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“AREA UNDER CASH CROPS INCREASES IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS”

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ABSTRACT

Cash crop is a crop that is grown to be sold rather than for use by the farmer. A cash crops is an agriculture crop which grown for sell return profit. The term is used to differentiate marketed crops from subsistence crop. In earlier times cash crops were usually only a small part of a farms total field, while today with the development of technology and demand of luxury things the area under cash crop is increasing day by day.

Present research paper analyses the area under cash crops increases in Solapur district because of Ujani dam project and Bhima-Sina river joint canal irrigation project. Sugarcane, Banana, Oilseeds, fruit and vegetables, condiment crops are the major cash crops in Solapur district. The

tahasils of Malshiras, Pandharpur, Madha, Mohol, Barshi, North Solapur and South Solapur have increases in area under cash crops during the period 1993-2003 to 2003-2013 .

KEYWORDS :Cash crops, irrigation project.

INTRODUCTION

India's most of the part comes under drought prone area so there is a need of irrigation resource. Monsoon is the backbone of Indian economy. But most of the time Monsoon is uneven and less in some parts of the Indian region, so in the region of Rajasthan, Western part of Madhya Pradesh,

Middle part of Maharashtra state and western part of Andhra Pradesh state. So there is need of artificial irrigation resources. In India there is lot of River link project and canal construction is completed and some are working in process. Solapur district is also come under drought prone region so there is need of artificial irrigation resources. In Solapur district Ujani dam is major irrigation resources. The Bhima-Sina river joint canal is also important irrigation project in Solapur district.

Cash crop is a crop that is grown to be sold rather than for use by the farmer (Merriam Webster Dictionary). A cash crops is an agriculture crop which grown for sell return profit. The term is used to differentiate marketed crops from subsistence crop (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

In earlier times cash crops were usually only a small part of a farms total field, while today with the development of technology and demand of luxury things the area under cash crop is increasing day by day.

Area under cash crop is the one of the important indicator of socio-economic development of rural area. Plantation crops like Sugarcane, Banana, Oilseeds, Fiber crops like cotton, jute, tea, coffee, rubber, tobacco are known as cash crops. Such crops are not produced for family consumption but these are cultivated to sell market purpose. These crops are cultivated either in high rainfall region or in adequate or permanent irrigation region. (Ranjit Thirtha, 2002.) Sugarcane, Banana, Oilseeds, fruit and vegetables, condiment crops are the major cash crops in Solapur district.

Present research paper analyses the area under cash crops increases in Solapur district because of Ujani dam project and Bhima-Sina river joint canal irrigation project. Sugarcane, Banana, Oilseeds, fruit and vegetables, condiment crops are the major cash crops in Solapur district. The tahasils of Malshiras, Pandharpur, Madha, Mohol, Barshi, North Solapur and South Solapur have increases in area under cash crops during the period of 1993-2003 to 2003-2013.

STUDY REGION:

The Solapur district is one of the most important district of Maharashtra states. The Solapur district lies entirely in the Bhima-Sina-Man basins. The Solapur district is located between 17° 34'0'' North latitudes and 18° 48'40'' North latitudes and 74° 34'0'' East longitudes and 76° 19'0'' East longitudes. The average height of Solapur district from mean sea level varies from 500 meters to 800 meters. The Solapur district has an irregular shape. The East-West length of the district is about 200 km. and North-South is about 150 km. The total Geographical area of the Solapur district as per 2011 census was 14895.40 sq.kms.

LOCATION MAP OF STUDY REGION

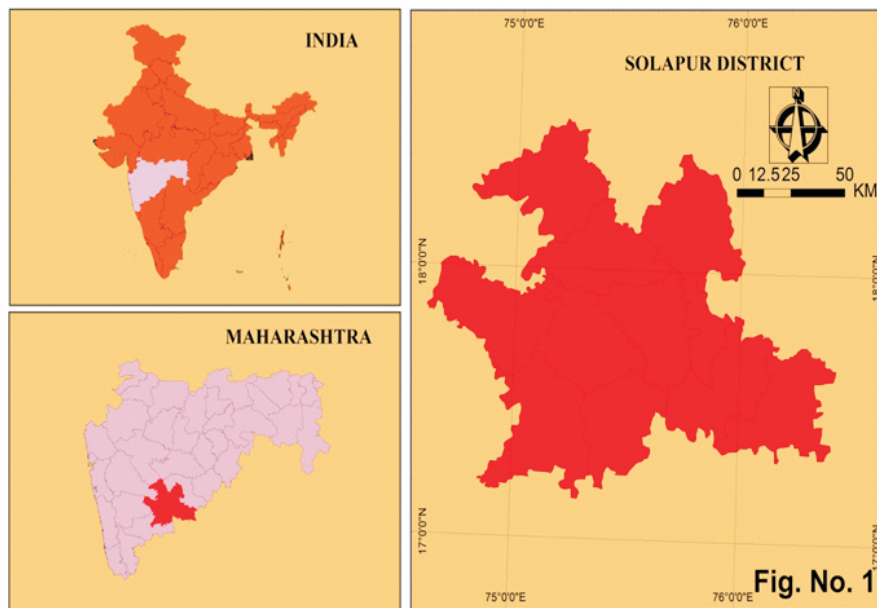


Fig. 1 Location map of study region

OBJECTIVE:

- 1.To study irrigation resources impact on Solapur district.
- 2.To study increases in area under cash crops area of Solapur district.

DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY:

The proposed research work based on both primary and secondary data. Fieldworks as well as field observation during field visits and interview of farmers in view of water availability conducted. Secondary sources of data do not view the actual and complete picture of all elements required for the study. The secondary data is collected from District Gazetteers, Socio-Economic Review of Solapur district, and Irrigation Department Reports, district and state irrigation and metrological reports, ground water survey reports, census etc. The data collection period is 20 years i.e. 1993 to 2003 and 2003 to 2013.

Interpretation and Analysis:

Table 1: Percentage of Area under Cash crops In Solapur District (1993-2003 and 2003-2013):

| Sr.No. | Tahsils | Area Under Cash Crops in 1993-2003 (%) | Area Under Cash Crops in 2003-2013 (%) | Change (%) |
|--------|---------------|--|--|------------|
| 1 | Karmala | 17.52 | 35.25 | 17.73 |
| 2 | Madha | 16.84 | 29.36 | 12.52 |
| 3 | Barshi | 18.92 | 34.24 | 15.32 |
| 4 | North Solapur | 16.58 | 28.15 | 11.57 |
| 5 | Mohol | 13.28 | 29.87 | 16.59 |
| 6 | Pandharpur | 21.65 | 37.52 | 15.87 |
| 7 | Malshiras | 21 | 31.65 | 10.65 |
| 8 | Sangola | 11.36 | 18.27 | 6.91 |
| 9 | Mangalvedha | 14.25 | 26.9 | 12.65 |
| 10 | South Solapur | 13.48 | 25.75 | 12.27 |
| 11 | Akkalkot | 17.31 | 32.12 | 14.81 |
| | District | 16.56 | 29.91 | 13.35 |

Source: Compiled by researcher on the basis of socio-economic review and district statistical abstract of Solapur district 1993 to 2003 and 2003 to 2013.

Area under Cash Crops during 1993-2003:

Table 1 indicates that during 1993-2003, district as a whole has 16.56 percent area under cash crop. But the spatial distribution of area under cash crop varies from tahsil to tahsil ranging from 11.36 and 21.65 percent. Figure 2 A indicates the high percentage of area under cash crops was recorded in Malshiras and Pandharpur tahsil and i.e. > 18.92 percent to the total gross cropped area. Because of fertile soil in Nira basin and development of surface irrigation of Ujani project most of the farmer in Malshiras tahsil prefer to sugarcane cultivation. The moderate area under cash crop is observed in Karmala, Madha, Barshi, N. Solapur and Akkalkot tahsil. While it is low in Mohol, Sangola, Mangalwedha and South Solapur tahsil i.e. below 14.25 percent, due lower development of perennial irrigation most of the farmer devoted their land to Jawar due to high drought resistance power of Jawar.

Area under Cash Crops during 2003-2013:

During the period of 2003-2013 there is 29.91 percent area under cash crop in Solapur district, that of state is 19.85, but spatial distribution varies from tahsil to tahsil ranging in between 18.27 percent and 37.52 percent. The high area under cash crop is recorded in Pandharpur, Karmala, Madha, Mohol, Barshi, Akkalkot and Malshiras tahsil due to the development of perennial surface irrigation facilities of Ujani major irrigation project and Bhima-Sina River joint canal irrigation project majority of farmers prefer sugarcane, Banana, fruit and vegetables and oil seeds cultivation.

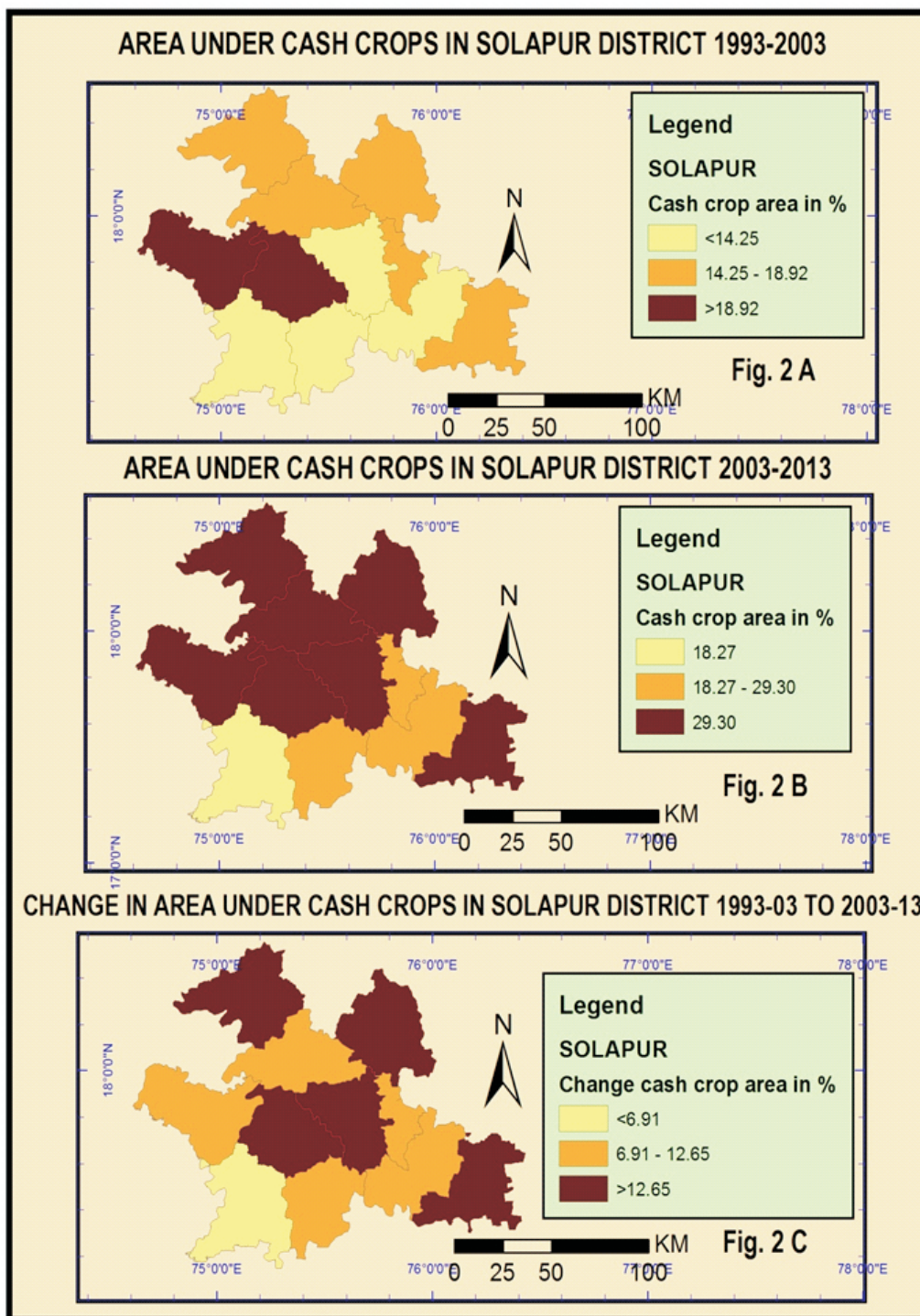


Figure 2 B indicates that the moderate area under cash crop is recorded in the tahsil of North Solapur, South Solapur and Mangalwedha tahsils ranging from 18.27 to 29.30 percent, while it is low in Sangola tahsil mainly because they are deprived from perennial irrigation facilities.

Change in the area under Cash crop 1993-03 to 2003-13:

During the period of investigation district as a whole have 13.35 percent positive change in area

under cash crop. The positive changes are observed in each tahsil but the spatial distribution varies from tahsil to tahsil. Figure 2 C indicates that the highest positive change are observed in Pandharpur, Mohol, Akkalkot, Barshi and Karmala tahsil mainly due to the development of surface irrigation facilities due to Ujani irrigation project. The Moderate changes are observed in the tahsil of Madha, Malshiras, North Solapur, Mangalwedha and South Solapur. The low positive change is observed in Sangola tahsil. It is low in Sangola due to lower development of surface irrigation facilities.

CONCLUSION:

The Ujani dam irrigation project and Bhima-Sina river joint canal irrigation project impacted on cropping pattern of study region. During the study period the area under cash crops increases in the Malshiras, Pandharpur, Madha, Mohol, North Solapur and South Solapur tahsils due to the Ujani dam project and Bhima-Sina river joint canal irrigation project in Solapur district.

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