I. INTRODUCTION
CHAPTER I

Introduction

For the sake of introduction it seems expedient to indicate at the first instance, among other relative points, the main object of the present study. It mainly aims at finding out the growth rates of agricultural output and also making assessment of the level of its development to this effect in the North-Eastern Region. The level of agricultural output in the North Eastern Region, specially the hilly areas of the Region, is significantly low as compared to the most of the other regions of the country. Further, the agricultural production among different states of the region also varies in a considerable degree. These variations could be due to the method and technique of farming and topographical and climatic condition.

As regards the natural and political boundaries of the Region, it is, practically speaking situated in a compact area though consisting of a number of states and union territories, viz., Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and addition to the two union territories of Arunachal Pradesh
and Mizoram. They are mostly interdependent upon one another from various points of view. In addition this region has come to be considered as an economic zone through the operation of developmental activities of a co-ordinating council set up for the region, viz., North-Eastern Council.

In this region the bulk of the population is rural in character. Therefore, the economy of the region is dependent on agriculture. Any attempt to develop the economy of this region must be directed towards agricultural development of this region. In this sense, the importance of agriculture in the North-Eastern Region is both basic and vital.

In this connection an attempt has been made to review some of the existing literature on the growth rates of agricultural output in India as a whole and different regions of the country in particular. Literature in this field of agricultural economics is too vast and subject areas are overlapping. These researches convincingly put forward new ideas to the farmers who have not yet received the message except in a few states and a few pockets here and there.
For assessing the level of agricultural development in the North-Eastern Region, attention must be focused on the existing conditions connected with agricultural growth. Hence, population, climatic conditions suitability of land for agricultural production, method of cultivation, crop intensity etc. which are directly connected with agricultural growth have been considered.

It should be mentioned here that since the bulk of the area in this region is devoted to the cultivation of mainly the food crops, this analysis is specially confined to a study of the growth rates of total foodgrains for the above mentioned period. Estimation of agricultural growth has been made by using two types statistical models :-

(i) presenting the graphical analysis of the agricultural growth using the probabilistic model, i.e., the Reaction Function, and (ii) estimating the growth rates by using Empirical Regression Models. The graphical estimates given by the probability model show that there is no significant variation in the growth rates among different states of the North-Eastern Region; whereas yearwise variations show linear trend. This means the trend is more influencing factor, which can be accounted for all the
states. Results shown by the empirical regression model on the other hand show that there is trend in growth rates, as supported by the application of probabilistic model although the fluctuations in the growth rates of outputs are varying from year to year.