Foreword

Madhya Pradesh Bradex Council of Science and Technology (MCPCST), in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Studies, is conducting a programme to prepare Resource Atlases for every district of Madhya Pradesh. In this programme, detailed data on the demographic, land-use, irrigation, livestock and area, production and productivity of crops has been collected for all districts in fairly long time-series. Maps of the geography, topography, geology, geomorphology and soils of all districts have also been prepared. This "Agricultural Atlas of Madhya Pradesh" is an effort to use the data and maps that compiled to present a graphic picture of agriculture of the state and its growth during the last about five decades. Every major effort of research and study in any area usually leads to several unexpected consequences. This Agricultural Atlas is such an unexpected but greatly valuable by-product of the District Resource Atlas Programme. The primary objective of the programme is to create Resource Atlases for individual districts. In this process, Resource Atlases of Jhabua-Alirajpur, Sidhi-Singrauli, Tikamgarh and Dhar have already been published. Atlases of several other districts are in various stages of completion. MCPCST is the nodal agency of the state of Madhya Pradesh for the analysis and application of remote sensing data. As such, the Council is the repository of detailed primary information and maps on the geography, topography, geology, geomorphology and soils and of the derived maps on water prospects, land and soil irrigability and land capability of the state. Centre for Policy Studies in compiling, analysing, processing and graphically presenting large amounts of information and data to create a Resource Atlas for every district of Madhya Pradesh.

These Resource Atlases are designed to present all aspects of the land and life of the districts in a manner that is sensitive to the skills and aspirations of the people of different districts and the special attributes of their land and climate. The volumes published so far are comprehensive enough to incorporate almost all the technical and statistical information that goes into the District Gazetteers that were first prepared during the British times; and yet these read like odes to the land and people of these districts. I am happy to note that the Programme is now leading to new creations like this Agricultural Atlas. The picture of agriculture and its growth during the last about five decades presented in this Atlas should indeed be a source of pride for the state. Madhya Pradesh has done extremely well in agriculture and irrigation, especially during the last about 10 years. The people of the state, particularly the educated people, need to be aware of this core economic activity and the core achievement of Madhya Pradesh. I am certain that the Atlas shall also prove useful for acquainting our school children of the geographical and agricultural specifics of their districts and their state.

From the heart of Madhya Pradesh

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AGRICUTURE ATLAS OF MADHYA PRADESH

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