

A Study on Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy in India

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural development is an important component of inclusive growth approach. The broad objective of this paper is to link agriculture development and inclusive growth through farm sector growth driven rural transformation. The people lives in rural areas are majorly depends on agriculture. The rural agricultural production & consumption process plays a predominant role in developing the Indian economy. The major objective of rural development is to increase farm productivity, for achieving rapid economic transformation, increasing profits to farmers and to increase the household outputs of selected agricultural products. The present article majorly focused on the various rural development strategies in field of agriculture, starting from management of land, labor and natural resources to the effective harvesting, pre processing methods and effective marketing strategies to be followed.

Keywords: agriculture, economic growth, rural development.

1. INTRODUCTION

The people lives in rural areas are majorly depends on agriculture. The rural agricultural production & consumption process plays a predominant role in developing the Indian economy. The major objective of rural development is to increase farm productivity, for achieving rapid economic transformation, increasing profits to farmers and to increase the household outputs of selected agricultural products. According to 2011 census, the country's rural population is almost 83.25 crore (68.8% of total population). There has been wide consensus that the rural development should be inclusive and sustainable in order to alleviate the poverty. The tentative Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the Ministry of Rural Development for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) is Rs. 44,3261 crore (against the Rs. 29,1682 crores of Eleventh Plan period) which includes the major programs.

Although agriculture now accounts for only 14 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is still the main source of livelihood for the majority of the rural population. As such rapid growth of agriculture is critical for inclusiveness. Important structural changes are taking place within the sector and there are definite signs of improved performance. Agricultural growth has accelerated compared to the Tenth Plan and diversification is proceeding.

The rural agricultural production & consumption process plays a predominant role in developing the Indian economy. Agriculture and agro processing account for 30-60 % of GDP in developing countries. 63 percent of population lives in rural areas only. With rapid urbanization rural people depends mostly on agriculture. India started producing about 700 million tonnes (Mt) of biological materials per year including food grains, fruits, oilseeds, vegetables, milk, eggs, tea, coffee, fiber crops, forest produce and so on. Because of its socio economic impact specifically on employment and income generation, Agro processing is now

regarded as the sunrise sector of the Indian economy. The common agro processing industries includes paper making units, hand pounding units for rice, bullock operated sugarcane crushers, water power driven flour mills, bullock driven oil ghanies, spinning wheels and handloom units for weaving etc. The rural areas are consuming a large number of industrial and urban manufactured products.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To analysis sources of agriculture and rural development.
- To discuss the recent policy initiatives of the government for the agriculture growth and the rural development.

NEED FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- I. To raises the quality of life & environment in rural areas.
- II. To reduce urbanization
- III. For the improvement of Indian economy
- IV. For the proper management of natural resources like land, water for agricultural production
- V. To produce variety of food products through agriculture.
- VI. To improve profits for farmers.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA SINCE 1947:

On the eve of Independence in 1947, Indian agriculture was characterized by feudal land relations and primitive technology, and the resultant low productivity per hectare. As a consequence, rural India presented a picture of mass poverty and widespread unemployment and under-employment. Therefore, the first task of the Government in the immediate post-Independence period was to initiate growth process in agriculture on modern lines. Modernization of agriculture was required both in terms of technological and institutional changes. The Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) drew attention to the loss of dynamism in agriculture and allied sectors after the mid-1990s.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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The major wings for the rural development are

- Economic dimension
- Human dimension
- Science & Technology
- Resources and Environment
- Political dimension.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE

- Agriculture Sector is changing the socio-economic environments of the population due to liberalization and globalization
- About 75% people are living in rural areas and are still dependent on Agriculture. About 43% of India's geographical area is used for agricultural activity
- Agriculture continues to play a major role in Indian Economy
- Provides about 65% of the livelihood
- Accounts for 27% of GDP
- Contributes 21% of Total Exports, and Supplies Raw materials to Industries
- Growth Rate in production - 5.7%
- Food grains production – 211.17 mt

INDIA POSITION IN WORLD AGRICULTURE

Total Area	Seventh
Irrigated Area	First
Population	Second
Economically Active population	Second
Total Cereals	Third
Wheat	Second
Rice	Second
Coarse grains	Fourth
Total Pulses	First
Oil Seeds	Second
Fruits and Vegetables	Second
Implements (Tractors)	Third
Milk	First
Live Stock (cattle, Buffaloes)	First

MILE STONES IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Green Revolution (1968)
- Ever-Green Revolution (1996)
- Blue Revolution (water, fish)
- White Revolution (Milk)
- Yellow Revolution (flower, edible)
- Bio-Technology Revolution
- ICT Revolution

TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Biotechnology
- Pre & post harvesting technology
- Energy saving technology
- Environment protection technology
- Information and Communication technology
- GIS & RS technology
- Internet/Intranet Technology

STRATEGY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Despite significant advancement in industrial development, Indian economy is dependent on agro based activities. Over 70% of the population living in rural areas is dependent on agriculture for livelihood. A majority of these families spend over 90% of their earnings on basic needs such as food, fuel and health care. Over 50% of the rural families who are not able to meet even these essential needs fall under the category of the poor. Thus, in an agrarian country like India, for improving the economic status of the population it is not enough to enhance the per capita GNP, but it is also necessary to ensure prosperity among the poor. Industrial development and adoption of modern technologies are likely to generate additional employment in urban areas and pay rich dividend to elite and rich investors. This in turn might widen the gap between the urban and rural as well as the rich and the poor, with respect to wealth accumulation, resulting in further hardship to the poor. Therefore, we need to address the problems of the poor to ensure social justice and better quality of life.

The effective rural development strategies to be followed are

- Provision of support to the farmers Groups, and Associations in order to build their capacity and supporting farmer unions.
- By adopting localized way of distributing agricultural products.
- Water management for agricultural production by the Usage of sprinklers and drips.
- Increasing the organic farming. Because of high utilization of pesticides and fertilizers by the farmers, scientists are advising the organic products. The agricultural products, that produced through organic farming termed as organic products. In the world market these organic products having high demand day to date. So, there is a great need to follow the organic farming by the Indian farmers and produce the organic foods and export to other countries for the propitiation. Worldwide the organic.
- Analysis of complete Agricultural trade statistics includes Tree crops, Consumption data, Diseases and disease control data, Statistics on agricultural products processing & marketing, Fisheries statistics etc.
- Agricultural Productivity Enhancement.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

- Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) Agricultural and rural information provider
- USDA Rural Development, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture
- European Network for Rural Development
- England Rural Development Programme by DEFRA
- Agricultural Development & Training Society, India
- Tipperary Institute, Ireland
- Azerbaijan Rural Investment Project in Azerbaijan

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN INTERNATIONAL

The development of agricultural research and extension programs in the U.S. occurred at roughly the same time that similar programs were being developed in Europe. By the beginning of the twentieth century, most of today's developed countries had agricultural research systems in place. By the middle of the twentieth century many of today's developing countries had agricultural research and extension systems as well.

POLICY INITIATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE AGRICULTURE GROWTH AND THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Various policy initiatives have been taken in recent years to promote the agricultural sector. These have included the following

- (a) National Agriculture Policy, 2000,
- (b) Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana, 2004,
- (c) National Horticulture Mission, 2005,
- (d) National Policy for Farmers, 2007,
- (e) Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan, 2007,
- (f) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, 2007 and
- (g) National Food Security Mission, 2007.

The impulses of economic reforms have been relatively less in scope and depth in the agricultural sector. Reforms in this sector were introduced only towards the end of the 1990s. These have included, inter alia, the following:

- (a) partial decontrol of fertiliser prices,
- (b) removal of bottlenecks in agricultural marketing,
- (c) relaxation of restrictions under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- (d) introduction of forward trading in important commercial crops.

Similarly, various schemes/programmes have been launched for rural development including the following:

- (a) Indira Awaas Yojana, 1986,
- (b) Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, 1996,
- (c) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, 1999,
- (d) Total Sanitation Campaign, 1999,
- (e) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 2000,
- (f) National Nutrition Mission, 2001,
- (g) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005,
- (h) National Rural Health Mission, 2005,
- (i) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, 2005,
- (j) Bharat Nirman, 2005 and
- (k) Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, 2008.

The present work traces developments in Indian agriculture and transformation of rural India during the post-Independence period. It explains the key reform measures undertaken for the modernization of agriculture and raising the standard of living of the rural population.

3. FINDINGS

The 63percent of population live in rural areas, 73 percent of poor live in rural areas Agriculture and agro-processing account for 30-60 percent of GDP in developing countries, and an even larger share of employment Even with rapid urbanization, more than 50% of the poor will be in rural areas by 2035, and depend significantly on agriculture Economic sustainability: sustainable livelihoods and improved well-being through growth and poverty reduction Environmental sustainability: Target agricultural land, forests, water resources, protected areas, and biodiversity, so that opportunities and options of future generations are not degraded Fiscal and institutional sustainability: must be realistic about cost and institutional requirements of instruments

4. CONCLUSION

This study promises to examine the agricultural and rural development. More than 60% of the Indian population lives in rural areas and most of the rural people depend on agriculture and agricultural related industries. So there is a great need to follow the effective rural development strategies for improving the quality of life in rural areas, self-employment to rural people and raising profits to the farmers to improve the Indian economy.

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