

**REGIONAL AND PERIODICAL CHANGES IN AREA, PRODUCTION  
AND AVERAGE YIELD OF PADDY IN KERALA STATE**

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Paddy accounts for 94% of the total area under food crops in Kerala State. In this paper an attempt is made to study the trend in production, area and yield of the crops during the period of one decade ending with 1969-70.

**Materials and methods**

The data required for the study was collected from the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Kerala State. The figures regarding area, production and average yield of paddy for the nine districts of the State have been converted into index numbers with 1960-61 as the base year.

**Results and discussions**

The index numbers regarding area, production and average yield of paddy are given in Table I. A maximum rise of about 25% in area is noticed in Kottayam District followed by Calicut and Ernakulam Districts; the rise being 20.6 percent and 20 percent respectively. The rise in area is conspicuous with regard to Kottayam, Ernakulam and Calicut Districts when compared to 1965-'66. This may be due to bringing more of wastelands under paddy cultivation. Lokanathan (1962) reported that the wide gap in food requirements which exists at present in the State could be covered only through extension of area under paddy in addition to increase in the yield per hectare. Increase of 5.5% and 7.3% in area are noticed in the case of Trivandrum and Alleppey Districts where the extent of available cultivable wastelands are only 0.26% and 0.47% of the total area respectively. Taking the State as a whole, there is a rise of 12% in area during the period of ten years. The possibility of bringing more area under this crop by multiple cropping programme in places of assured water supply has to be explored.

With regard to production of paddy, there is a uniform decline during 1965-1966 in the case of all the districts except Cannanore and Palghat where small increases of about 6% and 5% respectively were noticed. There is a conspicuous rise in production during the second half of the decade in all the districts. The Cannanore District recorded the maximum rise closely followed by Palghat District. Alleppey, Calicut, Kottayam and

Table 1

**Index numbers of area, production and yield of paddy  
during 1960-'61 to 1969-'70**

No.	District	1960-'61	1965-1966			1969-1970		
			Area	Production	Yield	Area	Production	Yield
1	Trivandrum	100	103.52	92.87	89.68	105.54	99.44	94.19
2	Quilon	100	107.57	90.41	84.07	112.44	97.27	86.53
3	Alleppey	100	102.79	76.99	74.87	107.37	110.14	102.57
4	Kottayam	100	101.41	58.93	58.08	125.31	113.78	90.77
5	Ernakulam	100	107.14	87.41	81.56	120.28	102.23	84.99
6	Trichur	100	106.47	97.08	91.17	110.87	116.10	104.70
7	Palghat	100	101.57	104.65	103.01	110.00	112.40	111.24
8	Calicut	100	101.92	92.44	90.65	120.60	111.69	92.59
9	Gannanore	100	98.48	106.39	108.04	103.09	134.79	130.75
10	Kerala	100	103.00	93.44	90.66	112.22	114.88	102.33

Trichur Districts also recorded a rise in production which is almost on par with the State average. It may be mentioned that Alleppey District which includes a major percentage of Kuttanad, the rice bowl of Kerala had recorded only about 10% rise in production. With regard to other districts no significant change in production is noticed with reference to the base year.

A general rise in yield is noticed during the latter half of the decade. Perceptible increase in average yield by 31% is noticed in Cannanore District by 1967-70. Palghat and Trichur Districts also showed an increase in average yield. On the other hand a noticeable reduction in yield is reported in the other districts. It is necessary to explore the circumstances under which such a situation continues inspite of all efforts to increase production. There is considerable scope for increasing rice production in the State by improving the per hectare yield through scientific agriculture.

### Summary and conclusion

An investigation was undertaken to find out the **districtwise** and periodical changes in area, production and average yield of rice in Kerala State during a decade ending with 1969-70. The area under paddy in the State showed an increase of 12 percent during the decade. This increase was mainly in the Districts of Kottayam, **Calicut** and Ernakulam. As regards production, the State registered only a slow progress. The average yield of paddy in the State remained more or less constant throughout the decade. So there is considerable scope for increasing production by improving the output per unit area using the latest technological means.

### REFERENCES

- Anonymous 1969. Fact book on **Agriculture-State Planning** Board, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Kerala
- Lokanathan P. S. 1962. **Techno-Economic Survey of Kerala**, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi