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Review Article

A Study of Agricultural Activities in Nalanda District of Bihar

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A B S T R A C T

Since inception of green-revolution in India, there is a drastic change in the pattern of crops grown in the country. Rising population pressure has forced to grow, food-crops and thus leading to increase in cropping area. There is upward trend in population and productivity of food-grains. Wheat and rice have experienced tremendous growth followed by vegetables production. However, this is not the trend with oil seeds, which is observing fall in production and productivity.

Keywords: Inception, Green-Revolution, Rising Population Pressure, Tremendous Growth, Productivity, etc.

Agricultural activities means the cultivation of soils for purposes of planting or growing of trees or crops in a managed and structured fashion; the rearing of livestock and game or the propagation and harvesting of fish, but excludes eco-tourism or trading or hunting of game. It differs from place to place and so does in Nalanda District of Bihar. Table 1, shows net sown area, total cropped area, and the area sown more than once. This table reflects the changes during ten years interval from the period of 2003–04 to 2013–14. Data shows frequent fluctuations regarding net sown area, total cropped area and the area sown more than once. Continuous increase or decrease has not been observed. Taking into consideration of the entire period of 10 years from 2003-04 to 2013-14 the net sown area has increased by 16.88 per cent, area sown more than once by 19.84 per cent and the total cropped area by 17.73 per cent. A good percentage of increase in area has sown more than once reflects an increase in the cropping intensity of that region. Annual fluctuations represent the variable nature of the climatic conditions, increase in population, and fluctuating increase in net sown area. The area is sown more than once, and ever-increasing demand for the total cropped area will be helpful in fulfilling the agricultural commodities especially food grains.

Growth in the Production and Yield of Agricultural Commodities

Table 2, shows the production of principal crops in the study area. All the cereal crops like Rice, Wheat, Potato, Onion except Vegetables and Matar have recorded increased production. The increased production of Rice and Wheat vary from 8.57 per cent for Wheat, 39.60 per cent for Rice.

Table 1.Net Sown Area, Area Sown More than Once and Total Cropped Area

	2004	2014	Percentage increase
Net Sown Area	181203.2	218002.5	16.88
Area Sown More than Once	69900.5	87200.3	19.84
Total Cropper Area	251103.7	305202.8	17.73

Source: District Statistical Book (In Hectares)

Table 2.Production of Agriculture Commodities in Nalanda District

Crops	2003-04	2013-14	Growth
Rice	2328300	3251040	28.38
Wheat	3049130	3536470	13.78
Potato	5380000	5635350	4.53
Onion	598500	786300	23.88
Vegetables	155725	177936	12.48
Matar(Peas)	5325	3455	-54.12
Arhar	36976	38145	3.06
Peanut	7070	7032	-0.54
Til	558	680	17.94
Moong	2320	1740	-33.33
Tissi	7146	6482	-10.24
Sunflower	1343	2200	38.95
Mustard	37620	32560	-15.54
Gram	83034	93195	10.90
Masoor(Lentil)	133263	167150	20.27

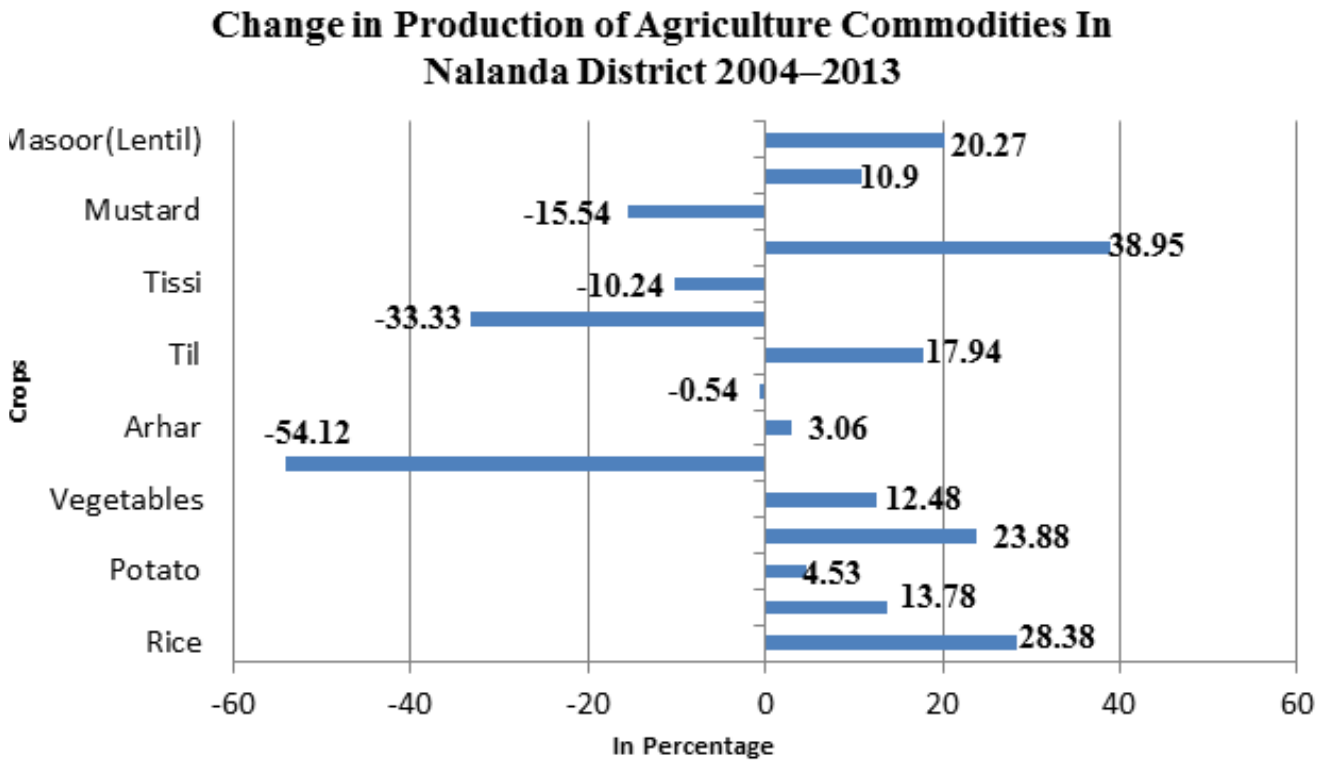

Figure 1.Change in production of Agriculture Commodities in Nalanda District (2004–2013)

Source: District Statistical Book (In Quintals)

In pulses crops, Gram and Mansoor recorded increased production of10.90 and 20.27 per cent while Matar and Moong recorded decreased production between the period of 2003–04 and 2013–2014. Mustard recorded decline in production by 15.54 per cent. Besides, other Vegetable crops recorded the considerable increase in production.

The production of pulses declined due to low returns in the markets. The increased production of cereals is the reflection of farmers attitude towards the market

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Table 3.Yield per Hectare of Principal Crops in Nalanda District

Crops	2003-04	2013-14	Growth
Rice	30	41.88	39.60
Wheat	35	38	8.57
Potato	200	210	5.00
Onion	300	320	6.67
Vegetables	75.1	76.1	1.33
Matar(Peas)	15	14.3	-4.67
Arhar	15	14.6	-2.67
Peanut	12	14.1	17.50
Til	5	6	20.00
Moong	10	10.6	6.00
Tissi	9	6.5	-27.78
Sunflower	12	8.7	-27.50
Mustard	12	11	-8.33
Gram	14	15	7.14
Masoor(Lentil)	9	10	11.11

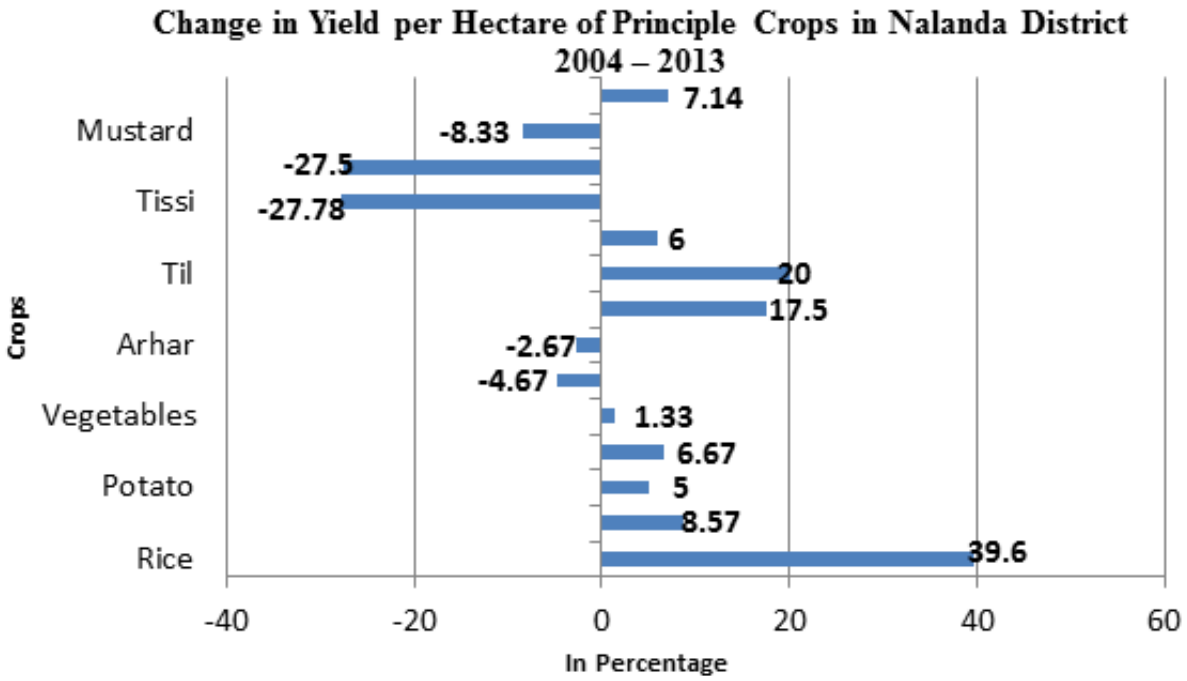

Figure 2.Changes in Yield per Hectare of Principle Crops in Nalanda District 2004 – 2013

Source: District Statistical Book (In Quintals)

oriented crops because Wheat and Paddy are considered as commercial crops due to increasing price in the market. The government is also encouraging the production of Wheat and rice through Minimum Support Price (MSP) for increasing stock of food in reserves. Simultaneously Potato also registered fast growth to a magnitude of 4.53 per cent during the same period because of increased facilities of storage as well as markets.

It is not sufficient to give only data regarding the production of principal crops because it may give some misleading information about the reality. Therefore, it is necessary

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to give the data about the yield of the principal crops, too. Table 3, gives an account of the changes in the yield per hectare of the principal crops during ten years from the period 2003-04 to 2013-14. It can be understood by the table that not only the yield per hectare of Matar has declined, but its total production has got negative growth in the study area. Contrary to this the yield of Moong has improved by 6 per cent while its production decreased during the same period. The massive increase in the yield has been recorded for Rice (39.60 per cent), followed by Til (20 percent), Peanut (17.50 per cent), Wheat (8.57), Gram (7.14 per cent), Onion (6.67 per cent) and Moong (6 per cent).

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