Chapter - I

INTRODUCTION
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India has the largest distinction of being the largest producers of pulses in the world. India is an agricultural country where agriculture is considered as a prime industry. About 64 percent of the total population of the country is engaged in agriculture that contributes about 29 percent of the total national income. As against this, the proportion of agricultural income to the total national income in U.K. is only 3.1 percent, in U.S.A. 3.2 percent, in Canada 7.0 percent, in France 6.0 percent and Japan 8.7 percent. In the developed countries of the world, agriculture contributes less to the national income as compared to the developing countries.

Of the total agricultural crops grown in India, pulses are most important because they are the major source of protein to the majority of the people in the country who live on vegetarian diet. Pulses not only have nutritional value for human beings but also contribute to soil fertility besides providing nutritious green fodder and feed to livestock. Pulses provide the most important food ingredient of protein in diet and are 2-3 times richer in protein than most of cereals.

Pulses are grown over an area of 22.8 million hectares with a production ranging from 12.94 million tonnes (accounting for 17 percent of the total area and 7 percent of the total food grain
production). The yield per hectare ranges between 500-600 kg per hectare. Pulses are grown mainly under rain fed conditions. The irrigated area accounts for only 8 percent of the total area. The major pulses producing states in the country are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan which accounted for about 67 percent of the total production of the country.

The production of pulses which had declined in the drought years 2000-01 and 2001-02, increased substantially to a record of 12.96 millions tonnes during 2002-03 exceeding the peak level of 13.4 million tonnes during 1999-2000. The increase of 2.5 million tonnes of pulses in 2002-03 or 2001-02 was contributed by 1.1 million tonnes of kharif pulses (mainly Arhar) which increased from 4.2 million tonnes to 5.4 million tonnes and by about 1.3 millions tonnes of Rabi pulses (mainly Gram) which increased from 6.4 million tonnes to 7.9 million tonnes. The increase in productivity came in the wake of Special Food Grains Production Programme implemented in 28 selected districts of gram producing states. Despite many efforts made to increase the production of pulses, it has not brought about any perceptible change in per capita availability. In fact pulse production has shown a declining trend during the last two decades. As a result per capita availability has declined over the last years from 69 grams per day in 1991 to around 40 grams per day in 2001. With increased emphasis on balanced nutrition, the declining per capita availability has indeed been a cause of concern. The increase in production has not kept pace with the increase in population. To increase the availability of pulses, the import of pulses
has been allowed under open general licence and it has grown from 2.21 lakh tonnes during 2001-01 to 8.16 lakh tonnes during 2002-03.

In order to encourage higher production and to arrest the declining trend in the per capita availability, its production in 2002-03 had been targeted at 14.6 million tonnes (5.5 million tonnes during Kharif and 9.1 million tonnes during Rabi season). This had been sought to be achieved through several pulses development programmes like National Production Programme. The main objective of National Pulse Development Project was to increase the production by adopting location specific technology. It comprised of distribution of improved seeds, block demonstrations, adaptive trails of promising varieties, pest control, extension work and plant protection. National Pulses Development Project was supplemented by a special programme under Special Food grains Production Programme launched in 13 states covering schemes of plant protection, expansion of area under summer moong/urd through distribution of seeds at concessional rates. Besides, pulses have also been brought within the purview of Technology Mission. The target fixed for pulses production at the end of the 10th Plan, the Government of India decided it to be at 20 million tonnes.

The area under pulses in Utter Pradesh during the year 1990-91 was 3724.829 thousand hectares with a production of 3069258 metric tonnes which declined to 2986.047 thousand hectares of area and 2412726 metric tonnes of production during the year 2001-02. Likewise
the productivity showed a declining trend. The productivity declined from 8.24q/ha to 8.08q/ha during the period 1990-91 to 2002-03.

In Uttar Pradesh, Chitrakoot Dham region is famous for pulse production. In Chitrakoot Dham the pulse production takes place under rainfed conditions because of lack of irrigation facilities on one hand and typical physiography on the other. Chitrakoot Dham accounts for 18.11 percent of the total area and 25.67 percent of the total production of the state. The productivity of pulses in Chitrakoot Dham was higher in the state being 8.76 q. per hectare as against 8.08 q. of the state during the year 2001-02.

The area under pulses in district Chitrakoot Dham during the year 2002-03 was 218.9 thousand hectares with a production of 1946.27 metric tonnes. The average yield per hectare was recorded quite low i.e. 9.1 quintals. The Government of India stressed upon boosting the production of pulses on the lines similar to those taken six years ago to raise oilseeds production when the import bill of this commodity exceeded Rs. 1500 crores, next only to the import of petroleum. The mission has viewed seriously in the context of various efforts being made to increase productivity through yield increasing technology.

The pulse production in the state as well as in the area did not show any appreciable increased for last forty years rather it has declined. The growth of pulse production in the state was (-) 0.11 percent per annum and that of in Chitrakoot Dham (+) 0.62 percent per annum and in Banda district (+) 2.71 percent per annum. This slow
growth is no growth in pulses was due to many constraints in its production. So far no such high yielding strains of pulses have been evolved which would have brought break through in its production. Besides the pulse production suffer from high infestation of diseases and pests. These circumstances call for an intensive enquiry into the constraints in pulse production.

Keeping in view the importance of pulse production in Chitrakoot Dham of UP; this study has conducted to make an assessment of pulse growers and suggest measures to make them still more efficient and useful for the pulse- economy. Thus, the study would provide a deep insight into different of pulse production in the study area. The study will be of great use to the policy maker’s administrators, economists and extension workers for developing sound programmes and policies for the growth of pulse production in the study area.

Objective of the Study:

In view of the importance of pulse production and their impact on pulse economy of the state, the objectives envisaged for the study were as follows as given in synopsis:

(I) To study the growth and trend in area, production and productivity of pulse crops in study area.

(II) To measure the contribution of pulses in gross cropped area income employment on the selected holdings.
(III) To work out the costs and returns on major pulse crops and their competing crops sown in the study area.

(IV) To measure the resource use efficiency on various pulse crops production in the study area.

(V) To identify the constraints in production and productivity of pulse crops in the study area and suggest suitable remedial measures.