

TITLE- AN OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURE IN JAMMU DISTRICT.

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ABSTRACT- The purpose of the present study is to discuss the present situation of agriculture in Jammu District. The agriculture in this region is backward in nature despite majority of its population dependent on this activity. So, there is a need to highlight the reasons behind slow growth of agriculture sector and the failure of the Government to implement the centrally sponsored schemes for the upliftment of agriculture in this region. The data for other states of India is far better than the Jammu District. The methodology used to study these problems is through secondary data analysis. Data is collected through various sources and is then analyzed. The findings of the study show that agriculture is in its backward stage only and when compared to the productivity, it did not show much improvement. The study is very beneficial for the future researchers in bringing change in the methods and methodology that is being followed in the development of agriculture. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir through these research work will address these problems and bring solutions to resolve them soon.

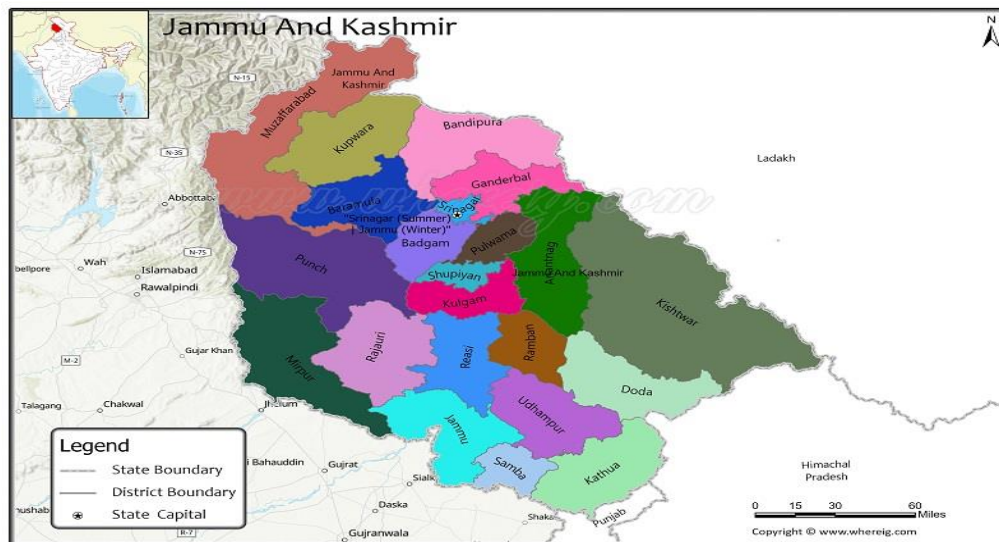
KEYWORDS- Agricultural Growth, Jammu District, Productivity, Schemes, Technology.

INTRODUCTION- Jammu District is known for its unique handicrafts, tourism, and horticulture but with regards to agricultural backwardness, poor industrial background, prevailing unemployment. Being under geographical constraint and lack of infrastructure for agriculture did not allow the progress of agriculture in Jammu District. The most grown crop of Jammu region is wheat, after that comes maize pulses, oilseeds etc. The basmati rice is grown in R.S. Pura region of Jammu. Several Centrally sponsored schemes are launched by the Government of India, but it did not bring any results. The main reasons were the nonresponsive and non-cooperative behavior of the farmers.

Two types of schemes that were weather based were launched by the Central Government in 2016 namely, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS). The main reason behind this was to provide the farmers with crop protection from natural calamities. Again, these schemes were reformed in the year 2020. But the acceptance rate was observed to be extremely minimal. According to Annual report for 2016-17, (Agriculture and Cooperation Department) about 70 percent of Jammu and Kashmir population is dependent on Agriculture for livelihood.

MAP OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR-

Figure 1-



Jammu region has plains, mountains with forests and slopes. The climate of Jammu region varies because of its topography. Hot in summers with 45 degrees temperature with cold winters, January being the coldest month. July and August receive rainfall being the month of monsoon. All this hampers the growth of agriculture and its productivity. Several schemes launched by the Central Government are unable to bring any change in the prevailing agricultural scenario of Jammu District. Poor Governance, lack of infrastructure, lack of awareness, lockdowns, curfews all add to lack of commercialization of agricultural products. Laws and regulations need to be strict when it comes to the implementation of the Agricultural Schemes. It should be checked whether the funds are utilized properly or not.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE-

Kaloo and Choure (2015) in their findings mention that agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir is losing its importance because it's facing some challenges in its growth. According to them the present development in agriculture is not up to the mark. Because of the area under cultivation is not consistent and due to less wages farmers are not showing keen interest. Profitability and sustainability are must for growth in agriculture as they suggest.

Sharma and Sehgal (2015) in their study point out the contribution of Jammu and Kashmir in terms of agricultural production, productivity, and area to the country from 1990-91 and 2012-13. Share in area remained stagnant at 1 percent only, production showed variation from 0.21 percent to 0.70 percent. The Jammu and Kashmir per hectare average productivity was lower than the national average productivity.

Taufique and Kursheed (2018) in their work discuss about the overview of horticulture as they consider that it has become on separable from agriculture. Jammu district is famous for producing tropical fruits. From the year 2006-2007 as well as from 20015-16, the production horticulture has witnessed growth from 18.7 percent to 65.42 percent.

Ahmed (2019) in his study highlight that about 92 percent of the total area of Jammu and Kashmir is mountainous and only 5 percent remains available for the purpose of cultivation, 27 percent is forests, 5.16 percent is pastures, 14 percent is nonagricultural area and 9 percent is barren land.

Bashir (2019) in her work mentioned that product contribution of agriculture sector of Jammu and Kashmir economy is very less as the non-agricultural sector remained inactive. The market contribution was also limited as most of the inputs used for cultivation for example pesticides, tractors and fertilizers etc. were imported.

Romshoo et al., (2020) mention about the division of Jammu and Kashmir UT into three divisions comprising of 22 districts, 10 are in Jammu, 10 in Kashmir and 2 in Ladakh. The whole population of the UT as per 2011 census is 12.5 Million, having USD 21 billion GDP from 2016-17 mainly engaged in agriculture, handicrafts, tourism, horticulture etc.

Kumar et al., (2021) discuss about the farming apps developed by Government agencies and private parties in farm sector of Jammu and Kashmir which are helpful to the farmers in growth of agriculture. These apps are MKisan App, Agri Market, Kisan Yojna, Krishi Gyan, Pusa Krishi etc. But it was founded that very less apps were used by the field functionaries owing to poor networks, lack of skills pertaining to ICT, less motivation etc.

Sharma et al., (2022) reveal that The Government of India has launched a scheme mainly for crop insurance which is intended efficient weather based in which farmers pay 5 percent of the premium from the total compensation. The results showed that the farmers wanted to register themselves for the scheme, but they were unwilling to pay the premium. The main factor for not paying the premium was they did not trust the Government nor the private insurance companies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY- The study is based on the following objectives-

- i) To discuss the current position of agriculture of Jammu District in the country.
- ii) To highlight the problems of agriculture in Jammu District.
- iii) To highlight the contribution of agriculture in the development of Jammu and Kashmir economy.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY- The present study is based on secondary data analysis. It is a descriptive study. Data is collected through books, journals, magazines, research papers, articles, Government reports, internet, published and unpublished data. The data is then analyzed. The sources of data include Statistical abstract of J&K, Directorate of Economics

and Statistics J&K, Directorate of Agriculture J&K, Central Statistical Organization, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, J&K etc.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY- After collecting data through various sources the findings are as under.

Table 1-

Agriculture Statistics

S.No	Specifications	Jammu Division	Kashmir Division	Total
1	Population (2011 Census)	5378538	6888475	12267013
	Population (Provisional 2020)	6530083	8508070	15038153
2	%age of Pouplatin engaged in Agri & Allies Sector	70%	71%	71%
3	No. of Farm operating Families	6,44,175	6,62,272	1306447
4	Total Area (Ha)	2629300	1594800	4224100
5	Gross Cultivated Area (Ha)	694640	490000	1184640
6	Net Cultivated Area (Ha)	372534	349000	721534
7	Net cultivated Area as %age of total Area	14.17	21.88	17.08
8	Irrigated Area (Ha)	118831 (32%)	214000 (61%)	332831
9	Un-Irrigated Area (Ha)	253703 (68%)	135000 (39%)	388703
10	Major Crops (Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Pulses, Oilseed, Bajra, Other Cereals)			
i	Paddy			
	Area (in Hectt)	153030	141340	294370
	Production (MT)	366453	984716	1351169
	Productivity (Qtls/Hectt)	23.946	69.67	45.90
ii	Wheat			
	Area (in Hectt)	242655	12090	254745.00
	Production (MT)	486944	31035.03	517979.03
	Productivity (Qtls/Hectt)	20.07	25.67	20.33
iii	Maize			
	Area (in Hectt)	197670	56520	254190.00
	Production (MT)	408513	182729.16	591242.16
	Productivity (Qtls/Hectt)	20.666	32.33	23.26
iv	Pulses			
	Area (in Hectt)	11380	20690	32070
	Production (MT)	5755	21000.35	26755.35
	Productivity (Qtls/Hectt)	5.055	10.15	8.34
v	Oilseed			
	Area (in Hectt)	12916	86000	98916.00
	Production (MT)	9334.14	109908	119242.14
	Productivity (Qtls/Hectt)	7.23	12.78	12.05
vi	Bajra in Jammu, other Cereals in Kashmir			
	Area (in Hectt)	9780	12790	22570.00
	Production (MT)	5816	23661.50	29477.50
	Productivity (Qtls/Hectt)	5.95	18.50	13.06

Source- Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, J&K, UT.

The data in the above table as per Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department shows that 70 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities in Jammu District. The farm operating families are 6,44,175. The net cultivated area as percentage of total area is 14.17 percent. Where 32 percent is the total irrigated area. While

68 percent is unirrigated area. The production of major crops like paddy is 23.946 quintals per hectare, wheat is 20.07, maize is 20.666, pulses is 5.055, oilseeds is 7.23, bajra is 7.95 which is quite less.

Figure 2-



Source- Digest of Statistics 2020-21

In the figure above, the land holdings of Jammu District as per 2015-16 data is 0.74 hectares which is less than other districts like Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch. While as per 2020-21 data as per Digest of Statistics of the same year. The production of food grains especially rice is quite impressive, but others are not that much progressive.

Table 2-

IV-AGRICULTURE
Table No.4.06
Average Yield of Principal Crops (Qts/Ha)

S.No.	Year	Rice			Maize			Wheat		
		Jammu	Kashmir	State	Jammu	Kashmir	State	Jammu	Kashmir	State
1	1964-65	10.57	22.59	18.97	16.74	12.65	15.11	6.75	4.06	6.45
2	1965-66	6.09	13.24	11.10	13.79	8.07	10.89	4.47	5.47	4.72
3	1968-69	9.51	23.46	18.88	15.21	10.17	13.32	6.38	5.77	6.30
4	1974-75	12.69	22.13	19.16	13.55	7.92	11.37	10.25	9.27	10.19
5	1980-81	12.56	25.52	20.65	21.32	11.98	17.93	10.44	5.33	10.32
6	1985-86	14.93	26.88	22.11	20.01	12.22	17.21	12.28	6.14	12.14
7	1990-91	11.86	26.83	21.02	16.43	12.40	15.06	12.29	7.58	12.22
8	1995-96	18.34	18.74	18.50	23.36	8.20	17.64	16.43	7.36	16.35
9	1999-00	13.27	17.45	15.62	20.17	4.30	14.85	17.91	8.03	17.67
10	2000-01	17.39	16.72	17.02	19.67	8.89	15.92	5.21	9.15	5.29
11	2001-02	16.68	17.08	16.90	20.83	7.91	16.48	13.28	10.35	13.21
12	2002-03	14.30	20.26	17.84	17.00	8.19	14.11	16.48	9.79	16.33
13	2003-04	17.48	20.96	19.43	19.13	11.31	16.59	18.21	9.90	18.04
14	2004-05	16.12	22.44	19.71	18.29	9.07	15.25	19.10	9.29	18.92
15	2005-06	16.02	25.95	21.52	16.36	9.71	14.13	18.27	10.16	18.10
16	2006-07	16.33	26.43	21.96	17.33	10.05	15.05	18.92	9.98	18.72
17	2007-08	17.45	24.79	21.35	17.97	10.47	15.69	17.99	8.70	17.82
18	2008-09	18.73	24.50	21.88	23.58	11.15	20.05	17.50	9.13	17.35
19	2009-10	14.00	23.50	19.28	17.32	11.50	15.66	10.04	9.40	10.03
20	2010-11	15.67	22.72	19.42	18.77	13.11	17.12	15.44	9.49	15.35
21	2011-12	18.42	22.81	20.78	17.79	11.74	16.08	17.01	9.57	16.89
22	2012-13	18.08	23.24	20.95	18.53	11.37	16.48	15.95	17.92	15.96
23	2013-14	17.50	23.31	20.51	18.19	16.63	17.76	20.71	9.84	20.61
24	2014-15	15.51	9.73	12.48	12.66	10.40	12.04	9.80	9.63	9.79
25	2015-16	16.18	26.90	21.24	18.00	17.36	17.82	19.52	8.65	19.33
26	2016-17	14.53	26.35	20.20	19.60	14.54	18.33	19.19	8.11	18.90
27	2017-18	23.58	24.97	24.27	19.22	14.24	18.05	21.60	8.95	21.39
28	2018-19	21.58	25.46	23.51	22.96	19.10	21.89	23.57	8.71	23.30
UT of Jammu and Kashmir										
29	2019-20	15.97	26.90	20.94	20.67	18.72	20.15	20.07	10.65	20.02
30	2020-21	17.92	25.59	21.74	18.73	13.98	17.60	19.84	21.92	19.85

Source: Financial Commissioner, Revenue (J&K)

Source- Digest of Statistics 2020-21.

As per the data by Digest of statistics, 2020-21, with respect to yield of principle crops that is rice the production of rice has decreased from the past few years. In the year 2017-18 it was 23.58 quintals per hectare it fell to 21.58 in 2018-19, then again it fell to 15.97 in 2019-20. Productivity of wheat on the other hand fell from 23.57 in 2018-19 to 20.07 in 2019-20 and further to 19.84 in 2020-21. When so many schemes are launched by the Central Government The productivity of principal crops instead of rising is decreasing.

Table 3-

No. of Farmers covered	Area Insured (in ha.)	Rs. (in Lakh)			No. of Farmers benefitted
		Sum Insured	Premium	Claims	
49065	68994.99	10902.23	213.80	123.20	4292

*NAIS Business Statistics from Rabi 199-2000 to Rabi 2013-14 i.e. for 29 Seasons.

Source: Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Ministry of Agriculture. Govt. of India (Annual

The Centrally sponsored schemes cover about 49065 farmers. The sum insured in lakhs was 10902.23 rupees but the number of farmers benefitted were only 4292 which is quite less

number, as per the Annual report 2014-15 released by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

Table 4-

Details of funds released/expenditure incurred under State Plan and various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Rs. in lakh)						
Name of the Scheme	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18 (Ending October 2017)	
	Allocation	Expenditure incurred	Allocation	Expenditure incurred	Allocation	Expenditure incurred
Capex Budget	2258.50	1996.00	1827.50	1599.03	1909.00	933.21
Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana(RKVY)	73.57	70.97	46.76	46.38	53.63	0.00
Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)	190.00	174.88	134.35	117.79	190.38	63.24
State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms(ATMA)	13.89	11.33	12.00	9.93	30.27	0.00
Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana(PMKSY)	2.00	0.49	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source- The Economic Survey, 2017.

The table above shows some of the Centrally sponsored schemes, grant allocation and expenditure from 2015 till 2018.

CONCLUSION- From visualizing the above collected data that despite of so many schemes launched by the Government of India the results are not that satisfactory making Jammu District in its infant stage of growth. The productivity with respect to principal crops is decreasing from the past few years. A lot of factors are attributed to this. Because of lack of infrastructure, poor governance, outlook of the farmers, lack of awareness etc. which makes Jammu to be far behind other states of India. Its isolation and limited scope for change also the political back drop has kept it far behind. It can progress only if strict laws regarding the policies and their implementation are made, funds are properly utilized, and more and more awareness is spread among the masses regarding the benefits of Centrally sponsored schemes. The outlook of the farmers needs to be changed and they need to be motivated to the extent that they become self-sufficient, and they do not face crop failure incurring heavy losses. Social media, electronic and print media, radio, broadcasting channels can help in bringing awareness, motivation, and inspiration among the masses.

SUGGESTIONS- Following are some of the suggestions which can improve the position of agriculture in Jammu District.

- i) Agricultural land should in no case be used for construction of houses or any other establishments. It should be made punishable under law.
- ii) Farmers should be provided with seeds and other equipment free of cost. Moreover, awareness camps for motivational purposes should be organized at village level.
- iii) Fragmentation of land should be banned in interest of growth of agriculture in both Jammu and Kashmir.
- iv) Research at various universities should be encouraged.
- v) Machinery used at the farms by small farmers should be made available at reduced costs to them.
- vi) Special programmes to impart knowledge, skills, awareness to the farmers should be launched.

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