	4077	-10.19	1241	11.90
1995-96	4231	3.77	1523	22.72
1996-97	4383	3.55	811	-46.74
1997-98	3847	-12.22	1453	79.16
1998-99	4114	6.94	3277	123.82
1999-2000	3513	-14.60	2740	-16.38
2000-01	3225	-8.19	576	-78.97
2001-02	2827	-12.39	1257	118.22
2002-03	2875	1.69	1080	-14.08
2003-04	2869	-.20	792	-26.66

FORMULA

$$\% \Delta Q = \frac{Q_2 - Q_1}{Q_1} \times 100$$

ΔQ= change in Area/Production, Q_2= value of current year,Q_1 = value of previous year

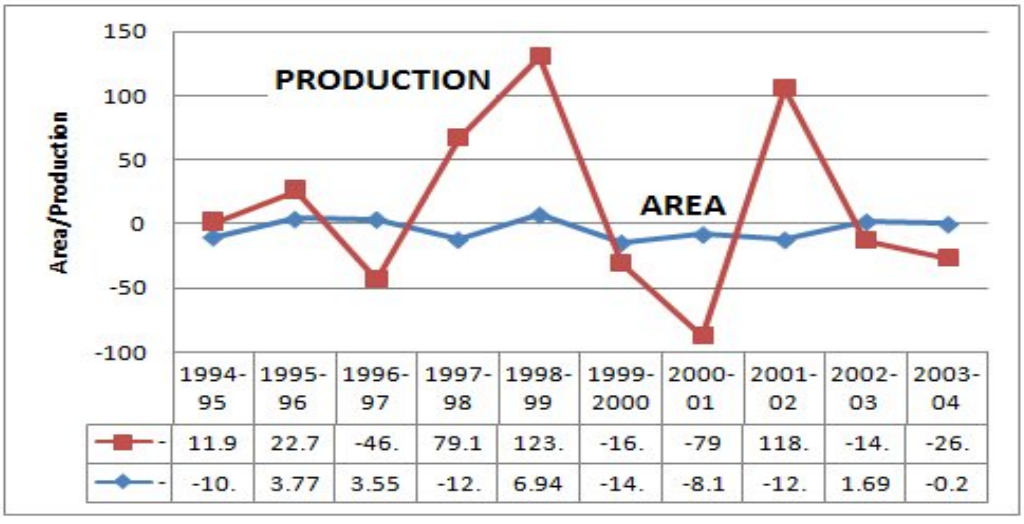

Figure 1 Graphical Presentation of % Change in Area/Production

The reasons which could be concluded for this is that the shifting of environmental trend along with some other biotic and abiotic factors may be responsible for the declining in the area of pulses in area under study.

CONCLUSION

The area under pulses has decreased in a very erratic manner. The changing climate conditions along with overpopulation may be the reasons for this decline. Therefore, it may be concluded that there is urgent need to overcome these constraints outlined in the study. The less use of synthetic fertilizers along with mixed cropping can be an effective alternate, which may be helpful for overcoming these constraints.

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