



सत्यमेव जयते

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Preface

Agricultural sector has a vital place in the economic development of the country. Though the share of agriculture in both GDP and employment has declined over time, the pace of decline in its share in employment has been much slower than that in GDP. The share of agriculture, including the allied sectors of forestry and fishing, in GDP declined from 37 per cent in 1983 to 25 per cent in 1999-2000 and to around 18 per cent in 2007-08.

Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2008 provides wide range of data on diverse aspects of Indian agriculture that are greatly useful for economists, policy makers, researchers, agricultural scientists, students and the public at large in the country. It will also meet the needs of different government and non-governmental organisations working in the agricultural sector. The book contains data on crop production and productivity across States/regions, markets and prices, terms of trade, price support and procurement, domestic and international trade, credit, insurance, etc.

It must be admitted that in the timely publication of this priced publication lies the keen interest evinced by the Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation). I also express my gratitude to Dr. S.M. Jharwal, Principal Adviser, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, without whose cooperation and guidance it would not have been possible to bring out this issue.

The Compilation Unit has endeavoured earnestly to prepare this issue under the guidance of Shri M.N. Lothe, Adviser, Shri P.S. Meena and Shri P.C. Bodh, Additional Economic Advisers. The timely and prompt cooperation extended by all the concerned departments and organisations is well acknowledged. I must also put on record the support given by IFFCO to have the publication in record time.

Any constructive suggestion(s) to improve the utility of this publication will be highly appreciated. Visit us at: <http://agricoop.nic.in>; <http://dacnet.nic.in/eands>

(R.C. Ray)

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