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A Study on Agricultural Research and Education

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the key factor for any country's development. In India's first five year plan itself, we have proved its importance through the economic growth of the country. To note more than half of the world's population is directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture, approximately 70% of India's population depends in Agriculture. In the current scenario, Indian agriculture has adopted lots of new technologies and frameworks to enhance its production. Farmers in many parts of India are now becoming mobile and internet friendly day-by-day, the penetration of useful, each and every minute information regarding crops, soils, climate, cultivate practices, financing, storage of produces and marketing in the farming communities is becoming easily popular and also gaining importance. Through many innovative methods we have achieved few remarkable achievements in our agriculture production. Agricultural growth requires satisfaction in new improved technologies available to increase yields and economic incentives sufficient to encourage farm families to invest in education and training. Thus, this paper critically analysis the current technologies used in agriculture and insist the importance of enhanced education and research systems in agriculture.

1. INTRODUCTION

"Most things, except agriculture can wait."-Jawaharlal Nehru

Agriculture has got a prime role in Indian economy. Agricultural development is an integral part of overall economic development. Without agriculture we can't 'survive, that is without food we can't live and our food chain will be disturbed. From this we can understand the importance of agriculture. India ranks second in farm output and are the largest producer of jute, pulses, wheat, paddy, fruits and vegetables. Hence agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy.

We know that education is the most important factor to reach development goals, because educated people can work more effectively. In India we have around 70 universities for agriculture. Agricultural growth requires satisfaction in new improved technologies available to increase yields and economic incentives sufficient to encourage farm families to invest in education and training. Thus, we will critically analyse the current technologies used in agriculture and insist the importance of enhanced education and research systems in agriculture.

POPULATION TREND

India is the second most populous country in the world. As per the 2011 census the population of India accounts for about 1.21 billion people. In the world India's contribution is 17.5 percent. Now China is the first largest populous country in the world with 1.355 billion people. India is projected

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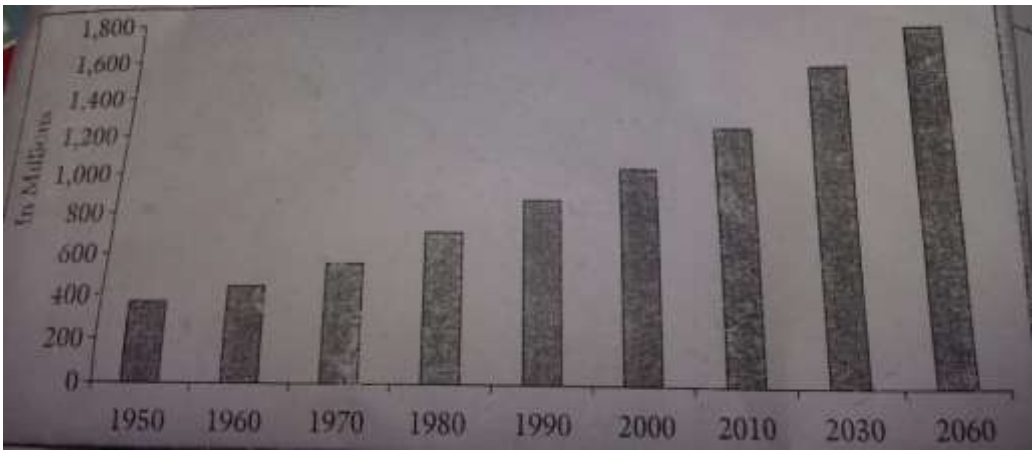
to be the world's largest populous country by 2030 which will overcome china's population that is 1.53 billion. This increasing population will reach 1.6 billion by 2050 and the peak at 1.7 billion in 2060. This population trend will be explained by following figure1.1

POPULATION OF INDIA IN MILLION



Source- Census (2011)

PRODUCTION TREND

To know the productivity of farms for many reasons, even though we are the largest producer of agricultural commodity from the earliest time. India's self sufficient. As per the agricultural census 2010-2011 the Gross Cropped Area (GCA) was estimated at 193.76 million hectares. And the net irrigated area was 64.57 million hectares. India's agricultural production was reducing day by day and in 2011-12 it was 259.29 million tonnes. It further reduced to 255.36 million tonnes in 2012-13 and in 2014-15 it again reduced to 252.68 million tonnes.

CONTRIBUTION OF GDP

Percentage share of agriculture in 1950-51 was 56 percentages. In every year the percentage of GDP reduced continuously and by 2011-12 It became 13.8 percentage. But in spite of this India has the largest labour force in agriculture accounting to 49 percentages.

FUTURISTIC PROBLEM

By comparing the above three aspects one side, the population was growing very fast but on the other side the agricultural production kept on reducing, and the contribution to GDP was also reducing. If the same scenario will continue it means that, in future the Indian economy will still continue to face big problems like poverty, food scarcity, famine, lack of raw material to industries, bio diversity etc. people may even fight for getting food.

To solve these problems we need to promote the **agricultural research and education**. Now a day's even the farmer is also not interested to give agricultural education to his son. The percentage of students enrolled in Agricultural degree course is reducing in the modern scenario. People are

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Vol-22-Issue-10-November-2019

not interested to study agriculture. Even though we have several agricultural policies, none of the policies are practised effectively and efficiently.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The skill and knowledge is generated from research and development. For deep investigation of anything, what we need is research. We already have Information Communication Technologies that are facilitates socio and economic development. It is helpful in providing internet service and mobile service to the agrarian like Kissan SMS Portal and so on. Article 46 of the constitution states that "the state shall promote with special care, the education and economic interest of the weaker section of the people.

2. SUGGESTIONS

Some of the suggestions and recommendations are as follows: When the percentage of Agricultural Production will increase through more number of people they are contributing in a positive manner which means that more number of students do their enrolment in agricultural studies. But the question is when it will come? When the value of the course is high. When the value of course will be high? When will the income from the course increase. All these are inter-linked and it can be achieved by adopting a well framed skill based education in agricultural studies and undertaking continuous research opportunities in the field of agricultural studies. In addition to all this there is a need for agricultural graduates having knowledge, skills, ability and also entrepreneurship to provide a class of village-based services such as diagnostic laboratories, advisories on new innovations, markets and avenues of development assistance for corporate and contract farming. Thus, agricultural research and education has become a vital factor for the use of better technological advancements in the field of agriculture, thereby leading to the economic growth and development of a country.

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