Importance of agriculture in the context of economic development has been debated since long time. Agriculture forms the only part of economy that produce a surplus above the current requirements of labour and capital employed. Agriculture sector, besides being a prime source of food, is also a source of raw materials for expanding industries. Agriculture development would lead to an increase in the purchasing power of the rural poor and the growth of non-agricultural sector by providing a marked increase in production from industries. Agricultural sector caries a double obligation to increase production, and to provide capital for other sectors in order to promote economic growth, while at the same time, it must provide for the welfare of the farmers and their families.

The study area, Tarai districts of Uttar Pradesh lies between 27° 7” North and 29° 29” North Latitudes and 78° 38” East and 83° 57” East longitudes. It covers an area of about 62995 miles and accounts for total population of 3.84 crores (Census 1991). It comprises 13 districts namely Bijnore, Moradabad, Rampur, Barielly,
Shahjahnpur, Pilibhit, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Basti, Sidharthnagar, Kheri, Gonda and Bahraich. The economy of this region to a great extent depends on agriculture where more than 80% of its population is directly or indirectly depends on this sector.

It is well known fact that there is high potentials of agricultural growth in Tarai districts of Uttar Pradesh. The questions arise as to why this part of country is not agriculturally viable and economically well-off, what are the bottle necks? What are the inefficiencies in the production processes. How and what factor of production be induced for achieving rapid growth in agricultural productivity to raise the level of socio-economic position of the study region.

**Objectives of the Study:**

i) To give a brief geographical outline of the study area.

ii) To study the technological factors affecting agricultural productivity and to establish relationships between the inputs and the productivity.

iii) To examine the trends in Agricultural development and social development.
iv) To measure the regional patterns of the levels of agricultural development.

v) To measure the regional patterns of socio-economic development.

vi) To assess the impact of agricultural development on socio-economic development.

vii) To suggest remedial measures for over all development of the region.

**Database and Methodology:**

The present study is carried out at two points of time i.e 1985-86 and 1995-96, based on secondary source of data, obtained from different sources such as Statistical Abstract, Economics & Statistics Division State Planning Institute Uttar Pradesh Lucknow, Directorate of Agriculture Statistics and Crop Insurance, Krishi Bhawan Lucknow Uttar Pradesh, census of India, District statistical hand book etc.

The following technique have been used for the analysis of present work.

The indices of crop productivity have been calculated on the basis of Yang's yield index method for two periods i.e. 1985-86 and 1995-96.
But the levels of agricultural development and the levels of socio-economic development have been measured with the help of composite Z-score statistical technique.

For examining impact of agriculture on socio-economic development the statistical technique of regression equation \( y = a - bx \) and scatter diagram has been used. To find out correlation between agricultural development and socio-economic development Pearson’s correlation method has also been used.

**Hypothesis:**

i) The Tarai districts of Uttar Pradesh is one of the backward regions of India where marked regional disparities exist in terms of social and economic development.

ii) The agricultural development of the region to a greater extent depends on use of modern inputs as well as institutional factors.

iii) Social and economic development of the study area is positively related with its agricultural development.

iv) As agricultural development increases, socio-economic disparities are reduced.
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.

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.

During 1985-86 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.

During 1995-96 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.

**Plan of the work:**

For the better assessment, the present work is divided into six chapters, which are as follows:

Chapter first deals with a brief geographical outline including relief, drainage, climate, soil and population density of Tarai districts of Uttar Pradesh. Chapter second presents reviews of work done in the field of agricultural development, productivity and socio-economic development. Chapter third highlights spatial distribution of institutional and technological factors affecting agricultural productivity and agricultural development. Chapter fourth describes the levels of agricultural development. Chapter fifth deals with levels of socio-economic development. Chapter sixth is devoted to measure impact of agriculture on socio-economic development in Tarai districts of Uttar Pradesh. The last chapter deals with the findings of the study and suggestion of remedial measures for minimisation of disparities and development of the region.