

## **Region wise compound growth rates in area, production and productivity of onion in Maharashtra - An economic analysis**

**A.S. DAREKAR\*, V.G. POKHARKAR AND R.B. HILE**

Department of Agricultural Economics, PGI, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri,  
Ahemdnagar (M.S.) India  
(Email : ashwinisdarekar@gmail.com)

### **ABSTRACT**

This study mainly focused on district wise growth and instability of onion in Maharashtra. Erratic weather, volatile market price and lack of adequate storage and market infrastructure caused instability in production through preventing the farmers in taking the optimal decision on allocation of area and raising farm productivity. Study categorized period as follows; Period I: 1975-76 to 1984-85, Period II: 1985-86 to 1994-95, Period III: 1995-96 to 2004-05, Period IV: 2005-06 to 2012-13 and overall period 1975-76 to 2012-13 revealed that onion production in Maharashtra is mainly driven by acreage allocation. But in the long-run increasing area under onion may not be feasible without reducing the area of other important crops. Hence, solution lies in by bridging the yield gap or increasing the yield potential. The major reason for the instability of onion production after period II was mainly due to area instability and partly due to yield instability. Although, productivity of onion has improved from last decade, still onion production is mainly driven by acreage allocation. As onion is irrigated crop and Maharashtra is endowed with relatively less irrigation potential, increasing production through scaling up area may not be feasible without reducing the acreage under other important high value crops. If acreage is not allowed to scale up to meet the growing demand, consumer price will increase, or export has to be restricted or import has to be resorted, which will entail the loss of foreign exchange. Hence, bridging the yield gap or increasing the yield potential would be the solution in the long-run. This may be partly mitigated by increasing the productivity, providing timely market information prices, upgrading information, storage facility, and extending the weather based crop insurance to the farmers.

**Key Words :** Onion, Production, Growth and instability, Maharashtra

### **INTRODUCTION**

Onion is an important fresh vegetable consumed all over the world. India ranks first in acreage in the world covering about 480 thousand ha (21 per cent of the World area) and second in production after China, with over 15 million tons. According to NSSO data, onion consumption has increased in both rural and urban areas by at least 100 and 150 g, respectively per month from 2002-03 to 2012-13. Further, this demand is likely to rise with increase of domestic population, per capita income, increasing taste consciousness and health awareness of the consumer. Also, there is steady rise in export since

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