

**AN ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF PAKISTAN DURING SIXTH FIVE YEAR PLAN  
( 1983-84-1987-88 )**

By

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### Introduction

Agriculture is the predominant sector of country's economy whose share in the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 25.5 per cent.<sup>1</sup> It provides food to country's increasing population, raw materials to domestic industry and employs 49.25 per cent labour force.<sup>2</sup> Government policy is, therefore, aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in food grain, and accelerate the output of cash crops to meet the expanding needs of indigenous industries and to raise the level of foreign exchange earnings from export.

To realise these objectives, agriculture had been given priority in development planning. During the Sixth Five Year Plan (1983-88) Rs.12.25 billion were allocated for the development of agricultural sector<sup>3</sup> and its growth rate was fixed 4.9 per cent.<sup>4</sup>

### Development of major crops

#### 1. Wheat

Wheat is the staple diet in Pakistan which accounts for over 70 per cent of gross cereal intake. It is the crop with the largest areas and constitutes over 37 per cent of the total cultivated land (20.33 million hectares). Similarly among the different types of cereals, wheat production ranks highest amounting to about 68 percent of the total cereal production.<sup>5</sup>

**Table-I**  
**Area, Production and Yield Per Hectare**  
**of Wheat 1982-83 1987-88**

YEAR	CULTIVATED AREA		PRODUCTION		YIELD PER HECTARE	
	Million Hectares	Index	Million Tonnes	Index	Kilograms	Index
1982-83	7.398	100	12.41	100	1679	100
1983-84	7.343	99	10.88	88	1493	89
1984-85	7.259	98	11.70	94	1611	96
1985-86	7.403	100.1	13.92	112	1835	109
1986-87	7.706	104	12.02	97	1559	93
1987-88	7.269	98	12.93	104	1778	106

Source: 1. Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, p.92, Statistics Section pp.29-30.

2. Habib Bank Limited, The Economic Scene, Vol.14, May 1988, Karachi, 1988, p.16.
3. National Bank of Pakistan, Monthly Economic Letter, Vol.15 No.8, August, 1988, Karachi, p.3.

The cultivated area of wheat increased in the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 from 7.403 million hectares to 7.706 million hectares and it decreased to 7.269 million hectares in the year 1987-88 as compared to 7.398 million hectares in the year 1982-83 (Table-I). The output of wheat increased at the rate of 12 per cent in 1985-86 and at 4 per cent in the year 1987-88 respectively. It decreased in other years as compared to the year 1982-83. Similarly per hectare yield rose at the rate of 9 per cent and 6 per cent in the years 1985-86 and 1987-88. But it could not increase in the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1986-87 as compared to the base year 1982-83.

## 2. Rice

Rice is the second principal food crop in Pakistan after wheat. Its importance lies in being a supplementary diet and as an important source of earning foreign exchange. Rice fetched Rs.5052.6 million and earned foreign exchange in the year 1986-87.<sup>6</sup> The total cultivated area, production and per hectare yield during the plan period is given in Table-II.

Table-II

### Area Production and Yield Per Hectare of Rice

YEAR	CULTIVATED AREA		PRODUCTION		YIELD PER HECTARE	
	Million Hectares	Index	Million Tonnes	Index	Kilograms	Index
1982-83	1.978	100	3.445	100	1741	100
1983-84	1.999	101	3.340	97	1671	96
1984-85	1.999	101	3.315	96	1658	95
1985-86	1.863	94	2.919	85	1567	90
1986-87	2.066	104	3.490	101	1687	97
1987-88 (E)	1.971	100	3.271	95	1660	95

- Source:
1. State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report 1986-87, Karachi, 1987, Statistical Section, pp.14-15.
  2. Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, Statistical Section, pp.29-30.
  3. Habib Bank Limited, The Economic Scene, Vol.14, May 1988, Karachi, p.16.
  4. National Bank of Pakistan, Monthly Economic Letter, Vol.15, No.8, August, 1988, Karachi, p.4.

The cultivated area of rice increased during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1986-87 at the rate of 1 per cent, 1 per cent and 11 per cent, but the total output as well as per hectare yield could not be increased as compared to the base year 1982-83 during the plan period.

### 3. Cotton

Cotton is the principal cash crop of Pakistan. The significance of cotton crop may be judged from the fact that it alone accounts approx: 11 per cent of the cropped area (more than any other cash crop). It contributes more than 16.9 per cent of foreign exchange earnings and produces 55 per cent of the domestic edible oil which is used as raw material in vegetable ghee industries.<sup>7</sup> The crop as a whole along with cotton manufactures contributes about 35 per cent towards the total foreign exchange earning and provides means of living to at least six million people of the population.<sup>8</sup> It is obvious that increase in cotton production would significantly contribute towards the stability of the economy.

Table-III indicates that the output of cotton decreased in the year 1983-84 as compared to the year 1982-83 since 1984-85 the production of cotton as well as per hectare yield has been growing at an accelerated rate as shown in Table-III.

Table-III  
Area, Production and Yield  
Per Hectare of Cotton

YEAR	CULTIVATED AREA		PRODUCTION		YIELD PER HECTARE	
	Million Hectares	Index 1982-83 = 100	Million Bales	Index 1982-83 = 100	Kilograms	Index 1982-83 = 100
1982-83	2.263	100	4.844	100	364	100
1983-84	2.221	98	2.908	60	223	61
1984-85	2.242	99	5.930	122	450	124
1985-86	2.364	104	7.155	148	515	141
1986-87	2.502	111	7.760	160	523	144
1987-88	2.563	113	8.900	184	590	162

- Source:
1. State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report 1986-87, Karachi 1987, Statistical Section, p.15.
  2. Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey, 1987-88, Islamabad 1988, Statistical Section, pp.29-30.
  3. National Bank of Pakistan, Monthly Economic Letter, Vol.15 No.8, August 1988, Karachi, 1988, p.5.

Cotton production target for 1987-88 had been placed at 8.9 million bales and the yield per hectare was to increase at the rate of 62 per cent in comparison to the year 1982-83.

### 4. Sugarcane

Pakistan is the fifth largest producer of sugarcane in the world and within the country sugarcane is the second largest cash crop.<sup>9</sup> The bulk of this crop is grown in the Punjab followed by Sindh and NWFP. With better farm inputs, the production of sugarcane can be increased without extending the area. The area and yield of sugarcane is given in table-IV.

**Table-IV**  
**Area, Production and Yield Per Hectare of Sugarcane**

YEAR	CULTIVATED AREA		PRODUCTION		YIELD PER HECTARE	
	Million Hectares	Index 1982-83 = 100	Million Tonnes	Index 1982-83 = 100	Kilograms	Index 1982-83 = 100
1982-83	0.912	100	32.533	100	35,672	100
1983-84	0.897	98	34.287	105	38,224	107
1984-85	0.904	99	32.140	99	35,553	100
1985-86	0.780	86	27.856	86	35,713	100
1986-87	0.762	84	29.926	92	39,273	110
1987-88	0.820	90	31.239	96	38,096	107

- Source:
1. State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report 1986-87, Karachi, 1987, Statistical Section, pp.14-15.
  2. National Bank of Pakistan, Monthly Economic Letter, Vol.15, No.8 August 1988, Karachi, 1988, p.5.

It is evident from table-IV that the cultivated area of sugarcane decreased during the plan period as compared to the year 1982-83 because of better farm inputs used by the cultivators. The total output of sugarcane increased only in the year 1983-84 but the production of other years was lower during the plan period as compared to base year 1982-83. The yield per hectare increased at the rate of 7 per cent in the year 1983-84, at the rate of 10 per cent in the year 1986-87 and at the rate of 10 per cent in the year 1987-88. It increased at the rate of 7 per cent during the year 1987-88.

The overall development in agriculture during the Sixth Five Year Plan was achieved at the rate of 3.7 per cent against the target of 4.9 per cent for the plan period.<sup>10</sup>

## FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS INCREASED PRODUCTION

Rapid agricultural development depends on physical inputs, economic environment and research and education. These are described as under:

### PHYSICAL INPUTS

#### Irrigation Water

It plays a vital role in increasing agricultural production. Despite one of the largest irrigation net works in the world, it is estimated that 40 per cent of Pakistan's water resources are wasted in transit.<sup>11</sup> To increase the availability of irrigation in the country, the number of tubewells installed has been increased (Table-V) during the planned period with the result that the total amount of water availability rose from 101.40 million acre feet (MAF) in 1982-83 to 12.22 MAF in 1987-88 and increased at the rate of 11 per cent.<sup>12</sup> Under the On Farm Water Management Programme to increase irrigation efficiency, 1889 water courses were improved in 1984-85, 1895 water course in 1985-86, 1821 water courses in 1986-87, and 1966 during 1987-88.<sup>13</sup>

Table-V

Number of Tubewells installed during  
Sixth Five Year Plan 1983-84 1987-88

YEAR	NUMBER OF TUBEWELLS	INDEX 1982-83=100
1982-83	4,383	100
1983-84	4,240	97
1984-85	4,464	102
1985-86	4,278	98
1986-87	5,661	129
1987-88	6,239	142

Source: Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, Statistical Section, p.27.

#### Fertilizer

Fertilizer is playing a key role in raising crop production. While the consumption was 1243.6 thousand nutrient tonnes in 1982-83, it reached the level of 1753 thousand N.tonnes, showing a rise of 41 per cent over 1982-83, i.e an annual growth rate of 8 per cent (Table-VI). In order to promote the use of fertilizer its prices have always been subsidised every year. In 1987-88 budget a sum of Rs.1670 million was kept as subsidy for fertilizer as against Rs.1562 million in 1986-87.<sup>14</sup> Moreover, to improve

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efficiency, the fertilizer industry has been controlled by the Government in order to provide its supply to farmers in abundance. The fertilizer use since 1982-83 is given in Table-VI.

Table- VI  
Consumption of Fertilizer in Pakistan

YEAR	NITROGEN N	PHOSPHAT P	POTASH K	TOTAL	PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1982-83
1982-83	952.70	265.20	25.70	1243.60	100
1983-84	914.32	259.81	89.50	1202.63	97
1984-85	934.80	293.79	24.67	1253.26	101
1985-86	1128.39	350.07	33.33	1511.79	122
1986-87	1332.35	408.87	42.62	1783.84	143
1987-88	1313.00	400.00	40.00	1753.00	141

(F)

Source: Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, Statistical Section, pp.27-28.

### Improved Seeds

Improved varieties of seeds for various crops alongwith water and fertilizer contribute significantly towards the raising of crop yields. A great deal of work is being done to evolve new high yielding varieties of seeds resistant to pests and diseases. Substantial improvement in yields of cotton, wheat and rice was attributed mainly to NIAB-78, MNH-129 and SHAHEEN variety of Cotton, Rice Basmati 385 and Punjab and Faisalabad-85 of Wheat.<sup>15</sup> These varieties give significantly higher yields than other varieties. The consumption of improved seeds has been gradually rising as shown in table-VII.

Table- VII  
Consumption of Improved Seeds

YEAR	IMPROVED SEED (000) TONNES	INDEX 1982-83 =100
1982-83	70.30	100
1983-84	75.60	115
1984-85	86.39	123
1985-86	75.02	107
1986-87	90.00	128
1987-88	137.00	195

Source: Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey of Pakistan, 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, p:97

In order to increase the availability of improved seeds in future four seed processing plants with an annual capacity of 122 thousand tonnes seed have been established.<sup>16</sup> Of these one each at Khanewal, Sakrand, Rahim Yar Khan and Sahiwal are functioning in proper way.

### Plant Protection

Heavy losses have occurred in agricultural sector due to pests and diseases. Thus it needs preventive and curative measures to protect plants from diseases. These measure consist of ground and aerial spraying against the attack of pests.

Table- VIII  
Plant Protection

YEAR	AREA SPRAYED MILLION HECTARES	INDEX 1982-83 =100	YEAR	AREA SPRAYED (000) HECTARES	INDEX
1982-83	1.830	100	1985-86	2.50	137
1983-84	2.929	160	1986-87	2.14	117
1984-85	2.992	163	1987-88	3.00 ( E )	164

Source: 1. Government of Pakistan, Agricultural Statistics of Pakistan, 1985, Islamabad, 1986, p.108  
2. Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1985-86, Islamabad, 1988, p:56.  
3. Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, p.97.

Table-VIII gives details of area covered by aerial and ground operations during the Sixth Five Year Plan period.

In this regard free plant protection services were provided till the sixties. Late in the seventies only 25 per cent of cost of pesticides was charged.<sup>17</sup> Aerial operations were, however, conducted free of charge. According to the National Agricultural Policy of 1980, the Government abolished the free systems of aerial spraying on crops in the provinces of Punjab, Sindh, and NWFP.<sup>18</sup> Supply and distributional work was completely transferred to private sector to get rid of malpractices in the system.<sup>19</sup> However, in Balochistan these services are still being provided free of cost.<sup>20</sup> Aerial spraying in suitable areas of Punjab, Sindh and NWFP are being carried out by government on payment of cost of pesticides by the beneficiaries.<sup>21</sup>

Table- IX  
Import of Pesticides

YEAR	QUANTITY (000) TONNES	INDEX 1982-83 = 100	VALUE (MILLION) RS.	YEAR	QUANTITY (000) TONNES	INDEX 1982-83 = 100	VALUE (MILLION) RS.
1982-83	8860.3	100	396.71	1985-86	14903.0	168	1416.81
1983-84	10662.5	120	685.84	1986-87	15815.0	178	1619.21
1984-85	15889.2	179	1196.62	1987-88	16407.0	185	Not Available

Source: Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, p.98 and Statistical Section p.38.

### Mechanisation

The production of crops involves numerous activities including the preparation of land, sowing, weeding, spraying, thinning and harvesting. To conduct these operations in time, with speed and efficiency, the process of selective mechanisation is being properly encouraged. Thus, tractors, reapers, transplanters, combine harvesters and power tillers are being utilised in agricultural sector regularly for increasing the production. To provide mechanisation facilities to the cultivators five tractor manufacturing units have been established in the country but these have not so far been able to meet the requirements of the country<sup>22</sup> with the result the country imported tractors during Sixth Five Year Plan.

Table- X  
Number of Imported Tractors

YEAR	TRACTORS	INDEX 1982-83 = 100	YEAR	TRACTORS	INDEX 1982-83
1982-83	22,147	100	1985-86	24815	112
1983-84	27,279	123	1986-87	22241	100
1984-85	28,141	127	1987-88	24000 (E)	108

Source: Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, Statistical Sections, p.27.

### Economic Environment

#### 1) Price Policy and Price Incentives

Low income small farmers have been neglected in the past development plans and programmes. This has affected the country's overall agricultural productivity. According to the 1980 Agricultural Census, low income small farmers with less than 5 hectares own about 74 percent of the total

farms in the country.<sup>23</sup> There had been always imbalance between input and output prices with the result that the small cultivators could not get benefit out of it. To avoid this the prices of different agricultural products are being fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission taking into account various factors influencing prices, particularly cost of production, import and export parity prices and comparative advantage of competing crops. the purpose of support price policy is to provide enough incentives to the growers for increasing their production and productivity. It also acts as mechanism to ensure minimum guaranteed prices to the farmers. The procurement prices have increased considerably during the Sixth Five Year Plan period. Cropwise position is given in Table- XI.

Table- XI  
Procurement/ Support Prices (Rs.per 40 Kgs)

CROP VARIETIES	1982-83 Rs.	1983-84 Rs.	1984-85 Rs.	1985-86 Rs.	1986-87 Rs.	1987-88 Rs.
1. Wheat	64.00	64.00	70.00	80.00	80.00	82.50
2. Rice (Clean F.A.Q)						
a. Basmati	154.00	157.00	160.00	175.00	204.00	250.00
b. Irri-6	80.00	83.00	83.00	86.50	86.50	89.00
3. Rice Paddy						
a. Basmati	88.00	90.00	90.00	93.00	102.00	130.00
b. Irri-6	49.00	51.00	51.00	53.00	53.00	55.00
4. Seed Cotton (Phutti)						
a. Desi	168.00	169.00	169.50	173.50	173.50	173.50
b. AC 134, NT	175.00	178.00	181.00	185.00	185.00	185.00
c. B 557 & 49 F	183.00	186.00	189.00	193.00	193.00	193.00
d. Sarmast Qalandari Detapine MS 39-40	197.00	200.00	203.00	207.00	207.00	207.00
5. Sugarcane (at Factory Rate)						
a. Sindh	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81	11.95	11.95
b. Punjab	9.65	9.65	9.65	9.65	11.79	11.79
c. NWFP	9.38	9.38	9.38	9.38	11.52	11.52

Source: Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, Statistical Section, pp.45-46.

It is evident from Table-XI that due to increase in support price the growers have been benefited.

## ii) Agricultural Credit

In view of the large number of small farmers in the country as well as expanding demand for modern agricultural inputs, the credit requirements are increasing rapidly in the country. To meet the rising demand for credit a liberal credit policy was being pursued during the planned period and in its pursuance, the following steps were taken:<sup>24</sup>

- i) Waiver of interest on credit to small land holders.
- ii) Simplification of loaning procedures.
- iii) Effective implementation of the Pass Book System.
- iv) Greater concessions to cooperatives.
- v) Faster expansion of supervised credit scheme.
- vi) Periodic increase in loan limits on surety.
- vii) Stipulation that ADBP should allocate a major portion of development loans to small farmers.

As a result of these measures, disbursement of credit increased considerably as indicated in Table- XII

**Table- XII**  
**Distribution of Credit**

(Rs. in Million)

YEAR	ADB P	TACCAVI	COOPERATIVES	COMMER- CIAL BANKS	TOTAL
1982-83	2310.44	2.69	1320.93	2680.89	6314.95
1983-84	3131.67	9.30	1449.89	4088.70	8679.56
1984-85	4168.00	-	1567.60	3909.00	9674.00
1985-86	5307.87	-	2048.58	5791.00	13147.45
1986-87	5350.75	-	2494.75	7313.40	15158.90
1987-88 (July-Dec:)	2746.74	-	2133.00	5079.20	9958.94

Source: Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, Statistical Section, p.37.

Besides normal loans, interest free loans are also given to small farmers with less than 5.06 hectares of land.<sup>25</sup> The loans are meant for the purchase of seed, fertilizer, pesticides and hand sprayers. The limit of such loans has been raised from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.12,000/-.<sup>26</sup> The disbursed loans during the planned period are given in Table-XIII.

Table- XIII  
Interest Free Loans

YEAR	AMOUNT ( MILLION RS.)
1983-84	2884.00
1984-85	3403.00
1985-86	4537.55
1986-87	6384.99
1987-88	2806.65
(July-Dec:)	

Source: 1. Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1985-86, Islamabad, 1986, p.58.

2. Government of Pakistan, Economic Survey 1987-88, Islamabad, 1988, p.101.

It is evident from Table-XIII that more credit facilities were extended to small farmers under the scheme of interest free loans.

#### **Agricultural Marketing**

Absence of facilities for marketing are considered constraints on agricultural production. The growers and consumers suffer at the hands of middlemen in any imperfect marketing system. So, government has expanded the system of regulated markets in the country to safeguard the interest of both the growers and the consumers. In order to ensure fair return to farmers, Agricultural Marketing Supplies Limited and PASSCO make bulk purchase directly from the growers at fixed prices of the commodities and make them payment on the spot.<sup>27</sup> This marketing mechanism on the one hand ensures the minimum price worked out by the Agricultural Prices Commission (APCOM) to the farmers and, on the other, the consumers are benefited by stabilization of prices in the country. PASSCO also assists the government in procurement and maintaining buffer stocks of wheat and other less perishable commodities. Cotton Export Corporation and Rice Export Corporation are concentrating on the export of cotton and rice in order to fetch more foreign exchange in the country.<sup>28</sup>

#### **Storage**

The efficiency of extensive marketing system depends to a great extent on adequate storage facilities. Lack of storage capacity could greatly slow down buying and procurement activities and consequently the storage problem is shifted to the farmers where the majority does not have the space to store

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the produce in their homes and is thus left in the fields or improperly stored, subjecting the produce to deterioration and thereby causing reduction in the value of the product. The government and private sector had taken steps to improve storage capacity. Introduction of National Logistic Cell has helped improve the situation through direct construction of storages as well as transporting commodities to up country.<sup>29</sup> During 1987-88 grain storage silos of 50,000 tonnes capacity each at Karachi and Faisalabad were to be completed by NLC.<sup>30</sup>

The USAID will provide Rs.0210 million to PASSCO for the repair and maintenance of foodgrain godowns constructed five years ago all over the country.<sup>31</sup> The PASSCO will complete the repair work of 750,000 tonnes capacity godowns by 1990.<sup>32</sup> The storage capacity which was 4234 thousand tonnes in 1982-83 rose to 5644 thousand tonnes by the end of 1986-87 showing an increase of 33 per cent.<sup>33</sup> This increase would not be sufficient to store the entire available stocks resulting in 10 to 15 per cent loss of commodities.<sup>34</sup> To overcome shortage in storage capacity in the country one million tonnes additional storage capacity would be created by the Public Sector.<sup>35</sup> In addition to this, the Private Sector would have to come forward for creating further additional capacity of 850 thousand tonnes to meet the ever rising requirements.<sup>36</sup>

### Research and Education

To sustain growth rate in agricultural sector, research, education and extension services need to be strengthened and streamlined. In agricultural research priorities are to be given to development programme. New high yield, disease resistant and fertilizer responsive varieties of seeds suited to local conditions are developed for various crops through continued research activities.<sup>37</sup> The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council is responsible for the coordination and promotion of scientific research and allied fields. During 1985-86, 13 wheat, 11 maize, 9 soyabean, 7 rice, 4 each of sunflower and lentil, 3 each of green gram and sorghum and one each of ground-nut and safflower varieties have been higher by 25 to 100 per cent.<sup>38</sup> The introduction of cotton varieties Niab-78, MNH-93, CIM-70 and SLH-41 increased output per hectare from 364 kg in 1982-83 to 590 kg in 1987-88, with the result that cotton revenue increased.<sup>39</sup>

As regards agricultural education, the agricultural universities, and the education and training institutions were expanded to meet the growing needs of technical manpower. These institutions produced 1064 B.Sc, 562 M.Sc and 6 Ph.D scholars in 1985-86, 955 B.Sc., 808 M.Sc., 12 M.Phil and one Ph.D in 1986-87, and 1936 B.Sc., 1036 M.Sc., 36 M.Phil and 30 Ph.Ds in 1987-88.<sup>40</sup>

Besides this, six agricultural Institutes located in different provinces are imparting pre-service and in-service training to agricultural extension staff and farmers.<sup>41</sup>

The Sixth Five Year Plan laid emphasis on strengthening and reorganisation of Agricultural extension services on scientific basis. The programme was being refined through T&V (Training and Visit) System.<sup>42</sup> Under this programme, workers of the extension services, paid regular visits to the rural areas and met the farmers in group. The growers were enlightened with the latest techniques and methods of farming.<sup>43</sup> The T&V System has so far been introduced in 7 districts of Sindh and the whole of Punjab.<sup>44</sup> In Balochistan the system is being introduced in four districts. Special emphasis has been given to the development of Barani areas through special schemes like maximisation of groundnut production and establishment of nurseries.<sup>45</sup>

For the foreign analysis it is observed that various inputs were used in agricultural sector during the Sixth Five Year Plan for achieving the target of food grains (21.795 million tonnes)<sup>46</sup> to become self-sufficient in food, but against the target 17.773 million tonnes were achieved with the result 3.909 million tonnes wheat were imported<sup>47</sup> which created burden upon the balance of payments.

## CONCLUSION

The Planning Commission gave priority to agricultural sector during the Sixth Five Year Plan (1983-88). It allocated Rs.12.25 billion for the development of agriculture which aimed to fix the target of food grains 21.795 million tonnes and overall growth rate 4.9 per cent. In this regard various inputs were utilized such as water availability rose at the rate of 11 per cent, fertilizer consumption increased from 1243.60 thousand tonnes to 1753 thousand tonnes, improved seed utilised from 70.30 thousand tonnes to 137 thousand tonnes, ground and aerial spraying services were extended from 1.83 million hectares to 3 million hectares, number of tractors increased at the average rate of 12 per cent, price incentives, interest free loans to small farmers upto Rs.12,000/-, storage, research and education facilities were also extended for achieving the required target fixed by the Planning Commission. The major crops such as wheat increased at a little rate, rice could not achieve the position of 1982-83, the total output of sugarcane decreased from 32.533 million tonnes in 1982-83 to 31.239 million tonnes in 1987-88, but only the production of cotton rose from 4.844 million bales in 1982-83 to 8.900 million bales in 1987-88 and also per hectare yield increased from 364 kilograms to 590 kilograms.

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The overall development in agriculture sector was achieved at the rate of 3.7 per cent during the Sixth Five Year Plan as against the target of 4.9 per cent. Simultaneously the food grains target 21.795 million tonnes could not be achieved with the result that 3.909 million tonnes of wheat were imported to meet the requirements of the country.

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