CHAPTER - 1.

• INTRODUCTION •
Today, there is a race for power and for economic supremacy among the countries of the world. A frantic desire to attain the same stage of economic development as reached by developed countries has dawned upon the underdeveloped countries too. These underdeveloped countries have been characterised as those having a lower per capita income than the economically advanced countries like the U.S.A, U.K, U.S.S.R, France, and Japan. India which is rated as a developing country has also launched the programme of economic development through its five year plans with greater emphasis on agricultural development.

There is no case of successful development of major country in which a rise in agricultural productivity did not precede or accompany industrial development. One of the most important objectives of agricultural strategy the Sixth Five Year Plan observed, was "to make agricultural growth not only an instrument of maintaining an effective national food security system but also a catalyst of income and employment generation in rural area." Growth of agricultural sector is having a significant bearing on poverty elevation. By and large, the adoption of new agricultural technology has led to a decline in rural poverty and the decline is also associated with increase in agricultural and food grain production.

India is remarkably rich in potential for economic development and is endowed with vast reserves of natural resources. The proper utilization of these potentials has become the chief goal of the present economic development programmes.

The importance of agriculture in the context of economic development has been debated upon since long. The phys-
iocrates extolled agriculture as a surplus above the current requirements of labour and capital employed. It is also contended that the basic model underlying Adam Smith's "wealth of nations" specially refers to farm sectors. The early classical economists made the productivity of agriculture the key to the size of countries population and hence to considerable extent to the size of its economy. Modern economists also recognized the importance of agriculture. Theodore Schultz wrote there is no longer any room for doubt whether agriculture can be a powerful engine for growth. For acquiring such an engine, it is necessary to invest in agriculture and this is not simple because so much depends on the form the investment takes. Incentives to guide and rewards farmers are critical components. Once there are investment opportunities, and efficient incentives the farmers will turn sand in to gold.

In a developing country like India rural development policy should aim at increasing production and diversifying economic activities so as to augment the income of the various social classes which in turn, would considerably enlarge the employment market.

The planner of the country while preparing the five year plans have kept the above facts in view by according top priority to agriculture. It was only in the second five year plan that the industry took the place of agriculture in terms of priority. In the first five year plan, it is clearly mentioned that without a substantial increases in the production of food and raw materials for industry it would be impossible to sustain a higher tempo of industrial development. In an underdeveloped economy, with low yields in agriculture, there is no real conflict between
agriculture and industrial development. One cannot go far without the other, the two are complementary. It is necessary, however, on economic and other grounds first of all to create conditions of sufficiency and even plentitude in respect of food and raw materials. Remarks Dr. B. Dutta, "Industrialisation is possible when agriculture has reached a high level prosperity so as to provide self-sufficiency in food, to create a surplus for capital formation and to increase the demand for secondary products." 

It is beyond doubt that special importance is being given to agricultural development in India. In our country the scope for extending the cultivable area is limited the emphasis is to be laid on increased production through proper investment. During the decade 1950-51 to 1960-61 the increase in agricultural production was achieved through the extension of cultivable area, but soon after, the emphasis shifted to increased productivity. Increased agricultural productivity is the pivot on which the development of other sectors revolves.

It may be pointed out that over the first half of this century (between 1901 and 1947) agricultural production declined. The process of decline in productivity has continued in the post Independence period. The decline in agricultural productivity has been reversed after 1949-50, partly because of the increase in area under cultivation, and partly because of the intensive methods of cultivation. Over the last two decades average productivity per acre has been increasing due to use of HYV's of seeds, application of higher doses of fertilisers and increasing availability of irrigation facilities.
The Ford foundation team has reported that the best in Indian agriculture is comparable to the best in other countries but the average is unduly low. The task before the country is to develop ways of raising the low average to higher levels which many cultivators have achieved.\textsuperscript{11}

Thus agricultural development is not a easy task. There is scope for increasing yield particularly in agricultural sector, as pointed out by the World Bank Report, a solution to both poverty and unemployment lies in higher productivity.

Dr. Manmohan Singh in his Panse memorial lecture in 1984 said "Inter state variation and inter district variation in agricultural production (even under similar agro-climatic conditions) are indicative of the important role of sound management practices in promoting faster agricultural growth."\textsuperscript{12}

The overall compound growth rates of 2.6 percent for the past thirty five years though satisfactory is much below the four percent to five percent mark that is deemed technically feasible and economically essential. As in the case of different crops, growth was not evenly distributed over different states. In fact, a larger part of the growth in food grain production is accounted for comprising Punjab, Haryana, and Western U.P; and Andhra Pradesh, Maharastra and Jammu Kashmir are the other states that have shown above the national average growth rates in the seventies, compared to this four states "namely Tamilnadu, Kerla, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh" occupying almost one fifth of food grain areas, have experienced negative growth rates in the 1971-81 decade.
"State with high agricultural growth rate shows a much lower incidence of poverty and much higher per capita income level than those with modest are little growth in agriculture.\textsuperscript{13}

The assessment of growth of area, production and yield of different crops at the state and district level is helpful in evaluating the development programme launched by the state and the central Govt. It enables us to identify the changes in the structure of agricultural output and productivity and their impact on the economy.

It is paradoxial that though Madhya Pradesh is considered to be a rice bowl of the country, the yield rate of this crop in the state is out of the lowest (928 Kg / hectare) as against the national average 1756 Kg/hectare\textsuperscript{14} (final estimates rice 1989-90).

The low productivity of rice crop in the state is a matter of great concern to the producers and policy makers. Keeping in view the importance and urgency of this problem, the present study attempts to analyse the factors affecting rice production and productivity in the state as well as the selected major rice producing districts of the state. Districtwise trends of area, production and productivity are necessary pre-requisites for suggesting measures for improvement of crop production.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :-

(I) To find out the trends in area, production and yield of rice in the state of Madhya Pradesh and in major rice producing districts of Madhya Pradesh.
(II) To examine the factors responsible for uneven growth of rice production in the selected districts and in Madhya Pradesh and;

(III) To suggest measures for improving rice yield in the state.

1.3 HYPOTHESIS FRAMED FOR THE STUDY :-

We have formulated the following hypothesis and have tried to test their validity.

(I) Increase in production is due to expansion in acreage.

(II) Increasing in productivity is due to application of high yielding variety seeds.

(III) Yield is directly affected by rain fall in the particular year.

1.4 PLAN OF THE STUDY

The study is over in seven chapters. A brief discussion on the role of agriculture in the economic development of the country has been already made in this introductory chapter. Besides selection of area and crop, objectives, hypothesis framed for the study and plan of the study are discussed in this chapter.

Chapter two outlines the methodology used in this study.

An examination of the procedure adopted by the earlier investigators is attempted in the third chapter entitled "Review of Literature"
The fourth chapter throws light on the brief Agro-Economic situation of the state and of selected districts.

The fifth chapter deal with the trends in area production and productivity of rice crop. The discussion is both analytical and graphical.

The sixth chapter analyses the factors effecting production and productivity of rice crop at the district level and in the state as a whole.

The concluding chapter besides dealing with the summary of the study, recapitulates the main findings.

In the end, appendix tables and a selected bibliography are given.
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