



The Change of Commercial Cropping Pattern in Nashik District: A Case Study of Sugarcane Farming.

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**Abstract :**

India is the second largest country producer of sugarcane in the world. The aim of the present paper is to understand the change in Sugarcane commercial cropping pattern in Nashik district. This paper will also give some suggestion for improving the Sugarcane commercial cropping pattern in Nashik district. The variation index analysis has been done in order to see a causal relationship between area and production. The Sugarcane commercial cropping pattern of Nashik district was based on the irrigation system of the subsistence farming without any surplus. However, with the advent of New Agricultural Strategy, there emerged the complementary relationship between the commercialization and commercial cropping pattern of the district. The district of Nashik has micro-level variations in the agro-climatic conditions. The agro-climatic variations supported different types of cropping patterns in the district; however, it was the availability or unavailability of irrigation facilities, which played a key role in determining the cropping structure in the district. The study revealed that the crop sector of Nashik district agriculture at an aggregate level is gradually diversifying in favor of high-value crops. However, while analyzing the diversification.

**Keywords:** Commercial cropping pattern, Crop diversification, Sugarcane crops, and Variation Index.

**Introduction:**

The sugarcane productivity is profoundly influenced by weather conditions prevailing during the various crop-growth sub-periods. Sugar recovery is highest when the weather is dry with low humidity; bright sunshine hours, cooler nights with wide diurnal variations and very little rainfall during the ripening period. These conditions favor high sugar accumulation. The climatic conditions like very high temperature or very low temperature deteriorate the affecting the sugar quality. Favorable climate like warm and humid climate favor the insect pests and diseases, which cause much damage to the quality and yield of its finally sucrose contents. Agriculture is the predominant sector in the economy of Nashik district. Directly and indirectly, it supports about 80 percent of the population besides contributing nearly 60 percent of district revenue, which adequately explains the over dependency of the population on agriculture. The overall economic growth of the district depends largely on the progress of agricultural sector, the development of which becomes even more important in the context of the very nominal progress

**Objectives of the Study:**

1. To study the change of sugarcane commercial cropping pattern in Study area.
2. To study the growth of agricultural crops in the Nashik district.