CHAPTER-1
INTRODUCTION
1.1 Statement of the Problem

Regulated markets occupy an important place in the contemporary agricultural marketing scenario of India. Up to late 60's, regulated market has little importance in the country but today these markets has emerged as the most powerful instrument to revamp and radicalize the age old and traditional-bound system of agricultural marketing in India. The advent of regulated markets has undoubtedly helped in mitigating the market handicaps of producer sellers by releasing them from monopolistic power of village traders. In addition to this protective function, the regulatory apparatus has also helped in making the marketing system more efficient.

The traditional system of agricultural marketing in India was not healthy because it was completely a trader oriented system with prevalence of high marketing cost, unauthorized deductions of marketing charges and other malpractices. Further, relatively larger margin of middlemen in the consumer’s price of various agro-products was a common feature, which reflects exploitative nature of agricultural marketing. Large seasonal fluctuations in arrivals and pricing of agricultural products was another expression of an inefficient marketing system. Since the beginning of our civilization farmers remains deprived, weak and unorganized. Therefore, they are subjected to exploitation by numerically small but economically strong and well-organized traders and middlemen. In order to check the exploitation of farmers and to make the marketing system more effective and efficient, government has established regulated markets.

Government has realized that agricultural production and marketing are two sides of the same coin. Through state action, the market system is geared to achieve social objectives, which cannot be attained by the market mechanism alone. Regulation of agricultural markets has contributed substantially in providing better returns to the farmer for his production and also in systematic

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development of market yards, other marketing activities and infrastructural
facilities. The state's intervention in agricultural marketing in Uttar Pradesh
was started with the enactment of 'Uttar Pradesh Rajya Krishi Utpadan Mandi
Adhiniyam' in 1964.

Regulated market is a place where producers, sellers, traders,
middlemen, market administrators and workers assemble for the marketing of
agricultural products in order to fulfill the demands of our society. The main
works of markets are to provide better prices to the farmers and availability of
agricultural commodities to the consumers and food processing industries at
reasonable rates. Besides these facilities, creation of basic infrastructure for
development of modern marketing system is imperative for strengthening the
competitiveness of Indian agriculture in the global market.

Regulated market has immense potential to help not only to the rural
people but also to the entire spectrum of market users in both rural and urban
centres. It is a cardinal point in the nation's distribution of surplus agricultural
produce. The process of economic development in rural areas, through
regulated market is like that the surplus agricultural produce arrives at this
wholesale terminal market, directly through the village producers or through
primary and secondary markets in hierarchical pattern. It provides the facility
of grading, standardization and quality control measures, ancillary facilities,
construction of rural link roads, and diffusion of agricultural innovations etc.,
which give impetus for increasing the agricultural productivity. Consequently,
more surplus income is generated, which may be reinvested in agricultural
inputs and may place more demands for exotic goods and services in rural
areas.

Through the market regulation many positive and negative impacts on
society may be reflected. Economic viability of the farming system,
employment generation, foreign exchange to the nation through the agro-export
and living standard of Indians also improved up. Besides these positive

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Saxena, H.M., (1992), Regulated Agricultural Markets: A Case Study of Rajasthan, Rawat
Publications, Jaipur, p. 158.
impacts, there are many malpractices prevailing in the regulated markets such as low prices in the market, lack of government procurement, and marketing information, lack of credit for marketing of produce, monopoly of traders in the market, forced sale in the market at below minimum support price, unnecessary deductions and charges, high rates of commission and market fee etc.

Therefore, regulated markets are important means to increase the income of farmers and level of consumer's satisfaction. The farmers allocate their resources according to their comparative advantage and invest modern inputs to obtain higher productivity and production. This in turn contributes to increased marketed surplus of farm products and resulting agricultural development.

The topic selected for the research work is important for both academic and planning purpose. Academically, it would help in creating new insight to understand what role is being played by regulated market in the development of agriculture. On the other hand at policy level it would generate the accurate data to understand the existing problems in the regulated markets.

1.2 Significance of the Study

The present research work can play a vital role in formulating the policies for the development of agriculture through the regulated markets. The district Aligarh has been selected as the study area. Agriculturally Aligarh district is one of the developed districts of western Uttar Pradesh as this district is the witness of Green Revolution\(^1\). Majority of the people in the district are engaged in agricultural activities. Therefore rural population of the study area is depends on efficient marketing system for the sale and purchase of agro-commodities. The regulated markets provide all the necessary facilities for the efficient movement of agro-commodities from the producers to the consumers. The transaction through the regulated markets are contributing significantly in enhancing the income of farmers which leads agricultural development in the study area.

\(^1\) Government of India has initiated a policy to increase food production in some district in the country by using modern technology during late 1960 s.
Thus regulated markets and its role in agricultural development is important aspect of marketing geography. An understanding of these factors of the study area will provide empirical evidences for the planners and the policy makers to formulate policies which shall be helpful in agricultural development.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Taking into consideration the aforesaid conditions and features of Indian agriculture with reference to marketing, following objectives have been formulated:

1. To find out the nature and mechanism of agro-marketing and facilities and amenities in the regulated markets of the study area.
2. To estimate the trend and pattern of temporal variation in primary and secondary arrival as well as seasonal primary arrival of agro-commodities.
3. To assess the proportion of market arrival intensity of different agricultural commodities from the market hinterland.
4. To assess the number and proportion of producer sellers of various size of land holdings coming to the regulated markets.
5. To understand the variables which are plying important role in agricultural development through marketing of surplus agro-commodities.
6. To suggest remedial measures for better regulated market, which will help in agricultural development of the study area.

1.4 Hypotheses

For achieving the success in understanding the discussed objectives, some hypotheses would also be tested. These hypotheses are given below:

1. Positive market arrival is one of the performance variables of the regulated market.
2. Seasonal fluctuations in the arrivals of agro-commodities in the regulated markets are pronounced.
3. Efficient transportation and other infrastructural facilities reduce spatial unevenness of marketed surplus.
4. Highest market arrival intensity zone and proportion of marketed surplus of agro-commodities are closest to the market centres. It is inversely related with the distance from the market.
5. The number of sellers and frequency of their visit to market decreases as the distance increases from the market centres.

6. There is positive relation between regulated market and agricultural development.

1.5 Methodology and Data Collection

The study is based on both primary and secondary source of data. Primary data have been generated from two tier of geographical locations i.e., regulated markets and its hinterland villages. The hinterland region of each regulated market is divided into different concentric zones based on distance of 2 kilometres apart. Three villages from each concentric zone have been selected for detailed enquiry. Fifteen villages have been selected around each regulated market notified area on the basis of stratified random sampling technique. Thus total sixty villages have been selected keeping in view some special considerations viz, road connectivity and the interior location around regulated markets of the Aligarh district.

Further 10 per cent of producer sellers and traders from each regulated markets and fifty households from every sampled village have been selected on the basis of stratified random sampling. Data was collected in 2004-2005 on the basis of detailed questionnaire. Villagers have been thoroughly interviewed regarding various aspects of regulated markets and its impact on agriculture development. All the sampled villages were visited before conducting survey. In this preliminary survey, list of households was prepared and village inhabitants were classified on the basis of size of land holdings, i.e. marginal, small, medium, big and very big farmers. Keeping in view total 50 households from each village, belonging to different categories according to size of land holding were selected in the proportion.

The data regarding the arrival of agro-commodities have been collected from the agricultural market committee of each regulated market, which keeps the regular records of daily, weekly, monthly and annual arrival of agricultural products.

Only nine major crops namely paddy, wheat, maize, arhar, moong, mustard, groundnut, potato and onion have been taken into consideration. The
crops were selected on the basis of production and the quantity reached in the market. In addition to primary data, secondary data have been collected from Census Office Lucknow, District Statistical Office Aligarh, The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection Faridabad, District Industry Office Aligarh.

The collected data was analyzed by using different statistical techniques like simple percentage, Weaver’s Crop Combination region, Karl Pearson’s Coefficient of Correlation to derive conclusions regarding the role of regulated markets in the development of agriculture.

1.6 Study Area

The study area is located in upper Ganga Yamuna doab. It is one of the most agriculturally developed district of Western Uttar Pradesh. It lies between 27° 34' N to 28° 11' N latitudes and 77° 29' E to 78° 38' E longitudes, covering an area of 3691.54 sq. kms and inhabitating 2992286 persons (2001).

Aligarh district is selected as study area because it is agriculturally development district of Western Uttar Pradesh and the district has been selected for green revolution during their initial phase. The district is well served by regulated markets and becomes one of the important marketing channels for agro-marketing. Agriculture is practiced intensively securing 168.93 per cent cropping intensity index. Intensive and extensive farming are done on 481619 hectares of land.

Aligarh is divided into 5 sub-divisions and 12 developmental blocks. The district has 1181 villages and 13 towns. The district has 4 regulated markets and 6 sub-markets,

1.7 Literature Review

Marketing geography is important sub-field of economic geography. Geographers up to 1950 rarely undertook the study of distributive system of commodities and services between producer and consumers. Some sporadic discussions and surveys had been made on marketing activities, both in rural and urban centres. But these contributions belong to either urban, industrial or agricultural geography.
However, marketing geography has its roots in the 5th decade of the 20th century. During the last 50 years, there has been a significant and growing interest towards the study of market places and exchange system. But most of these studies have been made by economists, anthropologists and commercialists in their own approaches (Saxena, 1992).

Moreover, during the 20th century especially after 1930, the attention of geographers was towards the study of market centres. The market centres were considered as functions of centrality, which provide various types of functions and services to their hinterlands.

With the introduction of Christaller’s Central Place Theory (1933) and Losch (1954) the study of service centres including wholesaling and retailing became common.

William Applebaum (1954) was the founder of this discipline and he defined the field and scope of marketing geography. He was of the opinion that marketing geography is concerned with the delimitation and measurement of market with the channel of distribution through which goods move from producers to consumers.

B.W. Hodder (1965) highlighted the distance factor in determining the demand of goods in the market centres. Skinner (1965) recognized the rural markets as the smallest unit associated with intermediate and central markets at national level of exchange system. Thorpe and Nader (1967) were of the

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1 Saxena, H.M. (1992), Regulated Agricultural Markets-A Case Study of Rajasthan, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, Delhi
4 Applebaum, W (1954), Marketing Geography in James, P.E. and Jones, C.F (ed), American geography: Inventory and Prospect, Syracuse.
opinion that a subjective four rank hierarchy in the North Durban, based on the index of centrality was justified by hierarchical structure of consumer's behaviour in the system.

Brush and Gauthier (1968)\(^1\) studied the origin and development of various centres. Their actual shopping facilities in quantity and quality, their functional arrangement in relation to residential area, communication and finally movement of consumers with reference to private motor car, to food purchase and other type of shopping expedition and their combination were taken under consideration. Vance (1970)\(^2\) worked on the study of wholesaling geography. He examined the factors underlying the distribution and organization of wholesale activities. Smith (1972)\(^3\), Eighmy (1972)\(^4\), Symnaski (1974)\(^5\) analyzed the periodic market locations and frequencies in different study regions of the world.

Barbara Harris contribution, in the field of agricultural marketing is most notable. She has written many articles such as Food grain Markets-A Critique (1960), Role of Punjab Markets as Regulated Growth Centres (1974)\(^6\) etc.

A few edited volumes contain very good works on agricultural marketing especially in developing countries. Proceedings of INCOMES, Vol.1, entitled ‘Marketing Systems for Developing Countries’\(^7\) has provided background for study of agricultural markets. Literature on marketing

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geography in the form of review and bibliographies during 1970 was developed by R.J. Bromely (1971, 1974, 1979). With the establishment of the International Geographical Union (IGU), a working group on market distribution system / market place-exchange system (1972-73), the study of marketing activities in geography has been accelerated, not only in developed countries, but also in developing countries like India. The pace of development has been very rapid during the eighties of the twentieth century. The existing study group was transformed into study group of Commercial Activities in France IGU Summit in 1988. Afterwards this group was developed as IGU commission on commercial activities in 1993 and in Hague summit (1996) it was restructured and named as study group on Globalization of Retailing. At present this study group is continued as IGU Commission of Globalization of Retailing. Thus, the field and scope of marketing geography has widened to a considerable extent.

1.7.1 Studies on Regulated Markets

The studies on the market efficiency in general and on the working of regulated markets in particular taking into consideration the role and importance of agricultural marketing in the under developed countries like India have not been undertaken seriously in the past.

After 1930 such study came into existence, which attracted the attention of geographers towards the study of market centres. A very sporadic attempt was made by geographers of developing countries especially in India during 1930-50 to study the market centres.

Regarding the working of regulated markets, a few official studies were made by the expert committees appointed by different state governments. Among them the report of Dantwalla Committee (1950) need to be especially mentioned. This committee was appointed by the government of Bombay to

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1 Bromely, R.J (1979), Periodic Markets in Fairs: A Bibliography (Supplements to 1974), Monish Publication in Geography.

review the working of regulated markets in the state and to suggest necessary changes in the legislation.

The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection brought out a brochure in (1956)\(^1\) to compile the marketing legislations prevailing in the concerned states and to present a comparative picture of these legislations, so that it could serve as a guide to the states that had not enacted the market legislations.

During sixties and seventies studies on regulated markets made remarkable progress in India. Notable contributions were made during this period. Mirchandani and Hiranandani (1963)\(^2\) made an effort to review the progress of regulated markets in India. They were of the opinion that the regulated markets helped to develop marketing sense among the producers, who often meekly submitted to the wishes of traders.

The study conducted by Joshi (1966)\(^3\) on ‘Regulated Markets in Gujarat’ reveals that the Markets Act in Gujarat state did not remove the obstacles in the formation of regulated markets. The studies on marketing efficiency were made by Jasdanwala (1966)\(^4\) Cummings (1967)\(^5\) and Holmes (1969)\(^6\). These studies have concluded that Indian agricultural markets are fairly competitive and the existing market structure does not need any radical changes at the present stage of Indian economy.

The examination of the magnitude and direction of changes in the structure, organization and operation of grain markets in Punjab was studied by

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A.S. Kahlan (1970)\(^1\). It was observed that market technology and other improvements in the marketing structure have not kept pace with the efforts to provide the market yards at suitable sites to permit efficient handling of agricultural products.

The study conducted by Radhakrishnan (1971)\(^2\) on the marketing of groundnut and cotton crops in Khandesh region by selecting nine regulated markets. He observed that one or two big buyers exercised command over the bulk of total quantity transacted in the regulated markets.

S.C. Mallick (1976)\(^3\) made a study on 'Rice Marketing in Orissa and found that regulated markets in the state suffered from inadequacy of transport facilities and failed in controlling the prices of the commodities in the market.

B.D. Kulkarni (1977)\(^4\) studied various aspects connected with the management of regulated market in Sholapur district. The author examined several malpractices at length and finally concluded that most of the markets were not able to discharge the basic responsibilities on their part and hence succeeded only partially in their endeavour.

The study conducted by Subba Rao (1978)\(^5\) on 'The Examination of Economic Efficiency of Paddy Marketing System at Village Level in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh' revealed that there were many imperfections in marketing of paddy at village level. It was found that primary and secondary market price integration was weak particularly in less developed villages. Barbara Harris (1980)\(^6\) examined the effects of market regulation in reducing the degree of imperfections with which different market functions

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through time and space. The study concluded that regulated marketing has apparently been felt to halt the rise in the level of market imperfections.

A. Siva Rama Prasad (1981)\(^1\) studied on working of regulated markets in Andhra Pradesh by selecting six markets as samples. The study made an attempt to measure the operational efficiency in quantitative terms. L.P. Singh (1983)\(^2\) made a study to examine how far regulated markets have been able to accomplish their objectives in India. A. Siva Rama Prasad (1985)\(^3\) undertook a study on the role and working of selected regulated markets in Andhra Pradesh. This work was based on the author's dissertation submitted for PhD in Andhra University in 1982. Apart from the origin and growth of markets, it provides depth analysis on the market facilities and amenities, the market practices, the volume of business transactions, financial performance, operational efficiency etc.

The study by S.S. Acharya and N.L. Agarwal (1987)\(^4\) on agricultural marketing in India evaluates the performance of the existing marketing system, institutions and policy in accelerating agricultural development of the country. It is an incisive analysis with special emphasis on marketing functions, institutions, efficiency, cost and margins, government efforts in the improvement of agricultural marketing and market research.

Gulab Nath Singh, et.al (1987)\(^5\) analyzed the growth and development of regulated markets, its main characteristics, advantages, organization, constitution of market committees, finances and functions etc.

G. Narasimha Murthy's (1988)\(^6\) study evaluates the performance of selected regulated markets in the backward region of Warangal district of

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Andhra Pradesh. A comprehensive approach is followed in evaluating the performance in terms of varied dimensions like physical and financial performance, price efficiency, competitive conditions etc.

H.M. Saxena (1992)\(^1\) has proposed the analysis of regulated market in terms of growth, organization, structural pattern, commodities, trade areas, market efficiency, role of market etc.

Anita Arya (1993)\(^2\) pointed out the working strategy of regulated markets in Gujarat and analyzed the characteristics of a competitive market, and its integration, market stability, cost of buying and selling, market arrival etc.

Abha Lakshmi and Shahab Fazal (1994)\(^3\) discussed general conditions of the sampled farmers and revealed that marketing facilities in the study region are deplorably poor and despite the presence of government officials, malpractices are rampant.

P.R. Chauhan and R.S. Singh (1999)\(^4\) studied regulated agricultural markets and rural development of eastern Uttar Pradesh and concluded that these market centers operate not only like an exchange centres but also provide market infrastructures at site and diffuse the agricultural innovations and its spatio-functional integration with the marketing network of the area.

O.P. Sharma (1999)\(^5\) made an effort to study the regulated market as a focal point of economic development of Mohibullapur market of Lucknow, and found that fair price regulation, quality control, market infrastructure, construction of rural link roads etc. are some of the factors which help in rising

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agricultural production and rural income, leading to the socio-economic transformation of the surrounding area.

C.T. Pawar and T.N. Lokhande (2000) have assessed to analyze the spatial distribution, centre, relationship to physiography and area of market etc. which provided the conclusion that the significant relationship of market centres with population and net sown area exists. It is also concluded that this region has random and regular distributional pattern of market centers.

R.S. Dixit (2001) has studied the distribution of the regulated agricultural markets of Uttar Pradesh and analyzed the theoretical patterns of regulated agricultural markets in terms of area, population and inhabited villages.

H.M. Saxena (2003) analyzed the nature and characteristics of market place participants and their behavioural pattern in urban markets as well as agricultural markets.

S.K. Sharma and Devendra Singh (2003) have assessed that market genesis theory is not fully responsible for the existing structure and functions of market places in the state.

Z. Siddiqui, N. Khan and M. Hoda (2003) studied role of regulated market in the development of vegetable cultivation and concluded that Dhanipur regulated market played an important role in the development of vegetable cultivation.

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M.M.Hoda (2006)\(^1\) analyzed a systematic study of the nature of marketed surplus, marketing costs and price structure of six important crops at three tier marketing agencies.

1.7.2 Studies on Agricultural Development

A review of geographical literature reveals that in India very few attempts have been made to define agricultural development and to select criteria of development in the light of any conceptual framework. Among all the studies the dominating focus is only on productivity dimensions. Agricultural development is unquestionably a multi-dimensional concept of which crop production, crop diversification and commercialization of agriculture are chief components.

Kumaraswamy (1969)^2 presented a study which provides detailed and exhaustive comments on the strength of co-operations in agriculture. Cooperative has been contributing in several ways to the development of agriculture especially in the matter of distribution of loans and supplies of agricultural inputs. It ensures the balanced growth of production in which all section of farming community can take their full share. Cooperative helps in providing both short and long-term loan to the farmers. Cooperatives have also supplied new varieties of seeds, fertilizers and implements to the farmers. Cooperative also helps farmers in providing marketing and other services.

Kanwar (1970)^3 has focused attention on the modernization of Indian agriculture. According to him the new technology of production is based on the use of fertilizer, HYV seeds, pesticides, scientific water management and other agronomic practices. In this way the suitable implements and machinery have become necessity for the development and modernization of Indian agriculture.


\(^{2}\) Kumaraswamy, S (1969), Expending Role of Cooperative in Agriculture, Agricultural Situation in India, Vol. XXIV, No.3.

Rao (1971) described that the major cause of inter-state variations in crops output is the difference in the growth of irrigated area among the states.

Alam (1974), using data for individual tehsils in his study of regional disparities in development in Andhra Pradesh, employed six indicators from the agricultural sector. Two of these related to productivity (agricultural output per agricultural worker and per acre) and four to agricultural development (percentage of gross irrigated area, gross cropped, canal irrigated and double cropped area).

Raza (1978) after analyzing 41 indicators, grouped four subsets of productivity, production conditions, agrarian relations, change in agriculture and measured productivity in term of output per hectare, per worker, per tractor, per tube-well and per unit of fertilizer.

Noor Mohammad (1981) has pointed out that technological change in agriculture consists of adoption of farming techniques developed through research and calculated to bring out diversification and increase in agricultural production and greater return to farmers. The use of fertilizers, improved varieties of seeds, pesticides, improved irrigation facilities and new agricultural implements are capable of increasing agricultural productivity.

Krishna (1992) emphasized that agricultural development, in true sense denote the quality of agricultural system of a region in terms of productivity, diversification and commercialization consistent with desired state of agrarian relation and ecological balance.

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3 Raza, M (1978), Levels of Regional Development in India, Indo-Soviet Symposium on Regional Development and National Planning, Tbilisi.
Thakur (1992)\(^1\) viewed that after independence, particularly during the last two decades, there has been considerable change in almost all the parameters of agriculture in India; due to the variation in physical, socio-economic conditions, change in agriculture are not uniform all over the country either spatially or temporally.

Shafi (1981)\(^2\) emphasized that the optimum use of land for production depends on to a large extent on the level of technology and the system of farming. In his opinion there are two ways for increasing food production:

(a) Increasing the area under cultivation.
(b) Increasing the output per head.

He also points out that one of the major hindrances in the optimal use of land lies in the land tenure system.

Davey (1975)\(^3\) pointed out that the development of agriculture is to be judged from the degree of equity in farm incomes and the nature of agrarian relations. The test of any development is the extent to which it delivers social justice. The unequal distribution of land ownership and economic power makes it possible and profitable for the landowner to combine various modes of exploitation of the rural poor.

Frankel (1971)\(^4\) has pointed out that one of the conspicuous weaknesses of Green Revolution was that it widened the disparities in farm income. An attempt of agriculture development however should not produce deterioration in ecological conditions. It should not lead to disfigure of forests, exhaustion of soil nutrients, depletion of underground water and emergence of water logging conditions. Conservation of physical resources is an integral part of any agricultural development.

\(^1\) Thakur, A (1992), Patterns of Agricultural Growth in Noor, M (ed.), Dynamics of Agricultural Development, Vol.7.


\(^3\) Davey, B (1975), The Economic Development of India, Spokesman Books, p.175.

According to M.R.Khurrana (1992) the differences in the levels of agricultural development in a particular district is largely in terms of differences in irrigation facilities, rural electrification, use of chemical fertilizers, adoption of HYV of seeds and so on.

Nalini Govind (1986) studied the spatial and temporal dimensions at different area levels (National, states and districts and within them the sample land holdings). Such an approach provides a realistic regional framework for evaluating the potential of different crops in the country and to formulate the spatial strategies in conformity with the regional realities.

Ram Rajpati (1989) has studied that the main thrust of agricultural development lies on increasing per hectare crop yields and the total production which can be achieved mainly through practicing multiple cropping, adopting high yielding crops and rational use of economic resources.

Shafiqullah (1999), has studied that after a long gap of eight years, a very little change was noticed in terms of spatial pattern of agricultural development.

S, Rahman and J.K.Routray (2000) analyzed the regional imbalance in agricultural development over two decades by selecting some important indicators. Study reveals the fact that persistent stagnancy of regions over time and the dominance of crop productivity and technology factors in explaining inter-regional variations.

It is noticeably admitted fact that markets are incorporated of multifunctional activities like commercial, political and social etc. They

4 Shafiqullah (1999), Levels of Agricultural development in Gonda District, U.P., Geographical Review of India, Vol.61, No.4, pp.361-371
contribute in economic development and social integration of the rural society. Hierarchy, trade area and planning perspectives have attracted quite a good number of marketing geographers. The researchers have overlooked planning perspective and related aspects.

After the review of literature related to agricultural marketing, it is clear that the geographers and economists have done a lot of works in the field of regulated markets. But most of these studies are mainly concerned with regulated market morphology, price structure, market integration, marketable surplus, market margins, commodity structure, market administration, market participants behaviour etc. However, the role played by regulated markets in agricultural development has been ignored which can play a significant role in a developing country like India in general and Aligarh district in particular.

1.8 Chapter Design

The present research work unfolds various aspects of regulated markets of Aligarh district both in term of time and space. The study has been divided into seven chapters.

First chapter deals with the statement of the problem, significance of the study, objectives, hypotheses, methodology of research and data collection, study area and review of literature.

Second chapter examines the geographical outlook of the study area. It deals with physical conditions, demographic characteristics, agricultural and non-agricultural economy of the study area. The study area embodies a distinct geographical personality in terms of physical and socio-economic conditions. These geographical factors are responsible for reshaping and designing the geographical landscape.

Third chapter deals with the over all view of regulated agricultural marketing i.e., their need, important features, objectives, significance, historical background. Besides, it also deals with administrative organization, composition and organization of market committee, infrastructural facilities, notified commodities and site of the regulated markets.
Fourth chapter describes the system of regulated markets in the study area. This chapter analyzes location and distribution of regulated markets, proportion of marketed surplus of different crops marketed through different agencies of agricultural marketing system, method of transaction of agricultural products, market functionaries, marketing channels of the agricultural products, infrastructural facilities and trading premises.

Fifth chapter discussed the role of regulated markets of the study area. This chapter is mainly devoted to the study of trends and patterns of market arrival in spatio-temporal dimensions of the regulated markets of Aligarh district. The volume of business transacted and its character is the important indicator for assessing the role of regulated market. In this chapter an attempt has been made to examine the behaviour of arrivals in the regulated markets of the study area.

Sixth chapter examines the market arrival intensity and proportion of marketed surplus in regulated markets from different zones of market hinterland. And try to estimate the number of producer sellers coming from different zones according to the size of land holdings in different regulated markets.

Seventh chapter assesses the role of regulated market in agricultural development with reference to area, production and yield of different crops for a period of 12 years from 1991-92 to 2002-2003. In this chapter an effort has been made to understand the factors which are crucial in agricultural development. Moreover, relation between the market and agricultural development variables have been examined to understand the role being played by the regulated markets in agricultural development of the district using Karl Pearson’s Coefficient of Correlation.

In the last conclusion and summarizes main findings of the study and highlights its importance for further research. However, some important suggestions for improvement of agricultural marketing system in regulated markets of Aligarh district have also been made.
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