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Status of Rice Cultivation in Himachal Pradesh during 1990-91 to 2020-21

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Abstract

The main objective of present paper is to examine the spatio-temporal changes in rice cultivation during 1990-91 to 2020-21. Rice is an important food grain crop after wheat and maize of Himachal Pradesh. For achieving the above objective, the study is divided into three parts. First part reveals the spatial distribution of rice cultivation for the years 1990-91, 2005-06, and 2020-21. The second part of the study highlights the spatio-temporal changes in rice cultivation during period under present investigation, while the impacts of rice cultivation, conclusion and suggestions are made in third part. The study has observed that Rice concentration is largely confined to western districts except Una district throughout the study period. It is also found that during the study period rice area has declined from 8.84 per cent to 7.37 per cent and experienced negative volume change of 1.47 per cent. In 1990-91, Kangra and Mandi had high share of rice cultivation which was over 10 per cent and remained in high category upto 2020-21. But districts of Solan, Hamirpur, Chamba, and Bilaspur have shifted from moderate to low category, but Sirmaur maintained the moderate category during the study period. While five remaining districts remained in low category, that is less than 5 per cent of total cropped area under rice cultivation. This change is largely the result of increasing area under fruits, vegetables and medicinal crops. The study has suggested that more areas should bring under rice cultivation in Kangra, Mandi and Sirmaur districts by encouraging the red rice cultivation supplemented by favourable government policies for fruits and vegetables. During the study period overall percentage share of rice cultivation has decreased from 8.84 per cent to 7.37 per cent while its yield has increased from 1254 kg/hect to 2023 kg/hect and production increased from 97.5 thousand metric tons to 13.5 lakh metric tons. The present study is based on secondary sources relaying Annual and Season Crop Reports of Himachal Pradesh. District is selected as unit of study. Three time periods: 1990-91, 2005-06 and 2020-21 have been selected. For each time period, three-year averages are taken, like 1989-90, 1990-91, and 1991-92 for 1990-91 and so on. Simple statistical methods are used for deriving the results, and cartographic techniques are applied for mapping the results.

Keywords: Physiography, Cartography, Rice Cultivation, Spatio-temporal, Irrigation