
Mapping Agricultural Research in West Bengal-1993-2007: A Bibliometric study

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Agricultural research in West Bengal, as seen from CAB Abstracts for a 15-year period from 1993-2007 is quantified and mapped. Researchers from 303 institutions located in 45 cities/towns have authored 10417 papers in 1178 journals published from 53 countries and other literary forms. The result shows that there has been a topsy-turvy growth in the research publication during the period. Top 50 journals with 30 or more papers have only 8 foreign journals. Institutions publishing large number of papers in different areas are identified. The authorship pattern shows the trends towards collaborative research. Potential areas of agriculture are also identified. This macroscopic analysis not only provides an insight in to the Bengal's publication scenario, but also gives an idea of indigenous research capacity.

Keywords: Agriculture, West Bengal, bibliometric analysis.

1. Introduction

History of agriculture is the history of evolution of mankind. India is essentially an agricultural country with over 3/4th of its population living in rural areas and depends on agriculture and related occupations. Agriculture contributes nearly half of the national income and provides employment to about 70% of the working population in India (Randhawa [1]). An, agriculture-dependent state, West Bengal occupies only 2.7% of the India's land area, though it supports over 7.8% of the Indian population [2]. The agriculture in West Bengal is one of the most significant means to earn livelihood especially in the rural sector and 70% of the state's population depends on it. Revered William Carey initiated agricultural research in Bengal by establishing Agri-Horticultural Society in 1820. Agricultural education in Bengal started in 1898 at Civil Engineering College, Howrah (Mukherjee *et al.* [3]). This paper aims

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