



Problems And Prospects Of Indian Agriculture

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Abstract:

Indian plays a very important and crucial role in Indian economy. India is second for largest population as well as area of arable land in the world and is a major producer of a number of agriculture products. Various industries depend upon agriculture for raw material. Most of the village population depends upon agriculture for employment. It is the largest sector in India for creating and giving employment opportunities to village people. It is the sector which gives food grains, vegetables and other necessary items to people in the nation. But this sector has gone from a very adverse situation from last few years due to various reasons such as increased prices of fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, labour wages, shortage of labour, pricing policy of agriculture goods, and so on. Lakhs of farmers makes suicides due to this reason. Government makes various policies but this problem did not get a final solution.

Key words: Agriculture, employment, food grains, farmers, Vegetables

Introduction:

India is an agrarian economy. Near about 68.84% of the total Indian population lives in rural area. They mostly depend upon agriculture for employment. It provides food grains, vegetables, milk and other daily needs goods to the people in the nation. It provides raw material to the industries such as sugarcane to sugar industries, oil seeds for oil industries, cotton for cloth industries and other agro based industries. It helps the economic development of the nation. Transport business also depends upon agriculture production by exporting agriculture goods foreign exchange receives by the government in the form of taxes. In economic planning agriculture sector is very important.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the importance of agriculture in the Indian economy.
2. To study the problems of Indian agriculture.
3. To study the prospectus of Indian agriculture.

Hypothesis of the study:

1. The importance of agriculture in Indian economy increases day by day with growing population.
2. The Indian agriculture faces many problems last few years.
3. The prospectus of Indian agriculture in future is very bright and challengeable.

Research Methodology:

While writing this research paper primary and secondary sources of data are used. In primary sources discussion with farmers, observation of farmers and in secondary data internet, reference books, conference proceedings, etc. are used. Indian agriculture is the largest and very important sector in Indian economy. It plays a very vital role in the economy. Majority of the population depends upon agriculture and related activities. It provides the food grains, vegetables, milk etc. to the economy. It also provides the raw material to various industries. It also gives foreign exchange to the government by exporting the agriculture goods. Government also takes into consideration this sector while making planning. It means this sector is very important in the economy. But last two decades this sector has gone from a very bad and adverse situation due to various reasons. Some of them are natural and some others are manmade.

Problems of Indian Agriculture Quality of seeds:-

Indian farmers use their own seeds which give less yield or income. They use traditional method for growing crops. They fear for the prices of seeds. In order to solve this problem government established the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) in 1963 and the State Farmers Corporation of India (SFCI) in 1969. High Yielding Variety Programme (HYVP) was launched in 1966-67 for increase the production of food grains in the nation.

Irrigation:-

It is the most important factor in the agriculture, Without irrigation there is no guarantee to grow the crop. India is the second largest nation for largest irrigated nation in the world after China. Only one third area is under the irrigation, Remaining two third area was depending upon monsoon. Monsoon did not come on time. This results less income. Government tries to overcome this problem by constructing dam, by closing the river for irrigation purpose. labour Lack of mechanization: Mechanization in agriculture is not yet made. Mechanization means not only purchase of tractors but also all other work in the agriculture is made with machinery where as force is avoided. Some measures are taken after green revolution(1960) for mechanization of agriculture but expected results are not yet get.

Small land holding:-

The average size of land holding was 2.28 hectares in 1970-71 it is reduced to 1.82 hectares in 1980-81 and 1.50 hectares in 1995-96 it further decreases due to various reasons. The small land will not be properly cultivated. The land holding in the nation is different in different states, The land of father is equally distributed among his sons. So it becomes less and less. Irrigation becomes difficult in such small farm.

Storage facility:-

This is the another problem faced by Indian agriculture is to where, when, how the produced goods are stored. In the market in harvest season prices were less and in off season prices were more as compare to season. So due to lack of storing facility farmers get less prices to their crops. Now a days there are number of agencies were engaged in ware housing and storage activity such as FCI (Food Corporation of India) CWC(Central ware housing Corporation) STC(State Ware housing Corporation) but it is difficult to a small farmer to store the goods in these godowns due to various documents and other formalities. One thing is seen in Latur district when farmer store the goods in these godowns, after some months the goods are not there and farmers were shocked.

Agricultural Marketing:-

Marketing is another problem of Indian agriculture. Farmers sale their products in mandi or aadat shop where prices were declared daily. Price was not depend upon production cost. It is declared by the purchaser, agent. So expected prices did not got by farmers. Many times cost is more than selling price. So farmers get loss by selling their products. Some goods like vegetables, milk were perishable goods. It will be sale quickly. So in harvest it got less prices. In many cases farmers sell their goods to local venders due to borrowing money from them. It means marketing of agriculture goods Is major problem of Indian agriculture.

Transport Facility:-

This is another major problem of Indian agriculture. The villages are not connected to the highways or district roads. The condition of roads was very bad. In rainy season farmers can't carry their products to market. Now a days also the roads in villages are bullock carts roads. There were very much mud on roads in rainy season. So farmers can't get the prices of their goods due to lack of inadequate transport facility. Carrying goods is very much costly to farmers which results high cost of production.

Scarcity of capital:

This is the big problem of Indian farmers. There is scarcity of capital. Farmers borrow from private money lenders, private institutions and then in harvest season they sell their products In less prices to repay the loan. The interest rate was very high as compare to banks and other government Institutions. Only one thing is that there is no need to give various documents to money lenders. Now a days also from independence period borrowing money from private money lenders is very much in rural area. Manures, fertilizers and biocides:- From thousands of years Indian soils have been used for cultivating crops without any replenishing. This will results in low productivity as compare to other nation in the world. So by using more fertilizers and manures for growing crop in Indian soil fertilizers were necessary. But in olden days when population was very less then

without using fertilizers land were cultivated. Now a days due to high demand and expectation of high yield from land fertilizers were use at high proportion. Now a days various disease were come on crops. So to preventing it from disease the use of pesticides were necessary. It will results in high cost of fertilizers, pesticides to farmers.

Soil Erosion:-

A big tracts of fertile land suffer from soil erosion by water and wind. Every year in India some area suffer from wind and some area suffer from water i.e. flood etc. This is very yearlamities Various parts ofs original feruiry year suffer from these disaster. So this area must be properly treated

Labour Problem:-

One of the major problem in rural area for agriculture is labour shortage, Inspire of the big employment creator and giver this sector, suffer from labour shortage, high wages etc. Mechanization is very less. So this sector has suffered from labour problem. Migration of rural people to urban area is one of the reason of labour shortage.

Uncertainty of getting income:-

Uncertainty is one of the problem of getting income from agriculture. Most of the land were depends upon monsoon. There is no guaranteed source of water to agriculture. Monsoon was very uncertain and whimsical. Due to pollution, less area of forest the rain fall is decreases day after day and year after year. So there is no guarantee of getting income from crops in the agriculture. So migration of farmers and labourers increase day by day.

Low productivity:-

The productivity of Indian agriculture land is very less as compare to other nations productivity. Due to less mechanization, shortage of capital, no permanent source of water, dependability on monsoon, migration of labour from rural to urban area, various disease on crop, less use of fertilizers, low quality seeds etc. Are the reasons of low productivity of Indian agriculture. These are some of the major problems of Indian agriculture faced by the farmers. Now a days also India is an agrarian economy. Most of the rural people depend upon agriculture and related activities. But this sector has gone from a very adverse situation.

Prospectus of Indian Agriculture:

India is second in the world for large population after China. It is also second in area of arable land in the world. In recent period becoming an agrarian economy there is shortage of food grains in India. But after green revolution the production is increase. But population is also increase at a faster rate. As compare to population growth other sector like industry, service sector were not developed. So there is a big stress on agriculture for employment, food grains, vegetables, milk etc. It is the responsibility of agriculture sector for supplying the food grains, vegetables, milk etc. To the people in the nation. According to the union government estimates, India's food production was 291.95 MT in 2019-20 for 2020-21 the government has set the target upto 298.3MT food production, must be doubled by 2050 to match the country's population and income growth. This is the very big and un achievable target to agriculture because the productivity of the land become less and

less due to continuous use for cultivation, continuous use of chemicals, pesticides etc. The quality of fertile land will be decrease day by day. No farmer will ready to cultivate land due to uncertainty, when he gets another source of income he will ready to leave land. On the other hand as growing population there is need of food, cloth, shelter. More use of cotton for cloth become necessary and for shelter, people use agriculture land for construction of row houses, shopping complex, flat systems, malls, roads etc. So the area of fertile land decreases day by day. Because land is gift of nature and it's size is limited. We can't increase or decrease it's size. This is a challenging task for people in every nation. For the fulfillment of food grains, vegetables, land will be limited and it's demand will increase day by day.

Conclusion:-

Agriculture sector plays an important role in every nation. The basic needs of the people i.e. food, cloth, shelter were satisfied with the help of agriculture. So it is a prime responsibility of agriculture sector to provide food grains, vegetables, milk and other daily needs products to the people in the nation. So in near future it is a challenge to agriculture because size of land is limited, with growing population the needs of people for food grains, houses, will increase. Most of the fertile land is used for the construction of houses, malls, shopping complex, markets, roads, etc. So the size of fertile land will decrease and on the other hand the demand for the food grains and other daily needs items will increase. There are various problems in front of Indian agriculture. So it is a very difficult situation in front of this sector in coming future.

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