

The Changing Structure of Indian Agriculture During the Post-Reform Period: A Study in the I-O Framework

Topic: Sector specific analyses: agriculture

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Agrarian structure is a composite structure comprising of input structure and output structure . In course of economic development the economy goes through structural changes. Agrarian structure also changes due to purposefully designed institutional and technological reforms adopted by the policy makers of the country like India in the 1990's. Changes in agrarian structure may thus be viewed in terms of changes in input and output structures.

The output structure of agriculture is formed by the set of crops produced in the economy. The importance of these crops changes over time due to various reasons like changes in the inter-industry demand pattern, changes in the final demand consequent upon changes in domestic and international conditions and above all rural-urban relationships. The output structure (so to say, the cropping pattern) thus changes. Side by side, the input structure (particularly the inter - industry inputs) changes due to changes in technology used in production . The use of some inputs is reduced while some other inputs are used more. Or, some new inputs come to be used in the production process substituting the inputs hitherto used.

The changing input and output structures of agriculture are of interest to the policy makers. In this paper the dynamics of structural changes brought about in India's agricultural sector during the period of on-going reforms 1993-2003 has been analyzed using the concept of relation linkage as developed by Pal(1981) . The prime sub-sector(i.e, crops like food and non-food crops in broad terms) of the agricultural sector are identified and their transformation in terms of inter- industry dependence as well as inter- industry importance is particularly examined.