



Changes in Crop Production and Land Use under Different Crops in Agriculture Block Litter of District Pulwama

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Abstract

In the present paper attempt has been made to analyze the changes in the production of different crops and the changes in the land use pattern under these crops in the Agriculture Block .The production of different crops and the land use under these crops is influenced by different factors such as :physical, socio - economical, technological as well as organizational factors at national as well as state level but there is no such influence of these factors on the production of these factors on the production and productivity of these crops however, there are other factors which were responsible for the changes in production of these crops such as fertility of land etc .The crop data provided by Divisional Agriculture Officer Pulwama reveals that the main crops produced in the Agriculture Block are Rice, Maize, Mustard, Wheat etc.

Key Words: Crop Production, Organizational Factors, Land use Pattern.

Introduction:

In ordinary language, Agriculture means the cultivation of land, breeding of animals, plants and fungi for the fulfillment of needs of food for people, fiber, bio-fuel, medicinal plants and other products for the sustained growth an enhancement of life. Agriculture was a key development in the rise of past civilizations, whereby the farming of domesticated goods created food surplus that nature the civilization. The history of different civilizations reveals that agriculture was a dominant sector in these civilizations during different periods of time. The agro-climatic zone of Kashmir is also known as “Cultivators Paradise”. The region practically depends on irrigation which is easily available. A large area of land has alluvial soil. Extensive elevated plateaus of the alluvial material, locally called Karewas also exist in the Kashmir valley. These Karewas are productive only due to the sufficient rainfalls or adequate irrigation facilities. Rice is the cheap crop of this zone followed by maize, barley and wheat. The afore mentioned climatic divide does not apply only to Kashmir valley but also to the parts of Jammu which likely Kashmir valley, are subjected to snowfall and sever dry cold. There is such heavy snowfall on the way to Ladakh from the valley that it remains cut off by road for about five to six months every year. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people living in the study area as it provides employment to the 60 of the people in the area. There have been vast changes in the production of different crops as there is no other source of employment due to the un -favorable circumstances.

Area of Study:

Agriculture Block Litter is located in the Village Litter of PULWAMA district and is located at a distance of 16 kms from the District Headquarter. This villages has a population of nearly six thousands in which 2800 are males, 2200 are females and the remaining are children. From the agriculture point of view, this village was given the status of Agriculture

zone/Block in the year 1992.At present 43 villages are under this agriculture zone. Mostly, the population of this zone is still dependent up on the agriculture activities as there is no sound source of income and employment.`

Objectives of the study:

To analyze the changing pattern of crop production in the agriculture block,

To analyze the change in land use pattern under these crops in the block,

Methodology:

The present paper is a descriptive analysis of “Changes in crop production and Land Use under different crops in Agriculture Block Litter of District Pulwama:” for which we have taken data from secondary source that are research articles, books, journals, periodical records and government publications.

Changes in agriculture production of different crops in Agriculture Block Litter:

The Percentage change in the Production of different crops cultivated between 2010 and 2015 in the Block is given in the table below:

Crops	Production (000 Qtls.)		Percentage Change
	2010-11	2014-15	
Paddy	60412	56613	-6.71
Maize	1781	1813	1.76
Oilseeds	16633	17336	4.05
Potato	1921	1842	-4.28
Wheat	1242	1361	8.74
Vegatables	2745	2374	-15.62

Source: Sub- Divisional Agriculture officer pulwama.

The above tables shows the data of different crops produced during 2010-2015. From the table it is clear that during the year 2010-11, the production of paddy was 60412 quintals but it decreases to only 56613 quintals during 2014-15. Therefore, there is a negative change of 6.71% in the production of this crop. The production of maize was 1781 quintals during 2010-11 and it increases to 1813 quintals during 2014-15. Therefore there is an increase of 1.76% in the production of maize during this period. There was a big change in the production of wheat during this period as there was an increase of 8.74% in its production. The production of this crop was 1242 quintals during the period of 2010-11 and it raises to 1361 quintals during the period of 2014-15. There was a decrease in the production of vegetables as there was an amount of 2745 quintals produced during the period of 2010-11 and it declines to 2374 quintals during the period of 2014-15. Hence there was a decline of 15.62% in the production of vegetables during this period in the area.

Causes of change in the production of different crops:

There are a number of factors which are responsible for the increases or decreases in the production of different crops. Some of them are as under:

1. **Weather:** Weather is an important factor that is responsible for the change in production and productivity of different crops such as rice, maize, wheat, oilseeds etc. Weather includes droughts, floods, prolonged rainy seasons etc. There is a decrease in the production of rice during 2010-11 and 2014-15 because there was a heavy flood in the year 2014 that played a havoc role in the destruction of all infrastructures as well.

2. **Supply and demand in the market:** Agricultural production mostly depends up on the demand and supply of it in the market. More the demand of it in the market more is the production of the crops by the farmers.

3. **Available Equipments:** For the agricultural production, equipments plays a significant role. Innovation is a key factor that plays an important role in the production of agricultural crops. Innovation includes machinery, new methods of production, use of fertilizers.

4. Change in Land use Pattern under different crops:

Crops	Amount of Land (Kanals)		Percentage Change
	2009-10	2014-15	
Paddy	15104	15201	0.64
Maize	891	908.80	1.95
Oilseeds	8301	8421	1.42
Potato	638	623	-2.40
Wheat	451	493	8.51
Vegetables	1636	1641	0.30

source: Sub- Divisional Agriculture officer pulwama.

Land use pattern means management of land as well as natural environment for the cultivation of different crops on the land. The above table shows that there is an increase of land

under the cultivation wheat during this period. During the period of 2010-2015, there is an increase of 0.64% in the land used under the cultivation of paddy. There is a decrease in the land use under the cultivation of potato during this period. During the year 2009-10, there was an amount of 638 kanals of land under the cultivation of potato and it decreases to 623 kanals of land during the year 2014-15, i.e. there is a decrease of 2.40% during this period. In case of vegetables, there is a little increase of 0.30% in the land used under the cultivation of this crop.

Factors affecting changes in land use pattern

1. **Natural change:** The change in the climate of a region affects the fertility of land to produce different crops. When there is negative effect of natural change upon the land, the production of different crops goes down. When there is a decrease in the production, the income of the farmers from agriculture goes down. When there is less income from agriculture people prefer to convert agriculture land from one use to another.

2. **Economic and technological factors:** Economic factors such as govt. Economic policies like taxes and subsidies on land also affect the decision about their use of land for the production of particular crops from the land. Technological factors include the advancement of factors of production, new methods of production and modernized equipments in the process of production.

3. **Demographic factors:** The changes in the population of an area also affect the land use pattern under different crops. When the pop. Increases people prefer to convert agriculture land into residential land. When the population increases people prefer to cultivate those crops which are necessary for their livelihood instead of cash crops.

4. **Cultural factors:** The attitude, beliefs, values and perception of people collectively change the land use pattern of an area.

Conclusion

The major part of the agricultural Block still dependent up on the agriculture for their livelihood and employment. The cultivation of paddy occupies a great place as it provides food for the whole population of the area. As a precautionary measure, it should be prohibited the conversion of agriculture land into the commercial as well as for other purposes. There is a decrease in the land use under the cultivation of potato during this period. During the year 2009-10, there was an amount of 638 kanals of land under the cultivation of potato and it decreases to 623 kanals of land during the year 2014-15, i.e. there is a decrease of 2.40% during this period. There was a big change in the production of wheat during this period as there was an increase of 8.74% in its production. The production of this crop was 1242 quintals during the period of 2010-11 and it raises to 1361 quintals during the period of 2014-15. There was a decrease in the production of vegetables as there was an amount of 2745 quintals produced during the period of 2010-11 and it declines to 2374 quintals during the period of 2014-15. Hence there was a decline of 15.62% in the production of vegetables during this period in the area.

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