AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: A BLOCK LEVEL STUDY OF REGIONAL DISPARITY IN BIRBHUM DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

Discrepancy and unbalanced regional development from one region to other leading to dissimilar socio-cultural, economic and demographic characteristics; escorts to the problem of agricultural disparity. Birbhum is a well set example of such irritation in West Bengal, ranking 14 in terms of H.D.I (2004). The paper aims to elucidate the spatial pattern of levels of developments in the field of agriculture along with the inter-block disparity using twenty five indicators associated with agriculture grouped under five broad categories. For a quantitative study the Z-Score technique has been used to compute block level scores and their respective ranks with the data achieved from the District Statistical Handbook, 2008. The computed results show that Bolpur-Santiniketan, Nanoor and Saithia are top developed blocks while Rajnagar, Suri-I and Khoyrasole are the bottom liners.
KEYWORDS: Agricultural disparity, Birbhum, spatial pattern, inter-block disparity, Z-Score technique,

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