

## **Production and Utilization Pattern of the Major Agricultural Commodities in India: Role of Statistics in its Rationalization**

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### **SUMMARY**

Agriculture traps and converts solar energy into chemical energy in the form of harvested biomass such as grains, roots, fruits, fibre, flesh, milk, etc. and these harvested biomass are processed and transformed into various edible products to derive nutrition and sustain life. Since food is the basic form of energy needed by human beings, its production through agriculture has been and continue to be, the most important human occupation on the planet earth to sustain life and the civilization. Agriculture is a rural based occupation and provides food essential for human survival and has contributed significantly in evolving various cultures/civilizations all over the world. India is predominantly an agricultural economy and 65-70% of the population live in villages and earn their livelihood through agriculture. It has traditional wisdom, knowledge, skill and crafts to practice agriculture. As of now India produces about 750 million tones of raw food materials of plant and animal origin. Raw food and feed commodities of plant and animal origin are processed into various value added products for human and animal consumptions to derive nutrients needed for growth, development and maintenance. During processing, there are positive as well as negative changes in nutritional value and quality of the end products. These need to be documented and nutritional profile of the end products should be known to consumers for an effective diet planning to keep better health and happiness. Each agricultural commodity, after harvesting, moves towards consumption and in the process get subjected to a number of operations, such as cleaning and grading; drying and storage; processing and value addition; packaging and transportation; stocking and marketing; preparation and utilization; metabolism and activity. There is a need to have data on as to what happens to the commodity from production to consumption value chain. Data such collected are to be analyzed and recommendations made as to what is the best value-chain for a particular commodity in terms of delivery and absorption of nutrients/comfort to the consumer and at what cost, energy and environmental safety. The statistics about production and utilization pattern of the major agricultural commodities such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds, F&V and dairy products may help in planning as to how these commodities could be best utilized in respect of nutritious delivery and economic gains.

Key words : Biomass production, Value addition, Physical route.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture traps and converts solar energy into chemical energy in the form of harvested biomass such as grains, roots, fruits, fibre, flesh, milk, etc. and these harvested biomass are processed and transformed into various edible products to derive nutrition and sustain life. Since food is the basic form of energy needed by human beings, its production through agriculture has been

and continue to be, the most important human occupation on the planet earth to sustain life and the civilization.

Life on earth has evolved many centuries ago in the form of microbes and later on as plants, animals and finally as human being, the highest form of life. Hunting and gathering of foods from the natural resources like forests and water bodies were the major occupation of the people as food was the first and foremost requirement

