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To sum up, agriculture in Assam in mid 1980s, remained very backward compared to the general all-India standard, which itself cannot be considered very high by international standards. Agricultural productivity in the state remained practically stagnant over the quarter of a century from 1960 to 1985, for which trends in agriculture in Assam have been analysed. Yield rates of crops in Assam generally remained much below the all-India levels throughout the decade of 1975 to 1985. However, a distinct trend towards changes in the technique of cultivation in the farm sector of the state has emerged in the recent years. To promote agricultural productivity and to raise the growth rate of agricultural production in the state, it is now necessary to bolster the positive trends by strengthening agricultural infrastructure facilities such as irrigation, extension service, farm credit, supply and distribution of new farm inputs and so on. For sustaining the process of agricultural growth in the long run, persistent agricultural research would be necessary so as to continuously improve upon even the newest of technology packages.

Technological transformation of agriculture would also serve the broader goal of all round rural development in the state. With agriculture as the principal source of livelihood in the villages, progress in the task of rural development would be hard to make with a stagnant agriculture sector. However technological progress and output growth in
agriculture are unlikely to provide an automatic solution to the huge problems of rural poverty and unemployment. The specific programmes to tackle these problems would still be necessary. Nor would a technological transformation of agriculture in the state obviate the need for institutional changes including land reforms. In particular, reforms aimed at checking the process of sub-division and fragmentation of holdings in the state cannot possibly be postponed much longer. The task of transposing the rural society of Assam from its present state to a position of considerably higher standard of overall economic development thus calls for integrated and simultaneous actions in a number of areas. But in any comprehensive scheme of rural development of the state technological transformation of agriculture is bound to occupy a very central place.

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