Changing Agricultural Scenario and food Prospects in India: A study with Special Reference to Rajasthan

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Thesis Abstract

Present study is an attempt to look into the issues in food-population relationship and its dynamism over the years. Historically, the debate concerning food-population balance came into lime light with the publication of much discussed Malthus ‘An Essay on the Principle of Population’. As per Malthusian doctrine the power of population is infinitely greater than the power of land to grow. Therefore, food supply in Malthusian vision is considered as the power of regulating population size. Slightly, contrary to this Beserupean ideology explains that unless population increases the adoption of new agricultural technique is highly unlikely.

In recent times, debate concerning food-population has many off-shoots ranging from Neo-Malthusian, Medows Limit to Growth, to needs to achieve Millennium Development Goals more recently. All these off-shoots are trying to arrest changes in population in respect to changing agriculture and vice-versa. On the same lines, present thesis is an attempt to look into the behaviour of agriculture and population under changing socio-economic scenario. This thesis is based on varied data sources collected from secondary as well as from random sampling based field survey. Among secondary sources Census of India and data obtained from Ministry of agriculture, government of India has served as chief data source. In terms of primary data, field survey was conducted based on Agro-climatic regions. Data obtained from varied sources than put to some statistical technique and results were shown through appropriate cartographic method.

Trends in area, production and yield of various food crops and non-food crops were studies to determine present food status of society with reference to changes in demographic scenario of India in general and in Rajasthan in particular. Various statistical and cartographic techniques were applied to determine contours of food-population relationship. After analysing food-population relationship, thesis has suggested potential areas and some policy changes to improve future food status of the country. The issues related to food-population balance in the society are an important issue for mankind and this has hogged lime light in discussion of researchers and policy makers. With reference to India in general and about Rajasthan in particular none of these theoretical viewpoints explains full
situation. Analysis in this thesis definitely reveals that healthy balance of food-population which was achieved after green revolution seems to be changing. Changes in economic and social parameters have initiated many changes in agricultural sector and that all those changes are bound to have negative impact on food-population relationship. The need of hour is to frame policies in such a way that future potentials of the society can be enhanced. On one hand policies should be targeted towards fast reduction of population growth and on other policies should be made to achieve accelerated growth rate in food production.