

Quadrant II - Notes

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Module Name: Agriculture (Including Fisheries)

Module No: 16

Role Agriculture in Goan Economy

The economy of Goa is primarily driven by tourism, mining followed by agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries activities.

Providing livelihood support

Agriculture represents the third important economic activity in Goa providing livelihood to 16% of the population after tourism and mining.

Economic upliftment

For last 50 years of liberation, the state has made a remarkable progress in agriculture sector besides various other spheres of economic upliftment.

Full time occupation

At the time of liberation, nearly 70% of the population was involved in agriculture as their full-time occupation agriculture provide substantial returns to rural people.

Important crops

Rice and fish being the staple diet of the people, paddy becomes the principal crop in the scenario of agriculture in Goa. The important crops, apart from paddy are ragi, maize, jowar, bajra and pulses. Besides cash crop like cashew, coconut, mango, banana and other crops grown in the state.

Reasons for low agriculture productivity in Goa

Declined cultivators /labor's

The percentage of cultivators has declined from 16.6% in 1991 to 9.7% in 2001. There is also a corresponding decline in agricultural labors from 10.9% to 6.9% during the same period.

Lack of awareness

Lack of awareness about the Government schemes, absence of extension mechanism at the village level and poor marketing network infrastructure.

Small land holding

Small land holdings, lack of standardized package of practices, poor soil fertility management and coastal land use planning, hill slopes and poor management of Khazan lands and marshy lands is limiting the agriculture production.

Unavailability of quality seeds

Unavailability of quality seeds and planting material of important crops like paddy, pulses, oilseeds, cashew, coconut, mango, spices etc.

High cost of cultivation

High-cost cultivation and poor returns leads to further decline in agriculture production.

Wild animal threat in agriculture

Wild animal menace in agriculture is an important and major problem of Goan farmers.

- Other Issues like capacity building of weaker sections, attracting youths to agriculture and publications of success stories, providing agriculture inputs and providing facilities for by products processing.
- Alternate source of income
- Agriculture activity in Goa has been declining steadily because of higher incomes offered by other occupations. Lack of security (i.e., if the monsoon fails, the crop also fails and the Government doesn't offer much compensation to farmers) and low returns also make the profession unattractive.

Fisheries

- Fish is the staple diet of a major section of the Goans and fishing is one of the major economic livelihoods of the fishermen in the state. More than 90 percent of the population of Goa is fish eaters.
- Goa is a major exporter of sea-food to the US, Japan, China and the European countries.
- The quantity of fisheries exported from Goa is more than 2.0% of the total fisheries exported by India. The marine fisheries sector contributes to about 3% of the state GDP .

- Around 14699 tonnes of fish, values of Rs. 288.5 crores have been exported from Goa in 2019-2020. The annual average per capita consumption of fish in Goa is 15-17 kg.
- The current average marine and inland fish production is estimated at 86027 and 3669 tonnes, respectively.
- Marine fishery sector provides livelihood to a large number of people in Goa. fisheries industry forms the second largest industry both in terms of employment and income.
- Thus, the fisheries industry plays a vital role in the socio-economic development by contributing substantially towards Net State Domestic Product through export and domestic trade.
- Besides the actual fishing process, many subsidiary activities like marketing, drying, processing and small scale vending also create livelihood for a significant section of the inhabitants.

Problems and Issues:

- Lack of fish processing units.
- Non availability of commercial storage facilities in the district.
- Inadequate marketing infrastructure

No proper strengthening and restructuring of existing markets. Absence of marketing network and extension mechanism.

- Poor management of water bodies.

Lack of survey and assess potential of water bodies for fish production.

- Limited services from department

Limited extension services of the department of fisheries are some of the major constraints in fisheries activities. lack of research on fish culture with emphasises on breeding and feed management.

