

# SEASON AND CROP REPORT

## 2006 - 07

### INTRODUCTION

The Union Territory of Puducherry consists of four regions viz. Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, which are not geographically contiguous. Puducherry region is located in the East Coast bounded by Cuddalore and Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu State, while Karaikal region, which is also situated in East Coast, bounded by Nagapattinam and Thiruvavar Districts of Tamil Nadu State. Mahe region is located in the West Coast near Cannanore District of Kerala State and Yanam region is located in the East Godhavari District of Andhra Pradesh State.

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Puducherry is declared as the State Agricultural Statistics Authority and the scheme viz. Collection of Agricultural Statistics is being implemented in Puducherry Region since 1961-62 and in phases this scheme was extended to the other three regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry. The Field Supervisors of this Directorate, are responsible for the collection of field level statistics in the three seasons of an agricultural year. These primary workers visit each and every plot and collect Land Utilisation Statistics with the help of village maps supplied by the Revenue Department, Puducherry. The supervisory staff of the Directorate provide able guidance to the primary enumerators in carrying out their work successfully and scientifically.

### POPULATION

According to 2001 Population census, the total population of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 9,74,345 persons. Of this 4,86,961 are males and 4,87,384 are females, with a sex ratio of 1001 females to 1000 males. The regional break up figures with density of population is given below.

| Region                    | Population 2001 Census |                 |                 | Density per Sq.Km |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                           | Males                  | Females         | Total           |                   |
| Puducherry                | 3,69,428               | 3,65,904        | 7,35,332        | 2,536             |
| Karaikal                  | 84,487                 | 86,304          | 1,70,791        | 1,061             |
| Mahe                      | 17,153                 | 19,675          | 36,828          | 4,092             |
| Yanam                     | 15,893                 | 15,501          | 31,394          | 1,570             |
| <b>U.T. of Puducherry</b> | <b>4,86,961</b>        | <b>4,87,384</b> | <b>9,74,345</b> | <b>2,030</b>      |

The rural population is 3,25,726 persons (33.43%) whereas the urban population is 6,48,619 persons which constitutes 66.57% of the total population.

The following table reveals the available working force in U.T. of Puducherry as per 2001 Census.

| Region                    | Total workers   | Agricultural Workers<br>(Cultivators and<br>Agricultural labourers) | Percentage of<br>Agricultural<br>workers to total<br>workers. | Net area<br>sown<br>(in Hectares)<br>2006-07 | Per-capita Net Area Sown (in<br>Hectare) |                         | Density of<br>Agricultural<br>workers per<br>100 Hectare<br>of net area<br>sown |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           |                 |                                                                     |                                                               |                                              | Total<br>Population                      | Agricultural<br>workers |                                                                                 |
| Puducherry                | 2,65,660        | 44,569                                                              | 16.78                                                         | 12577                                        | 0.017                                    | 0.282                   | 354                                                                             |
| Karaikal                  | 57,497          | 12,937                                                              | 22.50                                                         | 6650                                         | 0.039                                    | 0.514                   | 195                                                                             |
| Mahe                      | 9,292           | 173                                                                 | 1.86                                                          | 626                                          | 0.017                                    | 3.618                   | 28                                                                              |
| Yanam                     | 9,903           | 1,867                                                               | 18.85                                                         | 632                                          | 0.020                                    | 0.339                   | 295                                                                             |
| <b>U.T. of Puducherry</b> | <b>3,42,352</b> | <b>59,546</b>                                                       | <b>17.39</b>                                                  | <b>20485</b>                                 | <b>0.021</b>                             | <b>0.344</b>            | <b>291</b>                                                                      |

The total Population of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 9,74,345 and out of this 3,42,352 (35.14%) are classified as workers. Agriculture is the main economic activity of the U.T. of Puducherry and this section had employed 59,546 persons who are either Cultivators or Agricultural workers. The above table gives the clear picture of workforce of the Territory on Agricultural Sector.

### RAINFALL AND SEASONAL CONDITION

The Union Territory of Puducherry receives rainfall both from South West monsoon and North East monsoon.

The monsoon period (June to May) is divided into four seasons

- South West monsoon
- North East monsoon
- Winter period
- Hot weather period.

#### SOUTH WEST MONSOON (JUNE 2006 TO SEPTEMBER 2006)

This season's rainfall is vital as regards to the production of Khariff Crops. Mahe region, which is located in the West coast of Kerala State receives its major rainfall during this season. The region-wise rainfall during the above season is given below.

| Name of the Region | Number of<br>Rainy days | Total rainfall<br>(in m.m) | Normal rainfall<br>(in m.m) |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Puducherry         | 14                      | 195.0                      | 378.5                       |
| Karaikal           | 6                       | 100.3                      | 258.7                       |
| Mahe               | 86                      | 2404.2                     | 2729.8                      |
| Yanam              | 35                      | 826.8                      | 691.3                       |

It may be noted that Yanam region has recorded a high level of rainfall while compared to normal rainfall, while Mahe region had received 88.07% rainfall over and above the normal rainfall and the other regions recorded a low level as compared to the normal rainfall.

#### NORTH EAST MONSOON (OCTOBER 2006 TO DECEMBER 2006)

The region-wise rainfall during the season is shown in the following table:

| Name of the Region | Number of | Total rain fall | Normal rainfall |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|

|            | <i>Rainy days</i> | <i>(in m.m)</i> | <i>(in m.m)</i> |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Puducherry | 27                | 921.0           | 849.4           |
| Karaikal   | 35                | 806.1           | 993.2           |
| Mahe       | 19                | 409.8           | 367.2           |
| Yanam      | 9                 | 587.4           | 450.3           |

The three regions viz Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam have recorded a high level of rainfall when compared to Normal rainfall. The Karaikal region only has recorded low level of rainfall.

#### WINTER (JANUARY 2007 AND FEBRUARY 2007)

The region wise rainfall during the winter season is presented in the following table:

| <i>Name of the Region</i> | <i>Total Rainy days</i> | <i>Total rainfall (in m.m)</i> | <i>Normal rainfall (in m.m)</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Puducherry                | 1                       | 6.0                            | 46.0                            |
| Karaikal                  | 4                       | 50.0                           | 66.5                            |
| Mahe                      | 0                       | 0                              | 10.4                            |
| Yanam                     | 1                       | 12.6                           | 27.1                            |

Mahe region did not get any rainfall during the winter season while Karaikal region has recorded significant rainfall even though the figure is slightly lower than the normal rainfall of the region. Yanam region has recorded 46.49% of rainfall to the normal rainfall.

#### HOT WEATHER PERIOD (MARCH 2007 TO MAY 2007)

The above season's rainfall details are given in the following table.

| <i>Name of the Region</i> | <i>Total Rainy days</i> | <i>Total rainfall (in m.m)</i> | <i>Normal rainfall (in m.m)</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Puducherry                | 2                       | 11.0                           | 64.3                            |
| Karaikal                  | 3                       | 29.6                           | 68.4                            |
| Mahe                      | 17                      | 466.7                          | 279.7                           |
| Yanam                     | 1                       | 6.6                            | 70.1                            |

During the above season Mahe region recorded high level rainfall which is fairly above the normal rainfall. Other regions recorded a low level as compared to the normal rainfall.

#### RAINFALL ABNORMALITIES

The rainfall abnormalities are classified as follows -

- i) Excess (+) 20% and above normal -
- ii) Normal (-) 19.9% to (+) 19.9% -
- iii) Deficient (-) 20% to (-) 59.9% -
- iv) Scanty (-) 60% to (-) 99.9% -
- v) No rain (-) 100% -

#### CLASSIFICATION OF AREA

The total geographical area of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 480.58 Sq. Km according to the Survey of India, whereas it is reported as 48,651 hectares according to village paper, which is classified into nine categories.

The following table gives the nine fold classification of land utilization and the area under each category with its respective percentage to the total geographical area.

| Sl.No. | Category                                  | 2006-07         |                                       |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
|        |                                           | Area in Hectare | Percentage to total Geographical area |
| 1.     | Forest                                    | -               | -                                     |
| 2.     | Land put to non agricultural use          | 17926           | 36.85                                 |
| 3.     | Barren and unculturable land              | 72              | 0.15                                  |
| 4.     | Permanent pastures and other grazing land | 0               | 0.00                                  |
| 5.     | Land under misc. tree crops and groves    | 1191            | 2.45                                  |
| 6.     | Culturable waste                          | 4145            | 8.52                                  |
| 7.     | Other fallow land                         | 2580            | 5.30                                  |
| 8.     | Current fallow                            | 2252            | 4.63                                  |
| 9.     | Net area sown                             | 20485           | 42.10                                 |

#### CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

##### FOREST

All lands classified as Forest under any legal enactment dealing with forests or administered as forests whether State owned or private. There is no forest area in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

##### LAND PUT TO NON-AGRICULTURAL USE

All lands occupied by Buildings, Paths, Roads, Railways, Rivers, Ponds, Lakes, Canals and other lands put to non-agricultural purposes are brought under this category.

During the year 2006-07, area under this category was 17,926 hectares (36.85%) of the total geographical area, which was more than 139 hectares as compared to the previous year 2005-06.

##### BARREN AND UNCULTURABLE LANDS

Land where cultivation is not at all possible comes under this category. During the year 2006-07, 72 hectares (0.15%) were under this category.

##### PERMANENT PASTURES AND OTHER GRAZING LANDS

All grazing lands, whether they are permanent pastures or meadows are considered as permanent pastures and other grazing lands according to their nature. No area was recorded under this category during the year 2006-07

#### LAND UNDER MISCELLANEOUS TREE CROPS & GROVES ( not included in net area sown )

Lands in which trees and groves are grown which are not included in the net area sown come under this category. An area of 1191 hectares (2.45%) was recorded under this category.

#### CULTURABLE WASTE

All lands available for cultivation whether not taken up for cultivation or taken up for cultivation once, but not cultivated during the current year and continuously for the last five years or more, in succession for one reason or the other, are classified as culturable waste. During the year 2006-07, 4,145 hectares have been recorded under this category, which constitutes 8.52% of the total geographical area.

#### OTHER FALLOW LANDS

All lands, which are usually taken up for cultivation but are temporarily suspended from cultivation for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years are considered as other fallow lands. During the year 2006-07, 2580 hectares were recorded as area under this category which is 5.30% of the total geographical area.

#### CURRENT FALLOWS

Cultivable lands, which are kept fallow during the entire period under review, are known as current fallows. During 2006-07, this category was recorded as 2252 hectares which is 4.63% .

#### NET AREA SOWN

Net area sown represents the area sown with crops at least once in any of the crop season of the year, counting area sown more than once in the same year, only once. The net area sown in the current year 2006-07 was 20,485 hectares as against 20,713 hectares recorded last year(2005-06) representing a fall of 1.10%.

The table below represents the region-wise distribution of net area sown to their respective geographical area.

| Sl. No. | Region     | Percentage of net area sown to  |                                |
|---------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|         |            | Geographical area of the region | Total net area sown in the U.T |
| 1.      | Puducherry | 42.81                           | 61.40                          |
| 2.      | Karaikal   | 41.53                           | 32.46                          |
| 3.      | Mahe       | 71.95                           | 3.05                           |
| 4.      | Yanam      | 26.43                           | 3.09                           |

The following table shows the region-wise intensity of total cropped area to net area sown.

| Sl. No. | Name of the region | Percentage of Net area sown to total cropped area |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1.      | Puducherry         | 54.35                                             |
| 2.      | Karaikal           | 60.47                                             |
| 3.      | Mahe               | 99.52                                             |
| 4.      | Yanam              | 53.74                                             |

#### TOTAL CROPPED AREA (GROSS CROPPED AREA)

The Total Cropped area was recorded as 35,943 hectares during the year 2006-07 as against 36,392 hectares (2005-06) registering a decrease of 1.23% The area sown more than once was reported as 15,458 hectares during 2006-07 as compared to 15,679 hectares during the year 2005-06.

#### AREA IRRIGATED BY DIFFERENT SOURCES OF IRRIGATION

The Net Area Irrigated by different sources of irrigation during the year 2006-07 was recorded as 17,730 hectares. In Puducherry region, 88.96% of the net area sown was irrigated, while in Karaikal region the respective figure is 93.01%. The relevant figures for Mahe and Yanam region was 6.55% and 50.00% respectively.

The following table shows the area irrigated by different sources of irrigation in respect of Union Territory of Puducherry.

| Sl. No. | Sources of Irrigation | Net Area Irrigated (in Hect) | Percentage |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1       | Canal                 | 6452                         | 36.39      |
| 2       | Tank                  | 0                            | 0          |
| 3       | Tubewell              | 11222                        | 63.29      |
| 4       | Ordinary Well         | 0                            | 0          |
| 5       | Other Source          | 56                           | 0.32       |
| Total   |                       | 17730                        | 100        |

It may be noted that 6,452 hectares in Karaikal & Yanam regions were irrigated through canals and in Puducherry region the main source of irrigation was Tube Wells.

During the year 2006-07, the Gross area irrigated under different crops was 28,183 hectares as against 29,384 hectares in 2005-06. Percentage of area irrigated to total cropped area was 78.41% in the Union Territory of Puducherry. It is worth mentioning here that 89.26 % of the total cropped area in Puducherry region alone was irrigated whereas the respective figures for Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions were 62.62 % , 7.00% and 50.85 % respectively.

The details of the percentage of gross area irrigated under different crops are shown below in respect of Union Territory of Puducherry as a whole.

|               |   |        |                       |   |       |
|---------------|---|--------|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Paddy         | - | 76.80% | Sugarcane             | - | 8.87% |
| Ragi          | - | 0.17%  | Fruits and Vegetables | - | 3.37% |
| Cumbu         | - | 0.26%  | Condiments and Spices | - | 0.04% |
| Cholam        | - | 0.01%  | Groundnut             | - | 2.39% |
| Other Millets | - | 0.00%  | Other Non- food crops | - | 6.23% |
| Pulses        | - | 1.86%  |                       |   |       |

The percentage of area irrigated under principal crops to total area sown under each crop is given in the following table

| Name of the crop | Percentage of area irrigated to total area sown under the crops |         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|                  | 2005-06                                                         | 2006-07 |
| Paddy            | 100.00                                                          | 100.00  |
| Ragi             | 100.00                                                          | 100.00  |

|           |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Groundnut | 97.62  | 96.56  |
| Sugarcane | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Cotton    | 100.00 | 100.00 |

#### AREA SOWN WITH CROPS (TOTAL CROPPED AREA)

The total cropped area under all crops was 35,943 hectares in 2006-07 which is less by 449 hectares as compared to 2005-06. During the year 2006-07 the area under food crops accounted for 85.49 % and respective percentage of non-food crops is 14.51%.

The cropping pattern in the Union Territory of Puducherry as a whole during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is as below :-

| Name of the crop            | Percentage of area under principal crops to total cropped area |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                             | 2005-06                                                        | 2006-07      |
|                             |                                                                |              |
| <b>Food-Crops</b>           |                                                                |              |
| Paddy                       | 62.99                                                          | 60.22        |
| Ragi                        | 0.15                                                           | 0.13         |
| Cumbu                       | 0.18                                                           | 0.22         |
| Other Millets               | 0.06                                                           | 0.01         |
| Pulses                      | 9.98                                                           | 13.51        |
| Sugarcane                   | 5.77                                                           | 6.96         |
| Other food-crops            | 5.06                                                           | 4.44         |
| <b>Total Food Crops</b>     | <b>84.19</b>                                                   | <b>85.49</b> |
| <b>Non-Food Crops</b>       |                                                                |              |
| Cotton                      | 0.50                                                           | 0.16         |
| Groundnut                   | 3.23                                                           | 1.94         |
| Gingelly                    | 0.36                                                           | 0.38         |
| Coconut                     | 6.03                                                           | 6.08         |
| Casuarina                   | 2.84                                                           | 3.37         |
| Other Non-food Crops        | 2.85                                                           | 2.58         |
| <b>Total Non-Food Crops</b> | <b>15.81</b>                                                   | <b>14.51</b> |
| -                           |                                                                |              |

In Puducherry region, food crops were cultivated in 82.93% of the total cropped area whereas in Karaikal region it was 96.53%. In this aspect Mahe and Yanam regions recorded 22.73 % and 66.24 % respectively.

#### PADDY

Paddy is the principal crop amongst all crops and Paddy was cultivated in an area of 21,645 hectares during the year 2006-07 which accounts for 60.22% of the total cropped area. The area under Paddy in 2005-06 was 22,925 hectares. Production of Rice during 2006-07 was reported as 60,171 tonnes as against 53,617 tonnes in 2005-06. The average yield rate of Rice was 2,780 Kgs. Per hectare during 2006-07.

Percentage of area under Paddy to the total cropped area in respect of each region of Union Territory of Puducherry can be studied from the following table.

| Region     | Percentage of area under Paddy to total cropped area |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Puducherry | 61.63                                                |
| Karaikal   | 61.72                                                |
| Mahe       | -                                                    |
| Yanam      | 50.68                                                |

Paddy is normally cultivated in wetlands, which are irrigated by different sources of irrigation such as Canals, Tanks and Tube Wells. Usually paddy is cultivated during three different seasons in a year. Paddy first crop (Kuruvai) is normally sown during the months of May to July and harvested during September to October. Paddy second crop (Samba), which is predominant, is sown during the period from August to October and harvested during December to February. The sowing season of paddy third crop (Navarai) is from January to March and is harvested during May to June.

#### RAGI

Ragi was cultivated in Puducherry region to an extent of 48 hectares. This crop is mainly sown in dry lands and irrigated by tube wells.

The production was estimated at 114 tonnes. 0.13 % of total cropped area was utilized for Ragi cultivation.

#### CUMBU

Cumbu was cultivated only in Puducherry region to an extent of 78 hectares in 2006-07 and the production being 195 tones. Cumbu is mainly sown in dry lands for two seasons viz. Khariff and Rabi-II.

#### OTHER MILLETS

Other Millets such as Cholan was grown only in Puducherry region in an area of 4 hectares which is too small to take note off.

#### PULSES

Pulses were cultivated in 4855 hectares in the entire Union Territory and of this Blackgram and Greengram occupied 2529 hectares and 2299 hectares respectively. The production of Blackgram was 1048 tonnes and that of Greengram was 815 tonnes.

#### SUGAR CANE

Sugarcane is the major crop among the commercial crops and grown mainly in Puducherry region. During the year 2006-07 Sugarcane was cultivated in 2,500 hectares of which 2,480 hectares was recorded in Puducherry region alone. The production of Sugarcane during the year 2006-07 was estimated as 3,83,706 tonnes as against 2,99,000 tonnes during 2005-06.

## **COTTON**

Cotton is the only fibre crop grown in Puducherry and Karaikal region only. During 2006-07 area under cotton was reported as 57 hectares of which 45 hectares were grown in Karaikal region alone. Production of Cotton was 40 tonnes.

## **GROUNDNUT**

Groundnut is one among the leading Oilseeds cultivated in the Union Territory of Puducherry. During the year 2006-07, the area under Groundnut was reported as 697 hectares which is 1.94 % of the total cropped area and the production was estimated at 1,427 tonnes as compared to 2,302 tonnes in 2005-06. Groundnut is sown as an irrigated crop during December to February and as a dry crop in July and August of a year.

## **COCONUT**

Coconut is another important oil seed crop, cultivated in 2,187 hectares during 2006- 07 of which 1,189 hectares fall in Puducherry region and 486 hectares in Mahe region. It is significant to note that in Mahe, 77.27 % of the total cropped area are occupied by Coconut.

## **GINGELLY**

Gingelly was sown in an area of 135 hectares in 2006- 07 as against 132 hectares during 2005 ♦ 06 with an average yield of 652 kgs. per hectare.

### **WHOLESALE PRICES OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**

#### **AT PUDUCHERRY MARKET**

The wholesale prices of some important agricultural commodities are collected every week in Puducherry Market under ♦Market Intelligence Scheme♦. The analytical note on the price trend in Puducherry Market is discussed below.

## **PADDY**

The annual average wholesale price of Paddy (I-sort) for the year 2006-07 stood at Rs.789.95 per quintal and a mixed trend was witnessed during the last five years as may be seen from table -VI

## **RICE (BOILED ♦ I SORT)**

In the open market annual average wholesale price of Boiled Rice (I-sort) was reported as Rs.1585.00 per quintal during the year 2006-07 and a similar mixed trend as that of Paddy was noticed during the last five years.

## **RAGI AND CUMBU**

The annual average wholesale price of Ragi for the year 2006-07 stood at Rs.669.61 per quintal as against Rs.516.29 in 2005-06 witnessing an increasing trend. The annual average wholesale price of Cumbu was reported as Rs.843.02 per quintal in 2006-07 as against Rs. 781.87 in 2005-06 registering a significant upward trend.

## **PULSES**

The yearly average wholesale prices of Greengram, Blackgram and Redgram Dhall (I-sort) were registered as Rs. 3,929.58, Rs.3593.48 and Rs.3326.21 per quintal respectively during 2006-07 as against Rs.2,951.95, Rs.2473.18 and Rs.3,035.42 per quintal registered during 2005-06 registering a significant upward trend in Greengram Blackgram and Redgram

## **CONDIMENTS AND SPICES**

The annual average wholesale price of chillies was reported as Rs.6,278.33 per quintal and a mixed trend was witnessed during the last five years.

## **ONION (DINDUGUL)**

The annual average wholesale price of Onions which was reported as Rs.1,487.08 per quintal as against Rs.1,153.75 in 2005-06 registering an increasing trend.

## **GROUNDNUT (KERNALS) AND GINGELLY SEEDS**

The annual average wholesale price of Groundnut (Kernals), was reported as Rs.2,224.38. per quintal in 2005-06 increased to Rs.2,610.92 in 2006-07. The annual average wholesale price of Gingelly seeds which was reported as Rs.3,694.69 in 2005-06 decreased to Rs. 2,627.74 per quintal in 2006-07 witnessing a decreasing trend.

## **COCONUT**

The annual average wholesale price of Coconuts (per 1000 nuts) reported as Rs.5,166.67 in 2006-07.

### **WAGES PAID TO AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS**

Statistics relating to daily wages paid to agricultural and skilled labourers are collected every month from four selected centres at Puducherry region, two selected centres at Karaikal region and one selected center at Yanam region of the Union Territory of Puducherry. The agricultural labourers are mainly classified into two groups viz.,

- i) Field Labourers and
- ii) Skilled labourers.

Field labourers comprise of Ploughmen, Sowers, Transplanters, Weeders, Reapers and Harvesters. Skilled labourers are Carpenters and Blacksmiths. Data regarding average daily wages paid to agricultural labourers during 2006-07 in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions are detailed in the tables VII-A, VII- B and VII-C. The summary table consists of the average daily wages in respect of Union Territory of Puducherry. The index numbers of agricultural wages are also given in a separate table taking the agricultural year 1986-87 as base year.

The average daily wages paid to each category of labourers have been computed with simple arithmetic mean of the wage rates that prevailed in the seven selected centers on the last working day of every month during the year 2006- 07. The base year average of daily wages has been worked out with the simple average of all months of the year 1986-87.

The monthly wage relative computed by expressing the average daily wages paid to each category of Labour during a month of the current year as percentage of the corresponding base year average wage rates.

The index numbers of wages paid are discussed in detail below:

### **FIELD LABOUR**

#### **PLOUGH MEN**

The average index number of wages paid to Ploughmen which was reported as 999 for the year 2006-07 as against 927 in 2005-06.

#### **SOWERS AND TRANSPLANTERS**

The index number of wages paid to sowers which were reported as 993 for the year 2006-07 whereas for sowers the average figure was

The index number of wages paid to men which were reported at 995 in the year 2006-07, whereas for women, the average figure was reported as 802.

#### **WEEDERS**

The index number of wages paid to weeders (women) varied from 637 and 744 during 2006-07 the annual average being 692.

#### **REAPERS AND HARVESTERS**

The index number of wages paid to Reapers and Harvesters (men) ranged between 579 and 1076 and that of woman between 449 and 837.

#### **OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS**

The average index number of wages paid to this category (men) reported as 859. The respective figure for women reported as 792.

#### **SKILLED LABOURERS**

The index number for Carpenters reported as 559 from July 2006 to November 2006, 572 from December 2006 to April 2007 and increased at 596. The same for Blacksmith varied from 508 to 570.

#### **REVIEW ON AGRICULTURAL INDICES**

Agricultural Indices are computed with the base year of triennium ending 1981-82 =100. Index numbers for area under all Crops, Net area sown, Yield, Agriculture production, Cropping intensity, Cropping pattern and productivity per hectare are constructed.

The index of area under all crops shows a mixed trend every year due to unstable cropping pattern followed by ryots and availability of water. In 2006-07 index is 63.81.

The index of net area sown also varied from 86.62 1987-88 to 63.17 in 2006-07, showing a revised trend.

The index of yield and productivity per hectare crossed the 100 mark for the past five years, which is a good sign of improvement.

The index of agricultural production decreased by 2.71 points from previous year and stood at 96.21 in 2006-07.

The index of cropping intensity shows a mixed trend and quoted at 101.01 in the year 2006-07.

The index of cropping pattern decreased from 105.08 in 2005-06 to 102.75 in 2006-07.

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