DAUNTING SITUATION OF PULSES IN INDIA: A NEED TO CHANGE

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ABSTRACT
From a situation where India had to import food grains for feeding its population in 1960s, the country has achieved self-sufficiency in producing rice and wheat. As far as pulses are concerned India is still too far to fulfill the mounting demand of pulses. 'Green Revolution' initiative in late 1960s resulted in rapid expansion of agricultural land and boost in agricultural production with the striking feature of double cropping. This revolution resulted in record grain output in 1970s. In case of pulses no promising measures had taken place for boosting pulse cultivation in the decades of 1960s and 1970s. However, in 1980s importance of pulses came under the ambit of mission programs and the production of pulses has increased by 34 per cent from 1980-81 to 1990-91. Further, in India, 1990s decade witnessed the problems such as regional imbalances, depletion of ground level water mainly in northern part, storage and distribution at state level due to giving much importance mainly to two crops paddy and wheat and neglecting other valuable crops such as coarse cereals and pulses which is low water resistant crops. Pulses contain a considerable amount of protein content that’s why in India it is considered as poor man’s meat as majority of population is vegetarian. The present paper tries to throw light on the importance of pulses cultivation in India and it also examines the pattern of growth in area, production and yield of pulses in India. It has also tried to find out the ways to explore the potential of pulses in major pulse producing states in order to expand its output. The time series data for the period 1950-51 to 2011-12 regarding the area, production and yield of pulses has been used to calculate decadal growth rates, Coefficient of Variation and Coppock’s Instability Index (CII).

KEYWORDS: Pulses Production, Growth Pattern and Instability Index.

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