

A Review on Agricultural Development of Saran

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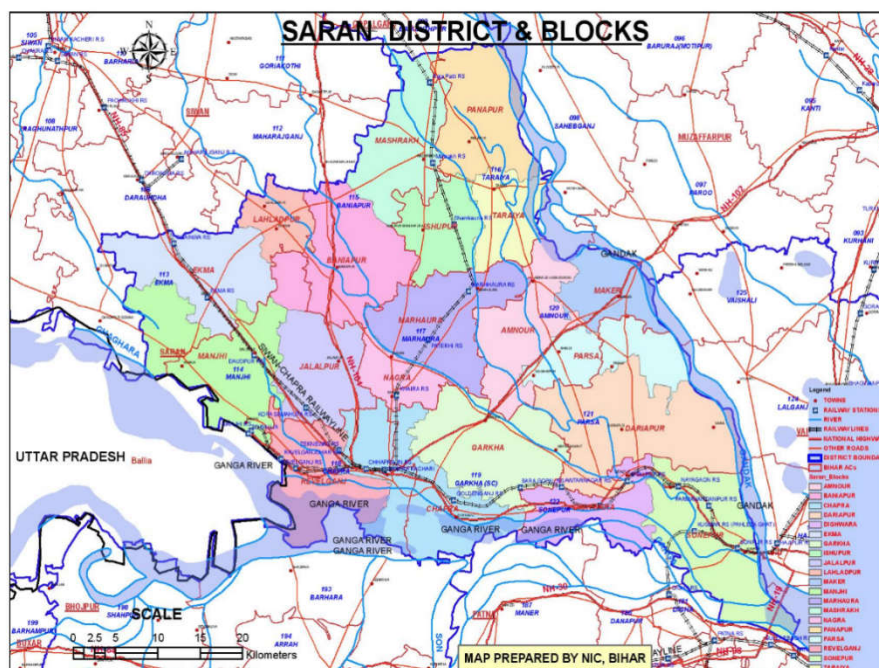
Abstract

Saran is one of the important districts of the state and it plays crucial role in GDP of the state. In spite of resources and scope for agricultural development, district's agricultural productivity is low. This article is based on Saran district. It is one of the districts in Bihar. Agriculture gives growth sustainability as this district produces crops. People of the district are engaged in agriculture business. This article highlights the existing agricultural condition and it also emphasizes giving a glimpse of major crop of the district.

Keywords – Crucial Role, Resource, Agricultural Development, Productivity, Growth, Sustainability

Introduction

Saran district is one of the 38 districts of Bihar state, India. This district is part of the Saran division and is also known as the Chapra District. Saran as one of the six Sarkars (Revenue Divisions constituting the province of Bihar. When Diwani was given to the East India Company in 1765, there were eight



sarkers, including Saran and Champaran. These two were later combined into a single entity called Saran. When the Commissioner's Division was established in 1829, Saran (along with Champaran) was incorporated into the Patna Division. It was separated from Champaran in 1866 and became a separate district. Saran later became part of the Tirhut Division, which formed in 1908. By this time there were three Sub Divisions in this district namely Saran, Siwan and Gopalganj. In 1972, each sub division of the old Saran district became an independent district. After the split between Siwan and Gopalganj, the Saran district headquarters remained in Chapra.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the main source of income of the district. Rice is the main crop of the district. It accounts for about 47.1% of the net sown area. Wheat covers almost 10.53% of the net sown area, while sugarcane is produced only 0.95% of sown area. Agriculture is basically rain-fed. The situation has improved a bit with several canal irrigation projects and other relevant government initiatives. In five blocks named Isuapur, Dariyapur Masrakh, Garkha and Lahladpur, most of the arable land is flooded through out of the year and completely eliminating agricultural prospects. Apart from that, the district's agricultural department lacks the number of staff to effectively deal with these challenges (only three blocks have full-fledged agricultural personnel). However, all these restrictions could not dampen the spirit of the majority of the district by adopting agriculture as their primary livelihood source. This is reflected in yield/hect. Farmers in this district are highly receptive to technological innovations in the agricultural sector, making it a sector with enormous potential. District Agriculture Department initiated the process of a seed exchange program and saw 12% growth in one year (DAO, Saran). Improved seeds, demonstrations, micronutrients and pump kits have been piloted in the district as part of the National Food Security Mission, resulting in 10 quintals per hectare of growth. Agricultural equipment subsidies (up to \$20,000 for electric threshers, tractors, tillers, etc.) provide opportunities for mechanized farming for district farmers. The district has very good potential for the production of vegetables, especially potatoes. However, farmers are gradually retreating due to the lack of storage facilities. In the district it has only 10 cold stores, not enough to store the goods. To create a market connection to the district's agricultural products, there are only two markets, one each at Chapra and Barakpur in the Sonapur block of the district

Table-1 Agriculture

Net Sown Area	199300(hec)
Croppingpattern	Paddy,Wheat,Maize, Arhar,Gam,Lentil,Linseed, Petil

Table one shows that Saran produces varieties of crops including paddy, wheat, maize, arhar, lentil, linsed and petil but among the various crop rice and wheat are the main crops which are produced more in the district.

Irrigation

Irrigation in Saran district involves irrigating the fields on the one hand and draining of water logged on the other hand. Before Independence, attention was paid to irrigation by ex-zamindars. As such, the British government paid little or no attention to the district's irrigation needs. It was only in the post-independence period that the government recognized this need.

There are 118 sluice gates in the aforementioned embankments that are used to drain water from the water-logged field. The Chapra irrigation division is in charge of maintaining these embankments Rain is the main source of irrigation, and harvest results are highly dependent on its adequacy and distribution on the farm. However, it cannot rely on rainfall as an inexhaustible source of irrigation. Artificialirrigation therefore supplements rainfall to varying degrees to meet the water demands of agriculture.

Table-2 Irrigation (In Hectare)

Net Irrigated area	101611
Canal	22320
State Tube Well PrivateTube Well	72135
Others	7156

The table a head gives an overview of their rogation coverage in the distr

Table -3 reveals that only 51% of the net sown land is irrigated, leaving a sizable portion vulnerable to the

Particulars	AreaInHectare	Percentage
NetSownArea	199300	NA
NetIrrigatedarea	101611	51%ofthenetsownarea
Canal	22320	22%Of the net irrigatedarea
State Tube Well PrivateTubeWell	72135	71%Of the net irrigatedarea
Others	7156	7%Of the net irrigatedarea

monsoon. The majority of the irrigation is provided by tube wells, which again shows the limited focus of canal projects. The state's agriculture could experience a significant boost if irrigation reach were increased. In the context of agriculture, it is also important to consider the district's land distribution system because it directly affects farming practices. 0.64 hectares of land are owned on average. The occupation analysis makes clear that there are very few marginal farmers in the district. Despite having only 0.64 acres on average,

Table-3

Land Use Pattern

Agriculture is the main occupation of people in the district and the main source of people's livelihood. Rainfall still dominates the agricultural economy of Saran District. However, conditions have improved to some extent to cope with the situation caused by the lack of monsoons. Rice is the main crop of the district. It accounts for more than 47.0% of the net sown area. Wheat accounts for almost 11.00% of the net sown area, while sugar cane is only planted 1% of the area.

Indo Gangetic alluvium is the district's geological formation. The plains of the area are created from the silt that the Ganges and its tributaries have been bringing down since the beginning of time. Knakar, or

nodular segregations of line carbonate, are found in the older alluvium. It is possible to extract saltpetre from saliferous soil in numerous Saran- District Industrial Potential Survey locations. The district does not contain any minerals that are economically significant.

Named for its dense forests long ago, the Saran district is now completely forestless. The land is fertile and has a large population to feed, leaving no room for wild growth. Arable land is dotted with bamboo groves, palm trees and mango plantations.

The district's total geographic area is 256602 ha; of that, 55300 ha (21.55%) is used for other purposes, such as industry and built-up areas, 2001 ha (0.78%) is waste or fallow land, and 199301 (77.67%) is currently under cultivation. The district is currently cultivating at a 175 percent intensity.

Agro-climatic Conditions

The district's agro-climatic characteristics are ideal for agriculture and horticulture since the soil has a light texture and is more than 100 cm deep. The area offers a lot of potential for growing aromatic, medicinal, mushroom, and vermin compost crops. Water Supplies both surface and underground water are abundant in the area. Numerous small and large rivers, including the Ganga, Gandak, and Ghagra, crisscross the Saran area. If these bodies of water and the groundwater are used properly, the district's agriculture might experience a significant boost.

Production and Productivity of Major Crops

Rice is the main crop of the district. It accounts for about more than 47.0 percent of the net area sown.

Wheat covers nearly 11.00 percent of the net area sown, while sugarcane is grown in only 1.00 percent of the area. Other crops grown are maize pulses, oilseeds, potato and vegetables.

Irrigation Based Classification

Agricultural activity in the district is by and large confined to the traditional kharif The major kharif crops grown are paddy, maize and sugarcane while among the rabi crops wheat and oilseeds are important. As per available statistics, out of the gross cropped area of 348300 hectares, 225490 hectares are irrigated by different sources of irrigation. Irrigation based classification in Saran district is being presented in Table 6

Table -4: Irrigation based Classification in Saran district

S.No.	NameofBlock	Irrigatedarea(ha)		RainfedArea(ha)		
		GrossIrrigat edArea	NetIrrigatedA rea	PartiallyIrrigated / ProtectiveIrrigatio n	Un-Irrigated orTotallyRainfed	Total
1	Amnour	11097	5386	1508	4525	6033
2	Baniapur	16127	8322	2239	6716	8954
3	Chhapra	13137	6386	1932	5797	7729
4	Dariapur	20448	9512	2557	7672	10229
5	Dighwara	6344	2952	764	2292	3056
6	Ekma	13015	6355	1859	5576	7434
7	Garkha	16244	8259	2287	6860	9147
8	Ishupur	9067	3859	1122	3366	4488
9	Jalalpur	11098	5348	1358	4074	5432
10	Lahladpur	5299	2777	748	2245	2993
11	Maker	6557	3187	878	2634	3512
12	Manjhi	15601	9046	2698	8093	10790
13	Madhaura	13511	6398	1816	5448	7264
14	Mashrakh	12396	5758	1473	4419	5892
15	Nagra	5518	2582	712	2136	2848
16	Panapur	10299	5248	1275	3826	5101

17	Parsa	9408	4490	1184	3553	4737
18	Revelganj	9174	4335	1156	3469	4625
19	Sonpur	12450	5866	1848	5543	7390
20	Taraiya	8700	4065	1289	3867	5156
Total		225490	110131	30703	92108	122810

Source: District Agriculture office (DAO), Saran

Conclusion

This article discusses about agricultural development of the district. Emphasis is given to understand the agricultural conditions of the district. Wheat and rice are the main production of the district. It also produces other crops including Paddy, Maize, Arhar, Gam, Lentil, Linseed etc. Vegetable are also produced in the district. This article also explains about agriculture conditions of Saran district including irrigation and its classification, land use pattern, production and productivity of major crops, different phase of five years plan, agricultural policy for the district and state. District is progressing towards implementation of technology in cultivation.

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