Agricultural in National Accounts Statistics in India

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Abstract N.87

Data relating to Agriculture are difficult to compile particularly at the state level in India. Which information is directly available and which is gathered indirectly and what is their reliability are some of the important questions in the context of compilation of gross state domestic product. Though at the national level the share of agriculture in total value added has declined considerably to less than a quarter there are several states, which are agriculture-dependent. Besides, even at the national level agriculture provides sources of livelihood to more than half of the total work force. Hence, the reliability of agricultural statistics and their integration to national accounts are of great significance from the productivity point of view as well. What are the sources of productivity growth in Agriculture and to what extent there are variations across regions and how much of the productivity growth is due to advancement in technology, if any, are some of the important questions from policy point of view. However, these questions require a reliable dataset on several aspects of the sector. Whether the existing database can capture these aspects adequately and whether they provide inputs to important policy decisions concerning the agriculture sector are indeed of great significance. The other important aspect of the analysis is on inter-sectoral comparability of data. How well the agriculture sector data compare and can be integrated with the value added originating from the industrial sector or the services sector is another important question. In suggesting that the services sector value added has expanded much faster that the agriculture sector some of these questions need to be tackled very carefully. The proposed paper will deal with some of these issues.