

Agriculture Development, Issue and Challenges

Mrs. Nita J.Honrao

(Head of Commerce & Management Dept) Brijlal Biyani Science College, Amravati

Agriculture is an important part of Indian economy and it present it is among the top two farm production in the world. This sector provides approximately 52 percent of the total number of job available in India. And contributes around 16 percent to GDP. Agriculture is the only means of living for almost two-third of the employed class in INDIA.

Introduction:-

India is mainly an agricultural country. Agriculture is the most important occupation for most of the Indian families. In India agriculture contributes sixteen percent of total GDP and ten percentages of total exports. Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy. Over 58 percentages of the rural households, depends on agriculture as their principal means of live hood. Agriculture along with fisheries and forestry, is one of the largest contributors to gross domestic products(GDP). As per estimates by the Central Statistic Office(CSO), the share of agriculture and allied sectors(including agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery) was 16.1 percentage of the gross value added(GVA)

India is the largest producer, consumer and exports of spices and spice products. It rank third in farm and agriculture output. Agriculture exports constitute 10 percentage of the country exports and is the fourth largest exported principal commodity. The agro industry in India is divided into several sub segments such as canned, dairy, processed, frozen food to fisheries, meat, poultry, and food grains.

The development of agriculture and cooperation under the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the development of the agriculture sector of India. It manages several other bodies such as the national dairy development board (NDDB), to develop other allied agriculture sectors.

Economic Growth:-

Agriculture is the backbone of India economy. Though with the growth of other sectors, the overall share of agriculture on GDP of the country has decreased. Still agriculture continues to play a dominant part in the overall economic scenario of India.

Role of agriculture in Indian economy:-

- Share in National Income:
- Largest Employment Providing Sector:
- Contribution to Capital formation:
- Providing Raw Material to industries:
- Market for Industrial Products:

Important in International Trade:

- Share in national income
- Source of employment-
- Provision of food grains.
- Supply of raw material to industrial sector
- Market for industrial product.
- Earner of foreign exchange

Source of revenue for the government-

Source of food for domestic consumption:-

Food is essential for life. We depend upon agriculture outputs for our food requirements. India produces large quantity of food grains such as millets, cereals, pulses etc. A major



portion of food stuffs produced is consumed within the country. Our farmers work day and night to feed our population that counts over 1.21 billion.

Besides agriculture with a commercial bias, subsistence's agriculture with its emphasis on the production of food for the cultivator's family is widespread. Traditionally, agriculture is followed as the important as the simplest method of obtaining food for the family. Agriculture in India is a more way of life than mode of business.

Export:

India exports excess food and agriculture products. A large proportion of India's export trade is based on the agriculture products. Such as jute, tea, tobacco, coffee, spices, and sugar. It helps in increasing the foreign exchange. India exported agricultural products valuing around 39 billion dollars.

Agro based industries:

A number of industries are agro based industries. Such as jute, cotton, sugar, etc. Raw material for such industries are supplied from agriculture from agricultural products.

Green revolution:

Green revolution began in India with an object to give greater emphasis on agriculture. The era of green revolution that begins in 1960 witnessed significant increase in the production of food crops. The introduction of improved method of agriculture and high yielding varieties seeds. Mainly wheat had resulted into remarkable improvement in agricultural output. The productivity of land increased tremendously giving huge economic boost to the nation.

Market Size:

Over the recent past, multiple factors have worked together to facilitate growth in the agriculture sector India. These include growth in household income and consumption expansion in the food processing sector and increase in agriculture exports. Rising private participation in India agriculture, growing organic farming and use of information technology are some of the key trends in the agriculture industry.

Main Issues

In India the factors determining cropping pattern are physical, historical, social economic and government policies. In national priority setting, the following recurring and emerging issues for sustainable agricultural development must be considered:

- ☐ Changes in the policy structure being implemented by the Government.
- ☐ Resource base degradation and water scarcity.
- ☐ Investment in agriculture, structural adjustment and impact on the farmers.
- ☐ Globalization and implication on the agriculture sector;
- ☐ Modern science and technology and support to research and technology development in agriculture sector.

In addressing the above issues, a policy statement on agriculture must take note of the following uncommon opportunities:

- ☐ Conservation of natural resources and protection of environment.
- ☐ Vast untapped potential of our soil and water resources, and farming systems
- ☐ Technology revolution especially in the areas of molecular biology, biotechnology, space technology, ecology and management.
- ☐ Revolution in informatics and communication and the opportunity of linking farmers, extension workers and scientists with the national and international databases. [8]

**Challenges**

In fact, during the last decade or so Indian agriculture had faced

a number of severe challenges, superimposed on the long-term demographics.

Recent trends that had raised concern regarding food security, farmers' income, and poverty are:

- ☐ Slowdown in growth.
- ☐ Widening economic disparities between irrigated and rain-fed areas.
- ☐ Increased vulnerability to world commodity price volatility following trade liberalization. This had an adverse effect on agricultural economies of regions growing crops such as cotton, soya bean, rice and wheat.
- ☐ Uneven and slow development of technology.
- ☐ Inefficient use of available technology and inputs.
- ☐ Lack of adequate incentives and appropriate institutions.
- ☐ Degradation of natural resource base.
- ☐ Rapid and widespread decline in groundwater table, with particularly adverse impact on small and marginal farmers.
- ☐ Increased non-agricultural demand for land and water as a result of the higher overall GDP growth and urbanization.
- ☐ Aggravation in social distress as a cumulative impact of the above, reflected in an upsurge in farmers' suicides.

The supply side performance of agriculture was affected by a large number of factors, several of which interact among each other. These factors are the natural resource base (including rainfall), technology, infrastructure (including irrigation), and the economic environment comprising price signals and institutions.[9]

Major Problems of Indian Agriculture:

The Indian agriculture is going through a constant process of learning aimed at conquering nature. The Indian agriculture scientist and farmer are telescoping into a few brief years achievements which have taken decades or even centuries to accomplish advanced countries. Only recently had Indian passed through the trauma of drought, food, etc, and we are still in the painful process of recovering from its after-effects.

One may note that there has been some improvement in agriculture during the planning period particularly from the third plan period but there is still a gap between what is desirable and what is available in reality in this regard. Various reasons are responsible for this backwardness and the following is a very brief attempts to analysis these problems of the Indian agriculture during planning period.

One of the major problems of Indian agriculture is that a large number of people depend solely on a agriculture. It is obvious the, that not much can be upraised unless this continuing pressure of population on land is reduced.

Agriculture condition are practices vary from state in various rural areas in India. Difference in soil condition, climatic factors and system for cropping produce etc. Institution like cooperative, rural banks, panchayats, community development projects etc, are not rising adequately top the occasion to deliver the goods to the Indian farmers in there efforts for going ahead with farm income and productivity.

Absences of adequate knowledge of inter cultural practices, multiple cropping, crop rotation, crop insurances, irrigational facilities etc is standing in the way of Indian agriculture.

Investment:

Several players have invested in the agriculture sector in India, mainly driven by the government's initiatives and schemes.



Government Initiatives:

Given the important of the agriculture sector, the Government of India, In its Budget planned several steps for the sustainable developed of agriculture. The government has already taken steps to address two major factors (soil and water) critical to improve agriculture production. Steps have been taken to improve soil fertility on a sustainable basis through the soil health card scheme and to support the organic farming scheme 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana'. Other steps include improved access to irrigation through 'Pradhanmantri Gram Sinchal Yojana'; enhanced water efficiency through Per Drop More Crop'; continued of a unified national agriculture market to boost the incomes of farmers.

The government of India recognizes the important of microirrigation, watershed development pradhan mantri krishi sinchai yojana, thus it allocated sum of rs. 5300 crore (us\$815 million) for it . It urged the states to focus on this key sector. The state governments are compelled to allocate adequate funds to develop the agriculture sector, take measures to achieve the targeted agricultural growth rate and access the problem of farmers.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under the Ministry of Agriculture has inked MOUs/agreements with 52 countries including the U.S In addition, the Department of Agriculture Research & Education (DARE) and the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F) under the Ministry of Agriculture have signed MOUs/agreements with other countries, talking the number of partnership with other countries to 63. These agreements would provide better agriculture facilities in management, value addition/food processing, plant protection, animal's husbandry, dairy and fisheries. The agreements could help enhance bilateral trade as well. Some of the recent major government initiatives in the sector are as follows:

- India and Lithuania have agreed to intensify agriculture cooperation, especially in sectors like food and dairy processing.
- Gujarat Government has planned to connect 26 Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) via electronic market platform, under, the National Agriculture Market (NAM) initiative.
- The State Government of Telangana plans to spend Rs81,000 crore (US\$ 12.1 billion) over the next three Years to complete ongoing irrigation project and also undertaken two new project for lifting water from the Godavari and Krishna river.
- The National Dairy Development Board(NDDDB)announced 42 dairy project with a financial outlay of Rs. 221 core (US\$ 34.02 million) to boost milk output and increase per animal production of milk.
- The government planned to invest Rs.50, 000 cores (US\$ 7.7 billion) to develop the food-processing sector that would enhance the income of farmers and export of agro and processed foods, among others.

Conclusion:

- Agriculture has benefited from improved farming techniques but the growth is not equitable
- Land use is changing in rural areas as farmers are getting good value for their holdings the effort should be to stop the migration to urban areas.

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