

## Methods of Maximisation of Production \*

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**Introduction:** Agricultural production has to be increased not only to meet the immediate needs, but has to keep pace with the increase in population. The population of the province has risen from 33·732 millions in 1891 to 49·842 millions in 1941 an increase of 45·9%. Every decade records an increase of nearly 10%.

**Methods of increasing agricultural production:** Agricultural production can be increased by (a) increasing the area under cultivation and (b) by increasing the yield per acre.

**Increasing the area under cultivation:** Though not an easy proposition it has to be tackled. India being an old agricultural country, best parts of its land have already been brought under the plough. But yet there is large area classified as cultivable waste. The area of cultivable waste is put down as 11·85 millions and current fallows as 9·5 millions acres for the province. Though the entire area may not be quite suitable for good standard of cultivation, at least appreciable area could be reclaimed and made to yield good results. As a first step it is necessary to survey such areas and select the most suitable ones to be tackled first. However there will still be many handicaps in this process to be overcome.

There may not be proper roads and communication and some areas may be unhealthy. These will have to be met with and regular land reclamation schemes with mechanised cultivation and colonisation will have to be taken up.

The process of reclamation cannot be left to the individual enthusiasm of enterprising cultivators. The State has to undertake the task with a set organisation and almost every district should have a land reclamation organisation.

This has to be taken up as a long range policy to keep pace at least with the increase in population.

**(b) Increasing the yield per acre:** The average yields of crops in the country are very low as compared to yields in other countries and also the maximum yields that are capable of achievement in this country itself. The average yield of rice, the staple food crop of this province is still very low 1,300 lbs. per acre; as against 5,100 lbs. in Spain or 4,000 lbs. in Japan. High yields of 5,000 lbs. per acre are being obtained in our

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own province in congenial situation which have received proper culture and manure, and even record yields of 12,000 lbs of paddy per acre have been obtained. Again in sugarcane the average yield is only about 30 tons per acre, while individual fields yields up to 90 to 100 tons have been recorded. This only shows how far the average yields can be increased by giving the necessary conditions. Our present yields can be commensurately increased if not doubled.

Among the chief factors that affect the growth and yield of crops may be mentioned the following :

- (i) Thorough cultivation and attaining of proper tilth
- (ii) Improved varieties and good seed
- (iii) Adequate manure in time
- (iv) Proper irrigation and drainage
- (v) Timely planting and cultural operations
- (vi) Control of pests and diseases, and
- (vii) Provision of finance and supply of materials.

**Summary and conclusion:** Maximising production is essential for making the country self-sufficient and strong, also to meet the needs of the increasing population. Agricultural production is to be increased by extending the area under cultivation and also increasing the yield per acre. This is to be achieved both on a long term and short term basis. Reclamation of cultivable wastes and increasing the area under cultivation, execution of major irrigation projects will have to be taken up as a long term policy. Production and distribution of good seed of improved varieties, supply of manures, fertilisers and implements, increasing irrigation facilities by executing minor irrigation schemes and sinking of more wells with provision of extended power supply, control of pests and diseases, and advancement of loans for cultivation on an extended scale will have to be taken up as a short range policy.

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