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**Abstract:** In country like India, agriculture continues to be engine of economic growth. Between 1950-51 and 2006-07, production of food grains increased at an annual rate which averaged 2.5 percent compared to population growth rates which averaged 2.1 percent. As a result of this, India was self- sufficient in food grains till 2005-06. This scenario however, changed between 1990 and 2007 when the rate of growth of food grains production declined to 1.2 percent which was lower than the average population growth of 1.9 percent. The crisis in agricultural system was unfolding and gradually impacted on escalating food prices. Per capita annual availability of food grains declined from more than 170 kg in nineties to about 160 kg during the last three years (2005-07). This is lower than the normative requirement of 167 kg needed for an active and healthy life. While the country has been able to achieve the required household food security, Jharkhand lagged behind. The state suffered self-sufficiency status in food to the extent of over 45-50 percent since its birth on the 15th November;2000, in spite of the fact that productivity of pulses is at par with the national average. Jharkhand state is endowed with varied agro-climatic conditions which offer immense scope for cultivation of various kinds of horticultural crop. In vegetables, the state acquires self-sufficiency position and has enough marketable surpluses. But in regard to fruit, the deficit will remain till the end of the 11 plan period. In spite of reduction in area under cereals in state, the total cereals production has been increased from 1467 thousand metric tonnes in 1969-69 to 230.67 million tones in 2007-08. Most of the pulses showed the increasing trend in the yield during period 1970-71 to 2004-05. Incase of horticultural crops, the growth rate of fruit increased during the period of 1990-2009. But the growth rate was maximum in case of mango and litchi i.e. 1.07 percent per annum. While the minimum growth rate was found in guava i.e. 0.77 percent per annum. In vegetables, there was marginal decreased rate of growth in most of the crops during the period of 1990-91 to 2009-10. The maximum rate of production was found in brinjal, tomato and cabbage, while the minimum growth rate in production was found in okra.s

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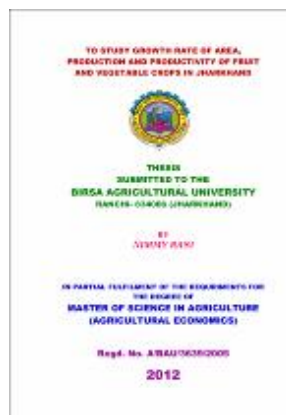
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