CHAPTER - 7

CONCLUSION

AND

SUGGESTIONS
The present study finds out that there exist large variation in the agricultural development in Tarai districts of Uttar Pradesh. The general distributional pattern of agricultural productivity shows a marked decline from west to east.

This pattern is in close conformity with the variation in the level of agricultural technology and institutional factors. During 1985-86 cereal crops occupied an important place in the agriculture of Tarai districts of Uttar Pradesh. They occupied 5.32 million hectares of area which accounts for 82.19 percent of the total cropped area. The region of high productivity of cereals was found in the districts like Bijnore, Moradabad, Pilibhit, Rampur and Deoria. The high productivity of cereals in these districts was due to availability of assured means of irrigation, better agricultural machinery and sufficient amount of fertilizer consumption, on the other hand, the eastern district including Gorakhpur, Basti, Gonda, Bahraich and Kheri were extremely backward in terms of productivity of cereals. The causes of low productivity of cereals in the eastern districts are inherent in low consumption of modern inputs and occurrence of flood almost each and
During 1995-96, though cereals again occupied first position in terms of cropped area, but accounts for 77.31 percent only. Thus, it may be concluded that percentage of total cropped area under cereals in the study area has decreased from 82.19 to 77.31 between 1985-86 and 1995-96. On the contrary, area under cash crops has witnessed a slight increase from 10.63 percent during 1985-86 to 16.01 percent in the subsequent period. This increase in the area of cash crops is a clean cut reflection of the qualitative improvement of agriculture marching towards commercialisation and diversification in the study area. A comparative analysis of the regional patterns of the productivity of cereal crops between the two points of time reveals that western parts of the study area has recorded either high or medium productivity of cereal crop whereas the eastern parts except Deoria were identified with low productivity in 1995-96. Though Deoria lost its area under cereal crops but gained under cash crops. Thus, it may be concluded that in general area under cereal crops has been declining while that of cash crops increasing. Further it was also
found out that high productivity regions of cereal crops which were confined to the western part of the study area is now gradually shifting eastward like Deoria, Basti and Gorakhpur.

The overall agricultural development which was measured both in terms of input as well as output indicators reveals that high and medium level of agricultural development was found in the western and eastern part of the study area whereas its central part recorded moderate development. It has also been noticed that in exceptional cases, some of the western and eastern districts which were found in high level of agricultural development moved downward to medium category in subsequent period and vice-versa. For instance, such cases were of Deoria and Gorakhpur in eastern part while Pilibhit, Barielly and Bijnore in western part. This change in the position of districts support the hypothesis that as economic development proceeds the regional disparities are minimised.

An examination of impact of agriculture on socio-economic development in 1985-86 reveals that agricultural development and level of socio-economic development generally decrease from west to east. This
tendency was observed more strongly in the case of agricultural development than that of levels of socio-economic development. When the two maps were compared, it was found that, excluding a few exceptions, all districts with high levels of socio-economic development were also the districts of high agricultural development. Similarly, medium level of socio-economic coincided with the medium level of agricultural development and majority of low level of socio-economic development were found in the districts of low level of agricultural development.

An examination of figure 6.3, reveals that out of twelve districts, five districts namely, Bijnore, Moradabad, Rampur, Pilibhit and Deoria came under high level of agricultural development. All of these except, Deoria also experienced high level of socio-economic development. The reason of being Deoria in low level of socio-economic development, despite having high agricultural productivity might be its backwardness in terms of health facilities, means of transportation and communication and backwardness in industrial sector. It may also be due to negligence of the politicians and decision makers since a long time.
Four districts namely Barielly, Shahjahanpur, Gorakhpur and Basti came under category of medium level of agricultural development. Out of these districts Barielly and Shahjahanpur recorded high level of socio-economic development due to their high level of industrialization, better health facilities and other infrastructural facilities, whereas Gorakhpur and Basti were identified under medium category of socio-economic development.

In the low level of agricultural development, there were three districts namely, Kheri, Gonda and Bahraich. All these districts except Kheri also experienced low level of socio-economic development. Kheri in spite of being agriculturally less developed, experienced, moderate social and economic development, because of its highly developed transport and communication system, and moderate development in terms of education and industrialisation.

In general a positive correlation between agricultural development and socio-economic development has been observed with some exceptions. The regression line in scatter diagram as well as the coefficient of correlation show that a positive correlation between agricultural
and socio-economic development exists in the study area. The value of coefficient of correlation is 0.21 which is also an indication of positive correlation.

An analysis of impact of agriculture on socio-economic development (1995-96) indicates that agricultural development and socio-economic development go hand in hand in the same direction decreasing from west to east in the study area as it was at previous point of time. More or less each category of agricultural development corresponds to the same category of social and economical development with few exceptions.

An examination of figure 6.6 reveals that four districts out of thirteen namely, Moradabad, Rampur, Barielly and Gorakhpur recorded high agricultural development, and all these four districts also coincided with high level of socio economic development, which is fairly a clear indication of positive relationship or a great impact of agriculture on socio-economic development in the study area. On the other hand five districts namely, Bijnore, Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit, Deoria and Basti came under medium category of agricultural development.
If one see the socio-economic development of these districts, only Bijnore improved its position and attained a high level of social and economic development. The position of Deoria and Basti deteriorated and they came down from medium level of agricultural development to low level of socio-economic development on the other hand, Kheri and Sidharth Nagar improved their position and moved upward from low level of agricultural development to high level of socio-economic development.

Out of thirteen districts of the region, eight districts have shown high positive correlation between agriculture and socio-economic development.

It may be concluded that in general, a positive correlation between levels of socio-economic development and agricultural development has been observed in the study. The coefficient of correlation (r) turns up as high as 0.51. This is significant at 99 percent level of confidence.

The findings of this analysis verify the hypothesis that the socio-economic development is a function of agricultural development. That, is higher level of socio-economic development are associated with the higher level of agricultural development and vice-versa in the
study. In the Tarai districts of Uttar Pradesh, the socio-economic development appears to be an outcome of high productivity and agricultural development. Agriculture provides resource base for industrialization and urbanization. Town and cities have developed in the high productivity region or high level of agricultural development to function as market centers for surplus agricultural production. Industrialization in the region is generally agro-based. Raw materials from agriculture such as sugarcane, food grains and oil seeds are processed in these industries. In order to distribute surplus agricultural industrial production, infrastructural facilities like railways and roads have been developed in the region. Similarly higher agricultural incomes due to facilities like railways and roads have been developed in the region. Similarly higher agricultural incomes due to high productivity or higher agricultural development have resulted in the social development through increased education. On the contrary areas of low agricultural development suffer from the lack of urbanization, industrialization, infrastructural facilities and social development.

In the final analysis, it is observed that agriculture
as a resource provides the base for industrialisation and urbanisation. The latter results in strengthening the consequent industrial, commercial and business activities. To organise agricultural and industrial production and to facilitate commerce and trade, infrastructural facilities have also developed in the regions of high agricultural development.

It is strongly felt that low level of agricultural development and low level of socio-economic development in the study area is mainly due to lack of commercialisation in the agriculture sector. To develop these areas it is necessary to include commercialisation and modernisation in the agricultural sector of these regions. It is advisable in view of the experience of the eastern developed regions should be encourage and provided capital to establish small scale agro-based industries. The introduction of commercial crops and associated industrialisation will help and modernisation of agriculture in the area.

The income obtained from cash crops is likely to be reinvested in the agriculture of these regions in the form of modernised inputs as fertilisers, pesticides, agricultural implements and tube-wells. This will result
in increasing agricultural productivity in these regions.

Apart from efforts on commercialisation and modernisation of agriculture with associated industrialisation, attempt should be made to modernise agriculture in the under developed and medium developed regions of the area by giving loan on liberal interest and providing considerable subsidy in the purchase of inputs particularly for small and marginal land holders. The distribution of loan as well as financial assistance agencies are lacking in these regions therefore emphasis should be given to increase per capita loans and establish loan societies.

One of causes of backwardness of eastern Tarai region is the problem of flood. This region comes under the grip of flood almost each and every year. Consequently, agricultural crops houses network of transport and communication are badly damaged which needs crores of rupees for reconstruction and maintenance. Therefore, flood control measured by the govt. would be an essential step for socio-economic development of this region. Owing to high concentration of population and lack of industries, the surplus labour force generally migrates to big towns and cities. If
growth poles and centres are developed within the region the problems of out migration may be checked.

As a consequence of these steps there would be overall development of the region, in which agricultural as well as the industrial sector of the regional economy will develop and prosper simultaneously. The income obtained from agriculture and industrial sector would be used on education, health facilities and cultural development.

A policy of positive discrimination in favour of the backward regions in terms of fiscal allocation, policy formulation and its implementation must be adopted. The logic behind the policy of statutory discrimination in favour of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes can be extended and made applicable to underprivileged regions as well. At the operation level this can be achieved through fiscal measures like allocation of plan outlays and by a system of incentives aimed at attracting private capital to backward regions. This is not to suggest that the developed regions should be denied their legitimate share, but that it is absolutely necessary to accelerate the rate of investment in the backward regions if disparities both in absolute and relative termsd
are to be effectively minimised.

Fortunately, in the Indian federal structure, avenues for the flow of resources among states and regions exist, and given the political will the desired result can be achieved through a wide range of strategies:

(i) direct investment by government in backward regions

(ii) licensing policies and various incentives to attract private capital,

(iii) investment policies favouring backward regions by financial institutions and

(iv) meso and micro-level integrated planning that should take into account the local resource potential and the needs and aspirations of the common people.