Agriculture At a Glance

- Total Geographical area of the State is 307.98 lakh out of which 207.37 lakh hectare is under cultivation.
- Out of the total cultivable land, 143.56 lakh hectares come under Kharif, 63.89 lakh hectares under Rabi and Summer crops.
- In Kharif 2015 season, 133.09 lakh hectare area (93 per cent) was cultivated.
- In Rabbi 2015-16 season, 48.38 lakh hectare area (77.49%) was cultivated.

Severity of Drought

- The average rainfall in the State from June to 31st October is estimated up to 1198 mm but in the year 2015 the State received total rainfall of 711 mm which is 59.40 percent of average rainfall. Month of July is considered to be important for crops. The average estimated rainfall in July is 402 whereas State recorded 129 mm rainfall in July 2015 which was 32.30 per cent of the average rainfall.
- Hence, as many as 29,065 villages with paisewari less than 50 paise were declared drought affected out of which 27,024 villages have kharif crop pattern and 1991 villages with rabi crop.
- In these drought affected villages, 5441 villages from Nashik division, 1820 from Pune, 8522 from Aurangabad, 7230 from Amravati, and 6052 from Nagpur.
- Till the end of June State dams had just 9 percent water storage. Division-wise water storage of this year and previous year’s in brackets is: Marathwada -1% (7), Konkan -28% (42), Nagpur-16% (25), Amravati -11% (32), Nashik -8% (20) and Pune -7% (31).

Special Assistance Programme For Drought Affected

- Various measures were taken by the State Government to mitigate drought situation in 29,065 scarcity-hit villages. Besides memorandum submitted to help additional 11,000 drought-hit villages.
- Memorandum from the State Government includes ₹2017.54 crore for Kharif season and ₹1269.73 crore for Rabi besides ₹416.93 crore for water supply, ₹565 crore for fodder.
- Without waiting for assistance from the Central Government, State Government disbursed ₹3438.95 crore for the Kharif season.
- Maharashtra received ₹3049 crore from the Central Government for drought mitigation.
- Until recently Water is being supplied to 13,000 villages and hamlets through 6,000 tankers.
- Decision to consider Village as a unit for drought measures instead of taluka.
- Under National Food Security Scheme, total 68 lakh farmers form the 14 drought affected districts have been provided 5 kg of foodgrains per month per person at ₹2 per kg of wheat and ₹3 per kg of rice. So far 3 lakh 19 thousand 263 Metric tons foodgrains of ₹698 crore have been distributed to 58 lakh 37 thousand 201 farmers.
Medical facilities will be provided to the farmers from 14 suicide-prone districts under Mahatma Jotiba Phule Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana. There is an increase in the number of hospitals providing facilities under this scheme.

- Additional 15 hospitals have included in the list of 129 private hospitals. Surgeries have been performed on 2 lakh 56 thousand 371 patients with an expenditure of ₹468.06 crore.
- Under the scheme, 2,182 treatments and surgeries worth ₹3 crore 48 lakh have been carried out in these districts from the date of their declaration as suicide-prone districts.
- Health check-ups of 1 lakh 8 thousand 774 patients in 751 district health camps organized for health awareness besides organization of 35 special camps to provide health check-ups to 19 thousand 614 patients. 24 thousand 348 patients have undergone surgeries in these camps.

Free education to children of farmers who committed suicide. Also fees waiver to students from such family's pursuing higher education.

- Till June, total 8 lakh 93 thousand 98 surgeries worth ₹2203.82 crore have been performed under this scheme.
- A special programme of ₹10,512 crore declared in the winter assembly session 2015.
- Under Integrated Horticulture Development Mission, in the year 2015-16, total ₹89.95 crore directly credited into bank account of 10 thousand 872 farmers.

Draught affected Latur district supplied drinking water to railway wagons from 11 April 2016 to 8 August 2016. A total of ₹25 crore 95 lakh litres water supplied to 111 rounds. This includes 5 lakh litre water through 9 trips and 25 lakh litre water was supplied through 102 rounds.
Substantial provision for the growth of agriculture, rural development and infrastructure for the empowerment of farmers.

Financial provision of ₹ 25 thousand crore for agriculture development and ₹ 7850 crore for irrigation in 2016-17 budget.

A new scheme to provide subsidy upto 25% or 50 lakh to set up agriculture processing units.

A new scheme Palakmantri Panand Raste Yojana announced.

An Agriculture Festival to be organised in every district to create awareness among farmers.

Approval to e-marketing for farmers by freeing them from regulatory mechanism of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs)

Special measures for planning of irrigation facilities and change in crop pattern to get better remuneration for the market produce.

Efforts to provide employment opportunities to more and more youth through agro industry.

By February 2016 end 727 farm producer companies got registered leading Maharashtra in the country. These companies to help in capital, technology, --- , marketing to small and medium units.

Use of micro irrigation facility to irrigate crops. In next two years, facility of drip irrigation will be made available, to sugarcane being planted over two lakh hectares of land.

With the active coordination among State Government, Central Government, seed producing companies and

A proposal to set up Organic Farming Research and Training Centres at four Agriculture Universities in Akola, Parbhani, Dapoli and Rahuri.
Provision for Sustainable Agriculture

- Substantial provision of which ₹250 crore by Central Government and ₹166.66 crore by State Government (total ₹416.66 crore) for various projects included in Pradhanmantri Krishi Sinchan Yojana.

- Planning for 26% additional use of chemical fertilizers in the Kharif 2016 season.

- Endeavours are on to change the cropping pattern to get better prices for agriculture produce and planning of available irrigation facilities in the State.

To introduce weather based cropping pattern, the State Government submitted proposal of ₹2,500 to ₹3,000 crore to World Bank to provide soft loans to the farmers from 4000 villages from the 8 districts of Marathwada.

- With the help of Soil Health Card, effective and balanced use of fertilizers have been promoted. Out of 1.37 crore account holder farmers 32.27 lakh farmers have been provided with soil health cards in one year. In 2016-17, soil health cards will be distributed to 91.33 lakh farmers, carrying out soil testing for 18.22 lakh samples.

- Effective use of Information Technology in agriculture sector. Total 58.29 crore messages delivered through Kissan SMS service to inform and advice farmers.

- Encouragement to organic farming under Traditional Agriculture Growth programme. Under this, 932 groups comprising each of 50 farmers will be included in the scheme bringing 18 thousand 640 hectare land under organic farming holding by 46 thousand 600 farmers.

- Maharashtra is the only State with registration of 727 Farmers Producer Companies till February 2016. Improved inclusion of farmers through these companies to facilitate access of technology, market and capital management. Small and medium farmers groups is an effective measures to promote Farmers Producer Company.

- With the people and private participation, under Integrated Agriculture Development Project, value added chain development scheme project have successfully reached to five lakh farmers. In 2016-17 a total of 64 projects received.

For Agriculture Development

- Atal Krishi Pump Yojana to provide five lakh Agriculture Solar Pumps to farmers.

- Efforts to avail employment to more and more youth through Agriculture based industries. Under Horticulture development programme, planning of development of orchard on one lakh hectares through MNREGS and 10 thousand hectares through EGS in the year 2015-16 and 2016-17.
Protecting the Livestock

Considering the severe drought situation in the State, in the midst of May total 435 cattle camps were approved out of which, 398 camps have been started. This includes 272 cattle camps in Beed, 89 in Osmanabad, 31 in Ahmednagar and 6 cattle camps in Latur.

- In these camps facility of fodder and water made for 3 lakh 91 thousand 667 big animals and 32 thousand 712 small animals. Expenditure of ₹70 for big animals and ₹35 for small animals per day is incurred.
- Expenditure of ₹171 crore incurred on these cattle camps till end of May 2016.
- Orders were issued to open more cattle camps if necessary.

Smart Solutions for Irrigation

- To address the permanent drinking water issue of the drought affected Marathwada, the State Government proposed Marathwada Water Grid Scheme. Through this project feasibility study of river basins and various irrigation projects and dam situated in the area will be carried out.
- Integrated water resources management is important to mitigate the drought situation in the State. For this, directives have been issued to concerned departments such as Water Supply and Sanitation, Water Irrigation and Water Resources and Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre to prepare micro irrigation plan for each district.
- An Integrated Agriculture Development Project for the 5000 villages of Vidarbha and Marathwada for development of water resources, selection of appropriate cropping pattern by management of available water resources.
- For this long term loan of $ 600 million will be provided by the World Bank at very low interest rate. Proposal has been submitted to World Bank. Soon it will be approved.
- To double the income of farmers, the State and Central Governments to provide ₹1000 crore every year for Integrated Watershed Development Management programme.
- 69 major and medium projects and 186 minor irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, have been included in Pradhanmantri Krishi Sinchan Yojana.

To undertake long term and permanent measures to mitigate the water scarcity situation an ambitious programme Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan launched. The mission will achieve the goal of 'Water for All-Drought Free Maharashtra 2019'.
Out of which 43 major and medium projects have been completed and 26 projects including 4 major projects from Marathwada are on going.

The base year to evaluate the cost of the projects has been decided 2015-16 and all the projects will be completed by the year 2020.

There is need of ₹26 thousand 726 crore to complete 26 projects from the State. The State expect to receive share of ₹5 thousand 833 crore from Central Government and State’s share of ₹5 thousand 631 crore and loan of ₹15 thousand 272 crore from NABARD.

Under the scheme ‘Magel Tyala Shettale,’ (Farm Pond on Demand) aim to construct 51,500 farm ponds in the State in the year 2016-17. Grant of ₹50,000 will be provided to farmers. Financial provision of ₹500 crore made for the scheme. Total 85651 eligible farmers have been selected from more than 1.5 lakh applications received by the State Government. The Taluka committees have been given approval to 47799 farm ponds out which 41171 have received orders to commence work. Total 6459 farm ponds have been completed in the State and work for 3072 farm ponds in full swing.

Decision to construct incomplete Dhadak Irrigation Wells under EGS and cancelled under MNREGA. Under Dhadak Sinchan Vihir Yojana a target has been set to construct 83,200 wells out of which approval has been given for 63,962 wells. Till the end of July 39,696 wells have been completed.

The irrigation capacity of 5.57 lakh hectare will be created after completion of these projects.

To satisfy the need of ₹7595 crore for completion of 107 irrigation projects from 14 districts of the State having occurrence of farmers’ suicide, State demanded ₹7187 crore to the Central Government. Irrigation capacity of one lakh 46 thousand 35 hectare will created after completion of these projects.

For completion of 7 other irrigation projects from drought-prone areas there is need of ₹6395 crore out of which State demanded ₹3500 crore from the Central Government. After completion of these projects one lakh 33 thousand 929 hectare irrigation capacity will be completed in 6205 villages and 23,381 works related to Jalyukta Shivar are in full swing. Thus, in 2015-16 works of ₹2742.77 crore completed with the people participation worth of ₹278 crore.

Financial provision of ₹600 crore for 5263 villages selected for the year 2016-17 out of which 15170 works have been completed till the month of July and 11453 works with an expenditure of ₹142.67 crore are in full swing.

An ambitious programme of construction of 1.5 lakh farm ponds and one lakh wells in the period of three years.

Mitigating Water Scarcity

For water scarcity mitigation various measures have been taken up which includes special repair of water supply schemes, starting temporary water supply scheme, special repairing programme of bore wells, digging new bore wells, deepening of wells and removing muck, water supply through tankers, diving and supplying water through wells or by acquiring tap wells.
Also, for increasing ground water level in reservoir areas, flat trenches are being dug at large scale.

For mitigating drought ₹309 crore spent from October 2015 to March 2016.

Under RRR scheme (Repair, Renovation and Restoration), the 662 proposals of ₹72.66 crore were submitted to Central Water Commission. Out of which 240 proposals worth ₹25.04 crore has been approved by the Commission. Other proposals will be resubmitted soon. For the year 2016-17, the provision of ₹50 crore has been made for State share for the scheme.

Under National Agriculture Policy scheme farmers received compensation of ₹4737 crore in last 15 years where painstaking efforts by State Government have resulted in receiving the compensation by farmers to the tune of ₹4205 crore to 63 lakh farmers for the Kharif 2015 season only.

The State Government’s fruitful efforts this time total 82.50 lakh farmers have come under the periphery of crop insurance scheme. Of this 71.50 lakh i.e. approximately 90 percent have been benefited by the scheme.

Earlier, only 70 lakh farmers (14 lakh hectares area) benefitted from Crop Insurance. Now with Government’s endeavours 1.13 crore farmers (74 lakh hectares area) brought under the crop insurance.

Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme will be implemented from the Kharif 2016. Under this scheme, the premium rate will be 2% for the Kharif and 1.5 % for Rabi and 5% for the cash and horticulture crops of the actual sum assured for that particular crop. Remaining amount will be paid by Central and State Governments as assistance. Approximately 50 lakh farmers will be benefited by the scheme.

The State Government had paid the premium of ₹27 crore 24 lakh of the account holder farmers under Gopinath Munde Farmers Accident Insurance Scheme. The compensation under this scheme has been increased to ₹2 lakh.

A decision to waive off the registration fee and stamp duty for the crop and term loans upto ₹2.5 lakh.

Till the end of May, the Crop loan of 1141.9 crore taken by the 1 lakh 26 thousand 119 farmers has been restructured.

Out of 1.36 crore account holder farmers only 58 lakh farmers have been benefited by the institutional loan. To benefit another 20 lakh farmers, the State Government demanded to increase Fiscal Loan plan by ₹15,000 crore.

In the Kharip season of 2016 till the end of July total loan of Rs 27 thousand 22 crore has been distributed to 40 lakh 42 thousand 272 farmers. As against last year, loan of ₹3446 crore have been disbursed to 2.46 lakh more farmers.

Till July end through 1590 camps, more 1 lakh 44 thousand 662 farmers disbursed loan of ₹899.47 crore.

Till July 2016 end, loan of ₹899 crore 47 lakh have been distributed to new one lakh 41 thousand 662 account holder farmers through 1590 camps.

Till the July end, the loan of 5 lakh 91 thousand 646 farmers of ₹4278.59 crore have been restructured and loan of ₹2850.37 crore has been disbursed to the 3 lakh 85 thousand 729 farmers after restructuring of their loan.

The State Government requested Reserve Bank of India to restructure the unpaid loans taken by the farmers during the years 2012-13 and 2013-14 to bring them under credit system.

To achieve the growth rate of 4 percent in agriculture sector, there is a need to increase the percentage of loans taken for agriculture investment upto 40% compared to crop loan plan prepared by the State Government.