

Productivity trends of the rapeseed-mustard in Eastern Plateau and Hill Region

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Abstract

The present study is part of an evaluation report of the development action plan for scheduled tribes (DAPST) implemented in the Jharkhand area. Adoption of the mainstream way of life is very slow in these areas. Major features of the tribal communities as well as the identified area discussed in the context of the recent technological interventions. Primary and secondary data were collected across the various agro-climatic zones. Based on the trends, the districts have been categorized into four groups for strategic planning. Productivity improvement of rapeseed-mustard varied from 1.18% in the Deoghar district to 75.57% in the Koderma district of Central and North Eastern Plateau Sub Zone IV during the period of 20010-11 to 2019-20. Quinquennial comparison of decline in the productivity levels ranged from 4.96% in the Godda district to 42.03% in the Bokaro district of Central and North Eastern Plateau Sub Zone IV. Based on the magnitude of the yield variability over time and across the districts, an appropriate strategic plan was developed for the impactful implementation of the schemes in underprivileged areas. The outreach of the most modern technological and policy interventions may be facilitated up to the last frame for minimizing the productivity gaps.

Keywords: Compound annual growth rates, rapeseed-mustard, socio-economic features, yield variability

Introduction

Tribals have been living in forests for ages and identified as "heritage groups" with advocacy for special care and treatment (Bhuria Report, MoTA, GOI, 2004). The strategy for integrated development led to the launching of the tribal sub plan (TSP) concept in the Fifth Plan period. Three basic parameters include variations in the socio-economic and cultural milieu, demographic distribution, and primitive tribal communities living in scheduled regions. In predominant tribal regions, an area approach with a focus on the development of tribal communities has been favored, while for primitive groups community-oriented programs have been preferred. With various development projects launched in Jharkhand, some 30 lakh people were displaced to Sundarbans in West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands during 1951-95, with 90 % of them being tribals (Ekka, 2000; Xaxa, 2003; Maharatna and Chikte, 2004). The government needs to proactively address the situation and make more long-term farmers-centric policies coupled with viable technological interventions (Chand, 2016).

World Bank (2007) identified Jharkhand as one of the most poverty-stricken states in the country with a sharp

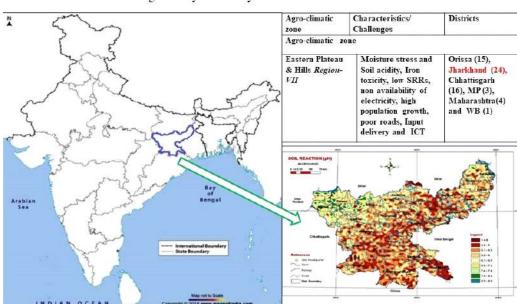
contrast between rural and urban poverty. Singh et al. (2012 and 2015) opined that despite years of concerted efforts rural poverty is rampant in Jharkhand. In 2009-10 about 36% of farming households and 47% of agriculture laborer households were living with a minimum annual per capita income of ₹ 7867. Jha et al. (2012) reveal that farming in eastern India is facing constraints like drought and submergence, heavy pest infestation, and poor soil fertility. Infrastructure including irrigation, power supply, and transport facilities are the most important aspect of any geographical unit to progress. The State of Jharkhand consists of 24 districts, 33 subdivisions, 211 blocks, 3759 panchayats, and 32620 villages (Government of Jharkhand, 2015). The numbers of electrified villages are 14667 (45.0 % of the total villages). However, only 8484 villages (26.0 %) are connected by roads. The net irrigated area is about 0.16 million ha, constituting about 14% of the cultivated area. Being largely rainfed, the state has a cropping intensity of 126%. Yogi et al. (2017) and other researchers reported that this huge gap is indicating a great potential to enhance the productivity of the farm sector.

Jharkhand has immense potential for rapeseed-mustard

cultivation. The present study is part of an evaluation report of the development action plan for scheduled tribes (DAPST) implemented in the Jharkhand area. Under this developmental action plan for scheduled tribe, the scientific production technology of rapeseedmustard and agriculture management is being showcased through frontline demonstrations, critical inputs including quality seed and fertilizers provided timely, and awareness through capacity building programs and ICT application. Hence, it is necessary to look into the productivity variations.

Materials and Methods

Both primary and secondary data are used for macro and micro-level analysis of the socio-economic features and yield variance. A review of the tribal communityoriented policy initiatives has also been conducted. The study is designed with sampling and focused group discussions (FGDs) based on primary data as well as secondary data. Characterization of the agroecosystem in the study area is depicted in Fig. 1.



Agro ecosystem analysis of the identified State

Fig. 1: Characterization of the agroecosystem in the study area

District-level time-series data of Jharkhand state for 10 years from 2010-11 to 2019-20 was used. Time series analysis revealed the variation in productivity levels in different levels of geo-coordinates. The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) was worked out by fitting the exponential function given below:

 $Y = ab^t$

Where; Y = the dependent variable (export); a = constant term; b = regression coefficient; t = time variable in years The equation can be rewritten in the logarithmic form as follows:

 $\log Yt = \log a + t \log b$

where; Y_t = productivity of rapeseed-mustard in tth year We can, thus, calculate the compound growth rates (r) as under:

 $r = Antilog(log b - 1) \times 100$

where; r = compound growth rate per annum (%); b =regression coefficient

Results and Discussion

Profile and demographic features

It has been evident for some time that the lion's share of the various benefits and concessions earmarked for the SC and ST is appropriated by the numerically larger and politically well-organized communities (Lakur Committee Report 1965, Department of Social Security, GOI). The Planning Commission Report (2006) on development issues to deal with the causes of discontent, unrest, and extremism highlighted the significant differences in the accessibility to agricultural land and capital assets ranging from ₹0.49 lakh for Scheduled Castes (SC), ₹0.52 lakh for Scheduled Tribes (ST),

₹1.34 lakh for Other Castes (OC) and overall asset value was estimated ₹1.07 lakh. Mungekar Standing Committee Report (2009) of the planning commission on inter-sectoral issues relating to tribal development on standards of administration and governance in the scheduled areas aimed to target only nine states of India including the most recent Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh in 2003. Corbridge et al. (2003) are careful to point out that the reservations 'has not brought a tribal middle class into existence; rather it has been captured by a pre-existing tribal elite', which is predominantly male and many of whom originate in urban areas. According to Census 2011, a total of 3.3 crore population of the state comprises 76% of the rural population. About 26% populations belong to the tribal community and about 80 lakhs (91%) of the tribal inhabit rural areas. In the state, more than 75% population residing in rural areas is the target group, and out of this about 31% are tribal. An empirical exploration of socioeconomic determinants in the state by Singh et al. (2012) and the World Bank Report (2007) revealed the magnitude of gaps.

National Advisory Committee (NAC) reported that about 15% of the landmass in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains to forests, hills, and inaccessible areas provide livelihood support to tribal households. There is a significant variation of decadal growth rates in the population of rural and urban areas as well over time ranging from 21% (from 2001 to 2011) in rural areas to 147% (1971-1981) in urban areas. The sex ratio among the rural tribal population has not witnessed significant changes. According to Census 2011 only 45% of tribal households availing banking services in comparison to the national average of 59% of households.

Jharkhand state ranks sixth in tribal population after Madhya Pradesh (14.7%), Maharashtra (10.1%), Odisha (9.2%), Rajasthan (8.9%), and Gujarat (8.6%) while it ranks third with 14% population of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) after undivided Madhya Pradesh (28%) and Maharashtra (15%). Adoption of the mainstream way of life is very slow in these areas. More emphasis had given to the strategies of the XII five-year plan (2012-2017) for livelihood support, apart from the land and forest-based activities under MGNREGA imparting skills and creating employment opportunities near their habitations. Under this project, more than 6000 tribal families of the seven districts of the Jharkhand state were covered under the capacity building and skill development programs with forward and backward linkages during 2021-22. Ramani et al. (2015) assumed that some bottlenecks are hampering the growth of the agri-sector. Yogi et al. (2017) reported that scattered land holdings, lack of irrigation, and financial support with proper guidance were identified as the major hurdles for the farm sector in Jharkhand. As the Jharkhand state was identified for the study as it has about 0.87% share in total oilseed production and a 2.54% share in total rapeseed-mustard production in India.

Agro-Climatic Zone (ACZ) namely Eastern Plateau and Hills Region-VII is characterized by rainfed agriculture. moisture stress, drought and Soil acidity, Iron toxicity, low SRRs, non-availability of electricity, high population growth, poor road, poor input delivery, and communication infrastructure. The identified state of Jharkhand comprised three Agro-climatic sub-zones briefed in Table 1 as given below:

Table 1: Agro-climatic subzones of the Eastern Plateau and Hills Region-VII

Agor-climatic Subzones	Characteristics	Name of the districts (Numbers)	
Central and	Erratic and uneven distribution of rainfall	Bokaro, Deoghar, Dhanbad,	
North Eastern	Coarse textured soils, crust formation on the soil	Dumka, Giridih, Godda,	
Plateau Sub Zone IV	surface	Jamtara, Khunti, Koderma,	
	Low water retention capacity of the soil	Hazaribagh, Pakur, Ramgarh	
	Lack of safe disposal of runoff and drying	Ranchi and Sahebganj (14).	
	of tanks.		
Western Plateau	Erratic/uneven distribution of rainfall	Chatra, Garhwa, Gumla,	
Sub Zone V	Low water retentive capacity of the soil.	Latehar, Lohardaga,	
		Palamau and Simdega (7).	
South Eastern Plateau	Uneven distribution of rainfall Low water holding	East Singhbhum, Saraikela	
Sub Zone VI	capacity, eroded soils	and West Singhbhum (3).	
	Shallow soil depth		
	Poor soil fertility		

Traditional agriculture provides seasonal employment but not provides sufficient opportunities in these areas and creates the problem of migration. Thus, providing the alternate mean of livelihood as well as employing the rural youths at the local level with an existing resource base would be a good strategy as mentioned by Kumar et al. (2020). As per the all India coordinated research project on rapeseed-mustard, agro-climatic condition of Zone V is targeted to address the major challenges in the region. This crop is the best option for targeting rice fallow area (TRFA). In this context, rice fallow area cultivation becomes an important means of livelihood security among the tribal communities. The TRFA program under national food security mission (NFSM) is also being implemented in 11 states of the country including the Jharkhand state to promote the cultivation of oilseeds and pulses in rice fallow areas of the states (GoI, 2016). It is evident from Table 2 that magnitude of the variation in the productivity of rapeseed-mustard across the different sub-agro-climatic zones ranged from an acceleration of 422 kg ha⁻¹ in South Eastern Plateau Sub Zone VI to a deceleration of 483 kg ha⁻¹ in Central and North Eastern Plateau Sub Zone IV.

Table 2: Agro-climatic zone and district-wise trends of rapeseed-mustard productivity (Yield kg ha⁻¹)

Name of the district /Area	Average yield (kg ha ⁻¹)			Yield improvement	CAGR
district / Area	2010-11 to	2010-11 to	2015-16 to	kg ha ⁻¹ 2010-15 and 2016-20	(in %) 2010-11 to
	2010-11 to	2010-11 to	2013-10 10	2010-13 and 2016-20	
		2014-15	2019-20		2019-20
I. Central and North		Sub Zone IV			
Koderma	686	498	874	376 (75.57)	9.26
Jamtara	623	477	769	292 (61.12)	9.13
Hazaribagh	690	561	819	257 (45.83)	7.92
Ranchi	758	708	808	100 (14.11)	4.17
Sahebganj	809	829	788	-41 (-4.97)	2.99
Dhanbad	101	1067	954	-113 (-10.58)	2.17
Dumka	858	786	929	142 (18.10)	1.10
Ramgarh	1082	1128	1037	-91 (-8.07)	-0.18
Godda	794	814	774	-40 (-4.96)	-1.37
Deoghar	952	946	958	11 (1.18)	-1.55
Pakur	1256	1339	1173	-165 (12.34)	-2.79
Khunti	901	1018	783	-235 (-23.11)	-3.85
Giridih	754	886	622	-265 (-29.88)	-4.04
Bokaro	908	1150	667	-483 (-42.03)	-4.46
Zone IV	863	872	854	-18 (-2.09)	0.14
II. Western Plateau	Sub Zone V				
Gumla	922	852	992	140 (16.46)	2.63
Lohardaga	960	914	1006	92 (10.06)	1.09
Chatra	862	957	767	-190 (-19.88)	-2.21
Garhwa	699	690	708	17 (2.52)	-4.61
Palamu	861	1011	710	-301 (-29.78)	-4.68
Latehar	995	1177	812	-365 (-30.99)	-4.99
Simdega	1024	1134	914	-220 (-19.46)-	5.48
Zone V	903	962	844	-118 (-12.28)	-2.69
III. South Eastern P	lateau Sub Zone V	/I		`	
Saraikela	848	637	1059	422 (66.29)	8.99
Kharsawan				` '	
East Singhbum	679	684	674	-10 (-1.48)	-0.97
West Singhbhum	798	956	640	-317 (-33.11)	-7.85
Zone VI	775	759	791	32 (4.20)	-0.02
Jharkhand	699	672	726	54 (8.01)	1.29
India	1258	1167	1348	181 (15.47)	2.49

Source: Kumar et al. (2019). ICAR-Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur (Raj); Indiastat.com; FAOSTAT 2022. *Figures in parentheses are the % change in the yield on a Quinquennial basis. (2010-2015 & 2016-2020).

The highest productivity level 1256 kg ha⁻¹ was observed in the Pakur district as well as the lowest productivity level 623 kg ha⁻¹ in the Jamtara district of Central and North Eastern Plateau Sub Zone IV. Chauhan et al. (2011) opined that moisture stress during the growing season in rapeseed-mustard could reduce production by 17 to 94%. Rathore et al. (2019) reported that water applied 30-40 days after sowing fails to meet the water requirement of the crop at later critical crop growth stages). Kumari and Singh (2023) as well as Singh et al. (2019) also advocated the variations in agro-climatic factors and management practices are responsible for variations in the technology gap and index percentage in pulses which can be reduced by farmer's participation in adopting new technologies.

However, other biotic and abiotic factors including seed, nutrient availability in the soil, pest infestation, and sowing time also contribute to the yield variation across the districts as well as sub-agro-climatic zones. Poor access to working capital to procure modern seeds, fertilizers, and water resources for timely adequate irrigation are the major constraints for realizing higher productivity.

Productivity of rapeseed-mustard improved in Koderma

(75.57%), Jamtara (61.12%), Hazaribag (45.83%), Ranchi (14.11%) and Dumka (18.10%) districts of the Central and North Eastern Plateau Sub Zone IV. Saraikela Kharsawan (66.29%) district from the South Eastern Plateau Sub Zone VI; Gumla (16.46%) and Lohardaga (10.06%) district from the Western Plateau Sub Zone V showed a significant improvement over the average yield of the state of Jharkhand (8.01%) during the period of 20010-11 to 2019-20. The higher productivity of various districts may be due to the use of modern seeds and fertilizers and ownership of water resources. Compound annual growth rates of rapeseedmustard productivity ranged from 9.26% in the Koderma district of the Central and North Eastern Plateau Sub Zone IV to -7.85% in West Singhbhum district from the South Eastern Plateau Sub Zone VI. Western Plateau Sub Zone V showed the highest decline (-12.28%) followed by the Central and North Eastern Plateau Sub Zone IV (-2.09%) in the yield of rapeseed-mustard. The South Eastern Plateau Sub Zone VI showed productivity improvement over the period of 20010-11 to 2019-20 (Fig. 2). The detailed discussion on challenges and strategies of different productivity growth scenarios are depicted in the Table 3.

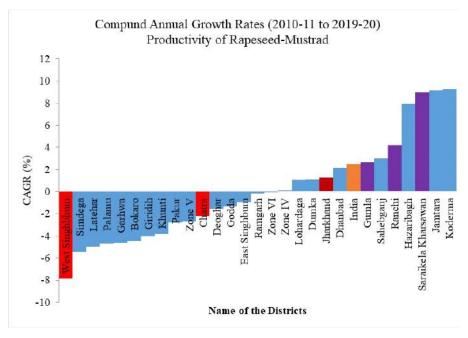


Fig. 2: Spatial variability in the yield of rapeseed-mustard in study area

Positive yield with positive CAGR (PYPC) scenario

It indicates the natural farmer's preference for the crop. A total of nine districts were categorized under this scenario. Out of these, three districts from each agroclimatic sub-zone were identified under the DAPST

program namely Ranchi, Gumla, and Saraikela Kharsawan. Due to the awareness and adoption of the scientific production of rapeseed-mustard and other supports, the temporal productivity growth is estimated as positive. Focused dissemination of the latest technological advances should be promoted to sustain the current scenario. However, area expansion under oilseed crops may be another strategic aspect to enhance oilseed production in the state.

Positive yield with negative CAGR (PYNC) scenario

Only three Non-DAPST districts namely Deoghar, Pakur, and Garhwa from two agro-climatic sub-zones fall under this category. In the Deoghar district two cropping systems namely upland paddy-toria-fallow and black gram-toria-fallow prevailed. Training for both biotic and abiotic stress management is required to overcome low productivity levels in the future. Soils of hills in the Garhwa district are acidic and very poor in fertility status. Even though the introduction of HYVs Pusa Mahak, Pusa Mustard 26, Pusa Mustard 30, and Shivani with an application of sulfur @ 20 kg/ha+

spraying of boron @ 0.2 % as boric acid powder could improve the productivity levels but due to poor backstopping resulted with the negative CAGR. Keeping honey boxes in mustard fields to improve pollination.

Negative yield with positive CAGR (NYPC) scenario

Only two Non-DAPST districts namely Sahibgani and Dhanbad districts from the Central and North Eastern Plateau Sub Zone IV categorized under this scenario. Low productivity of rapeseed-mustard is the major issue in Sahibganj district. Stray Cattle grazing in the rabi season severely limits the introduction of rabi crops including, rapeseed-mustard during winter, hence mono-cropping. The dissemination of recommended practices and the provision of support for farmers is required for productivity improvement.

Table 3: Categorization of the study area based on the temporal and spatial yield attributes along with the strategic plan

Particulars	Positive CAGR (PC)	Negative CAGR (NC)
Positive yield (PY)	Zone IV: Koderma, Jamtara, Hazaribag, Ranchi and Dumka Zone V: Gumla and Lohardaga Zone VI: Saraikela Kharsawan	Zone IV: Deoghar and Pakur Zone V: Garhwa
Strategic plan	Challenge: Sustainable production of rapeseed-mustard Strategy: Training on the latest technology advances for the production of rapeseed-	Challenge: Poor awareness about the scientific production of rapeseed-mustard Strategy: Organizing the field demonstration and
	mustard with ensured quality and timely supply of seed and other inputs.Zone IV: Sahibganj and Dhanbad	capacity-building programs with proper backstopping. Trapping low productivity area. Integrated Pest Management.
Negative yield (NY)		Zone IV: Ramgarh, Godda, Khunti, Giridih and Bokaro Zone V: Chatra, Palamu, Latehar and Simdega Zone VI: East Singhbum and West Singhbhum Challenge: Poor awareness/adoption of the scientific
Strategic plan	Challenge: Poor awareness/adoption of scientific production of rapeseed-mustard.	production of rapeseed-mustard and inappropriate implementation. Strategy: Strong institutional mechanism for
	Strategy: Replacement of the old/obsolete variety would be given priority. Awareness programs for rapeseed-mustard production should be encouraged.	technology transfer targeting the extension personnel under capacity building programs. Massive exposure visits and field days in the best-performing districts. Remunerative price incentives and promoting the value addition by establishing the oil expellers.

Note: District-wise secondary data on the area and production of rapeseed-mustard in Jharkhand will be more effective to use the strategic plan accordingly.

Negative yield with negative CAGR (NYNC) scenario: Zone IV

Seven Non-DAPST districts namely Ramgarh, Godda, Khunti, Giridih, Bokaro, Palamu, Simdega and four DAPST districts including Chatra, Latehar, East Singhbum and West Singhbhum from each agro-climatic sub-zone falls under this scenario. There is a need to identify the gaps and an awareness campaign including farmers' fairs, field days, exposure visits, farmer-tofarmer interaction meetings, etc. needs to be conducted. Capacity-building programs for the extension functionaries and officials of the line departments. Climate-resilient varieties need to be introduced in a

participatory mode. Also, need a good understanding of the existing cropping patterns/systems and a way of building knowledge in the light of experience. The development and up-scaling of traditional and improved practices also require an enabling environment, such as support for product value chains (small oil extraction units), and coordination among the various sectors involved.

Conclusion and policy implications

Based on the magnitude of the yield variability over time and across the districts, an appropriate strategic plan is developed for impactful planning, monitoring and implementation of the schemes particularly in tribal dominated areas. These results are associated with the prevalence of part-time tribal farmers cultivating marginal and uneconomic land holdings. The outreach of the most modern technological and policy interventions may be facilitated up to the last frame for minimizing the productivity gaps. The productivity of small landholders can be increased by improving their access to the quality seed and other critical inputs through the proactive agricultural extension networks.

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