

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT UNDER PLANS

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'Primary sector' is the central point of the plan. About 80 per cent of the population in Bihar depend on agriculture for their livelihood. It has been already discussed that it covers Agriculture and its allied activities. It is to be discussed about the actual expenditure held on agriculture and allied activities during the whole plan period. It covers four sub-heads as given below and each sub-head is attached with one another as table No. 4.1 shows-

- (i) Agriculture programme,
- (ii) Co-operation, community development and Panchayat,
- (iii) Irrigation, Flood control and Minings.

It is evident from table No. 4.1, irrigation and flood control is the main part of this sector. Second, is the agricultural programmes, third is co-operation, community development and panchayat and fourth one is minings. In the development of Bihar, mining is also an important factor whereas, the expenditure has been made too less in comparison of all the sub-heads under the plan period. Table gives a large number of actual expenditure has been done on this sector to develop the agriculture of our state.

Table 4.1

Allocations on Agriculture and Allied Activities of the Actual Expenditure of the State of Bihar from First Five year Plan to seventh five year Plan.

S.No.	Name of Plans	Rural Programme	Co-operation G.D. & Panchayat	Irrigation & Flood control	Mining	Total
1.	First Five year Plans (1951-56)	1441.61 (48.72)	162.60 (5.49)	1294.30 (43.74)	43.80 (1.48)	2958.51 (100.00)
2.	Second Five year Plans (1956-61)	2858.40 (33.76)	2561.85 (30.26)	2698.53 (31.87)	347.30 (4.10)	8466.08 (100.00)
3.	Third First Five year Plans (1961-66)	3851.05 (25.15)	2927.55 (19.12)	8177.00 (53.41)	353.03 (2.30)	15308.63 100.00

4.	Annual Plan (1966-69)	4457.03 (37.84)	1074.70 (9.12)	6022.77 (51.14)	221.89 (1.88)	11776.39 (100.00)
5.	Fourth Five year Plan (1969-74)	7208.00 (29.71)	1763.00 (7.26)	14544.00 (59.96)	739.00 (3.04)	24254.00 (100.00)
6.	Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79)	12159.39 (29.17)	1646.50 (3.95)	26233.79 (62.94)	1635.54 (3.92)	41675.22 (100.00)
7.	Annual Plan (1979-80)	5520.95 (33.49)	581.65 (3.52)	9786.82 (59.37)	593.76 (3.60)	16483.19 (100.00)
8.	Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)	59704.78 (39.87)	5037.87 (3.36)	81167.20 (54.20)	3817.58 (2.54)	149727.43 (100.00)
9.	Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)	132,877.00 (36.99)	9610.00 (2.67)	205000.00 (57.08)	11642.00 (3.24)	359129.00 (100.00)

Note: (i) Figures in brackets are showing percentage.

(ii) The expenditure of Seventh Five Year Plan, (1986-90) is targetted not actual, but from first five year plan to sixth five year plan including two annual plans, are actual expenditure.

(iii) The expenditure of sixth five year Plan is mixture of actual and anticipated, as 1980-84 actual and 1984-85 anticipated.

Sources: (i) Govt. of Bihar, draft perspective plan for Bihar, (1978-89), page no. 6 to 16, for first to fifth five year plan.

(ii) Govt. of Bihar, Planning Department, draft sixth five year plan, 1980-85, page no. XXVI to XXIX for annual plan, 1979-80.

(iii) Govt. of Bihar, Draft Seventh Five Year Plan, 1985-90, page no. IV to VII, for sixth and seventh five year plan.

It has been always seen that agricultural development programmes were assigned a high priority under the plan period and it shows that the efforts were made for the development of agriculture.

Despite 55 years of planning, Bihar continues to be the poorest state in terms of per capita income. Although the state is endowed with abundant of natural resources of soil, water and mineral wealth. The State is also at the bottom judged from all accepted indicators of development.

The declining trends in agricultural sectors which are confirmed by the low growth rates as compared to the country's growth rates in these sectors are matters of grave concern and call for suitable remedial measures.

First Five Year Plan (1951-56):

It is apparent from table 4.1 that how the actual expenditure has been made on agriculture and allied activities particularly, during the whole plan era as yet. Out of a total expenditure of Rs. 2958.51 lakhs about Rs. 1441.61 lakhs of approximately 49 per cent was spent on agricultural programmes, Rs. 162.6 lakhs or nearly 5 per cent was spent on co-operation, community development and panchayat etc., Rs. 1294.3 lakhs or about 44 per cent was spent on irrigation and flood control and Rs. 43.80 lakhs was spent on mining. The percentage of expenses of mining is more or less negligible, i.e. 1.4 per cent. Expenditure on agricultural programmes was quite substantial since, about 49 per cent was spent on it whereas, only 1.4 per cent expenditure was made on mining. After the observation of table 4.1 it has been seen that during First Five Year Plan, first priority has been given to purely agricultural programmes, second priority to the irrigation and flood control, third to the co-operation, community development and panchayat and the last to the mining.

It was the starting period of plan, that's why, there was no comment at all about the expenditure made among the sub-heads or different part of the development. Throughout the plan period, it may be seen that the percentage of mining is very less, whereas, Bihar is known as a rich state of mineral wealth among our country. It was fact, agriculture was the main occupation in the beginning period and therefore, irrigation and flood control was also drawn a good attention to develop the growth rate of our state. Hence, overall, it can be said that agricultural programmes received a greater attention during the first five year plan.

Second Five Year Plan:

It was the second plan period of our state and country for both, therefore, some wise and regionable steps have been taken and expenditure has been made very practically and not as in balanced in first five year plan. Table No. 4.1 reveals the allocation of actual expenditure held during the second plan.

Third Five Year Plan:

It is Third Five Year Plan, which duration was 1961 to 1966. It was the difficult time of our country and State due to the lackness of our national leader as nation has lost the two national leaders, a great son of India late Jawahar Lal Nehru and Late Lalbahadur Shastri. This loss had made an effective impact on this five year plan and so it may be said an unlucky plan or starting of bad luck. The war of China vrs. India has been also started and therefore, the crisis of finance has been raised and targetted expenditure was likely to fall. The actual expenditure of this plan was less in comparison to targetted expenditure.

After all, its actual expenditure on primary sector was made Rs. 15308.63 lakhs whereas the total expenditure was made Rs. 32870.34 lakhs during the whole plan period. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 15308.6 lakhs on agriculture and its allied activities Rs. 3851 lakhs or just 25 per cent was made on agricultural programmes, Rs. 2927.5 lakhs or nearly 19 per cent was made on co-operation, community development and panchayat, Rs. 8177 lakhs or 80.4 per cent was made on irrigation and flood control and Rs. 353 lakhs or 2.3 percent was made on minings.

Hence, overall irrigation and flood control (1) received a high percentage of actual expenditure during this plan period and taken the special care by the Government.

Annual Plan (1966-69):

It has been already discussed that why annual plan has been made, why not five year plan? It was well known among the people that Government was passing through the financial crisis due to the war held between India and China. Everybody knows, after finishing or end of the war the financial condition of the Government will definitely fall in all and it will take time to removal of financial crisis. Same condition happened of our Government and therefore, annual plan has been made under compulsion.

Hence, overall, being a temporary or three years plan, it plays the greater attention overall the sectors and among four sectors particularly, agricultural programme received top priority.

Fourth Five Year Plan:

After passing three years annual plan, Government was in a position to make fourth five year plan. Therefore, it has been formed and implemented within time. The total actual expenditure of this plan period was Rs. 1577880 lakhs and out of them Rs. 24254 lakhs made on primary sector. The above table shows that total actual expenditure was increasing onwards as first to second, second to third, third to fourth, fourth to fifth, fifth to sixth and sixth to seventh five year plan.

Fifth Five year Plan:

Fifth five year plan made by Janta Government due to ruling over the state and country both. But just after that Congress came again in power and abolished the period of this plan and made planning for four years only 1974-78. It is a controversial plan period neither full five year plan nor an annual plan but after all, it is called five year plan.

Sixth Five Year Plan:

It was the new sixth five year plan made by the Congress Government, but people know the old tenure of this plan as modified by the Janata Government i.e. 1978 to 1983. An outlay of Rs. 3.225 crores was approved for the sixth plan of the Bihar to be financed from the state's own resource of Rs. 1964.50 crores and Central assistance of Rs. 1260.50 crore.

The actual performance however was to be Rs. 2979.77 on the plan size of Rs. 751.00 crores approved for 1984-85. The year wise figure are as following:

Years	Approved	Actual (Rs. in Crores)
1980-81	476.61	465.47
1981-82	560.00	574.65
1982-83	670.00	593.51
1983-84	681.00	596.14
1984-85	751.00	751.00
Total	3138.61	2979.77

After these assistance, the Government of India have also provided a medium term loan of Rs. 366.68 crores to cover overdrafts of the state Government with the R.B.I. in 1981-82 and 1983-84, Besides an advance plan assistance of Rs. 29.76 crores was also sanctioned to combat natural calamities.

Seventh Five year Plan:

Seventh Five Year Plan has been formed on the recommendation of the Eighth Finance Commission, to see the corresponding figure of sixth plan. In absence and not probable to get actual expenditure of this plan as whole, the proposed outlay has been pleased on behalf of actual expenditure. Keeping in view the problem of resource, the State Government have formulated a plan of Rs. 7002 cores for 1985-90, making provision for the committed ongoing projects and programmes and certain new projects and programme that could not broke any delay for any reason.

Out of Rs. 7002 crore or Rs. 700200 lakhs, Rs. 359129 lakhs or 51 percent has been invested on agriculture and its allied activities. In this plan, outlay has been distributed as Rs. 132877 lakhs or nearly 37 percent Agricultural Programmes Rs. 9610 or about 3 per cent on co-operation, community development and Panchayat, Rs. 205000 lakhs or just 57 per cent on irrigation and flood control and rest Rs. 11642 lakhs or 3 per cent minings.

An Observation:

It is appearent from table 4.1 that during hole plan period, irrigation and flood control had been assigned the highest priority and given the highest percentage allocation in all the plan excluding first and second five year plan.

Agriculture being the main stay of the States economy it naturally given a high priority along with rural development. But the rate of production was not satisfactory due to natural calamities. Perhaps, there is no controlling on abnormal situation and government has not made an alternative arrangement to face the problem created by an abnormal situations. There is just an example unsatisfactory monsoon between 1981-82 and 1984-85 was in 1982-83 with (-2.31) percent of growth rate.

Overall the government have give his attention on every sectors of the state to remove the backwardness and encouraged the investment. The state Government have always tried to project the states on resource but failed due to unavoidable circumstances.

The table 4.1 would show that irrigation and flood control had been assigned the highest priority and given the highest percentage allocations in all the plans, excluding first and second five year plans. The allocations for the minings sector in term of percentage showed no consistency in terms of percentage. As regarding the co-operation, community development and panchayat, it was in decreasing trends from third five year plan rapidly interms of percentage.

The overall annual growth rate projected for the seventh plan is around 5.6 per cent. The plan investment are likely to create an additional employment potential of 27.50 lakhs standard persons years in the seventh plan.

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