



सत्यमेव जयते

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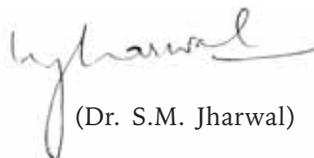
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Foreword

Agricultural sector in India, after having experienced an average growth rate of little more than 2 per cent for about 10 years, has clearly shown signs of revival. The average growth rate during the last three years has been 4.7 per cent. The production of foodgrains has also increased at an average growth rate of 5.2 per cent, during these three years. Such a revival is the result of a well worked out investment strategy and programmes, favourable weather conditions, close monitoring, and also quick response by the states and the farmers. However, to achieve an average growth rate of 4.1 per cent during the 11th Plan Five Year Plan period, this needs to be sustained.

Strengthening statistical inputs and disseminating them is of utmost importance for better planning and implementation. The "Agricultural Statistics at a Glance" is a much awaited publication by the persons who are active in the fields of policy, planning, research and academics, since this provides authentic information in a comprehensive manner and well in time.

Keeping in view the utility of vast pool of data, it was felt that the publication deserves professional and commercial handling to widen its reach through increased circulation. In fact, Shri P.K. Mishra, Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation, stressed on the need for making it a priced publication. This was basically to enable everyone interested to buy this "Avatar" of *Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2008* from the nearest store. In addition, the data would be placed on the official website. I am sure that this publication would be useful for policy formulation and further research in the agriculture sector by various stakeholders.



(Dr. S.M. Jharwal)

