



‘Agriculture And Rural Development Policies’

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Introduction:

Agricultural sector is an important area of the Indian economy since ancient times because agriculture is the main occupation of the people of India, agricultural sector is important in national income, employment, industrial development, foreign trade and overall economic development of the country. Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. It is said that we are aware of the importance of agricultural sector in the Indian economy. The economic development of a developing nation like India is dependent on the agricultural sector's development. Although natural resources are available in India, there is a shortage of industrialization due to lack of capital. As a result, the agriculture sector has provided employment to the growing population. Employment in the agricultural and agricultural industries is available to the workers of the country. Agriculture sector has an important role to play in reducing the unemployment rate in the country. India has a large scope of capital shortage. It can be overcome by the power deficit because of the low production of capital in the agricultural sector, and can result in large scale production by investing less capital. The need for large scale foreign currency for the development of agriculture sector is not the only industrial sector. Therefore, after the independence of the Five Year Plan, India's economic development through industrial sector as well as agriculture sector has also been given importance in the Five Year Plan. To develop the economic development of the country, it is necessary to develop the country's agricultural sector first of all. If adequate development of agriculture does not come forward, the obstacles in the development of industry and services sector are created. Therefore, during the first Five Year Plans, the Planning Commission of India gave the most importance to the agriculture sector. The performance of the agricultural sector influences the growth of Indian Economy. Agriculture has been a way of life and continues to be the single most important livelihood of the masses. Agriculture policy focus in India across decades has been on self-sufficiency and self-reliance in food grains production. The performance of the agricultural sector influences the growth of the Indian Economy. Agriculture has been a way of life and continues to be the single most important livelihood of the masses. Agricultural policy focus in India across decades has been on self-sufficiency and self-reliance in food grains production. Considerable progress has been made on this front food grains production rose from 52 million tonnes in 1951-52 to 264.77 million tonnes in 2013-14 but slightly declined to 252.22 million tonnes in 2015. As per the new series the growth in GVA in Agriculture and allied sector was estimated at 4.2 percent for the year 2013-14. For 2014-15, this estimate stands at -0.2 percent for the year 2016-17 this growth rate has been estimated at 4.1% besides the share of agriculture and allied sector in total GDP was estimated to be 17.4

percent. For 2016-17 it has been estimated at 17. % the share of Agriculture and allied sectors in total Gross Capital Formation has been estimated at 7.7% for the year 2014-15.

- **Keyword:** Rural development, Status of Agriculture, Land reforms, Land position
- **Concept of Rural Development**

Rural Development has never been a new concept for India it is rather interwoven in the heritage of Indian culture, mention of it has been made along with the history of mankind. Even in the famous epics and dramas like Ramayana and Mahabharata the instances of rural governance in terms of welfare of the people, justice to the people has been made. The philosophy of governance in such literature gives hints of Rural Development. India is a country of villages and its development is synonymous with the development of the people living in rural areas. India is a vast and second most populous country of the world. (According to the 1991 census, 74.28 per cent population of our country reside in the countryside). But a big part of this population has been leading an uncertain economic life due to non-synchronization of employment opportunities in agriculture sector because of the fast growing population. Rural development has been receiving increasing attention of the governments across the world. In the Indian context rural development assumes special significance for two important reasons. First about two thirds of the population still lives in villages and there cannot be any progress so long as rural areas remain backward. Second, the backwardness of the rural sector would be a major impediment to the overall progress of the economy. The term 'rural development' is of focal interest and is widely acclaimed in both the developed and the developing countries of the world. There is however no universally acceptable definition of rural development, and the term is used in different ways and in vastly divergent context. As a concept, it can note overall development of rural areas with a view to improve the quality of life of rural people. In this sense it is a comprehensive and multidimensional concept and encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities-village and cottage industries and crafts, socio- economic infrastructure, community services and facilities, and above all, the human resources in rural areas. As a phenomenon, it is the result of interactions between various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional factors. As a strategy, it is designed to improve the economic and social well-being of a specific group of people the rural poor. As a discipline, it is multidisciplinary in nature representing an intersection of agriculture social behavioural, engineering and management sciences. In the words of Robert Chambers, "Rural Development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people poor rural women and men, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and need. It involves helping the poorest among these who seek a livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. The group includes small scale farmers, tenants and the landless.

• **Objectives of the Research Paper**

1. To study the policies adopted for the rural Development of Agriculture
2. To study the importance of Agriculture in the Indian Economy.

• **Research Methodology**

For the present research paper, the information has been collected from various secondary sources present research paper is mostly based on various overview, reports various books, articles, internet, etc.

• **Policies of Rural Development**

In the first and second plan the government has actually tries for rural development. 1950-51 to 2018, the government has announced different schemes for rural development and the policies are not implemented properly a review of the government policies for rural development is as follows.

1. **Technological measures**
2. **Land reforms**
3. **Co-Operation and consolidation of holding**
4. **Institutions involving people's participation in planning**
5. **Food security system**
6. **Rural Employment programme**

1. Technological measures

Initiation of measures to increase Agriculture production substantially to meet the growing needs of the population and also to provide a base for industrial development included steps to increase both extensive cultivation and intensive cultivation. For the former, irrigation facilities were provided to a large area on an increasing basic and area hitherto unfit new agricultural strategy was introduced in the form of a package programme in selected regions of the country in 1966. Sustain and extend this programme to larger and larger areas of the country, steps were initiated to increase the production of high- yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides within the economy and supplement domestic production by imports whenever necessary as a result of these measures agricultural production and productivity increased day by day.

2. Land reforms

land reform measures to abolish intermediary interest in land and transfer of land to actual tiller of the soil were expected to be taken up on a priority basis measures taken under this head included 1) Abolition of intermediaries 2) Tenancy reforms to (a) regulate rents paid by tenants to landlords (b) provide securities of tenure to tenants and (c) confer ownership rights on tenants 3) imposition of ceiling on holding in a bid to procure land for distribution among landless labours and marginal farmers.

3. Co-Operation and consolidation of holding

in a bid to reorganise agriculture and prevent subdivision and fragmentation of holding the Indian agriculture programmes of co-operation and consolidation of holding. the letter programme aimed at consolidating all plots of land owned by a particular farmer in different places of the village by sanctioning him land at one place equal in area to his plots of land.

4. Institutions involving people's participation in planning

Bringing small and marginal farmers together to cultivate jointly is only half of the story. No planning in any country can be successful unless the masses are encouraged to join hands with the planning authorities in a bid to carry out the plans and programmes framed for their uplift and betterment.

5. Food security system

In a bid to provide food grains and other essential goods to consumers at cheap and subsidised rates the government of India has built up an elaborate food security system in the form of public distribution system (PDS) during the planning period. PDS not only ensures availability of food grains at cheap prices to the consumers but also operates as a 'safety net' by maintaining large stocks of food grains in order to combat any shortage and shortfalls that might occur in some years and in certain areas of the country.

6. Rural Employment programme

PDS alone cannot serve as an effective safety net. This is due to the reason that unless the poor have adequate purchasing power they cannot buy their requirement from the PDS. Therefore, large scale poverty alleviation programmes in the form of rural employment programme are required to provide purchasing power to the poor on account of this reason, the government introduction various poverty alleviation programmes particularly from fourth plan onwards like small farmer's development Agency(SFDA), Marginal farmers and Agricultural Labour Development Agency(NREP) (MFAL) National Rural Employment Programme (RLEGP) jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, (SGRY) National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) etc. taken together and implementation efficiently, PDS and rural Employment programmes can work as effective safety net for the poor.

• Importance of Agriculture in the Indian Economy

Agriculture is an important place in the economic development of the country. To fulfil the basic needs of the population of the country, the agricultural business is seen as an area of supply of raw materials for industrial development. The following are some of the important aspects of farming in the economy of the country.

- 1. The main tool of survival
- 2. Food supply to the people
- 3. Fodder availability for livestock
- 4. Agriculture sector contribution to national income

5. The agricultural sector is the main tool of employment**6. To promote industrial development****7. Foreign Currency Availability****1. The main tool of survival**

68 percent of the total population of the country is directly and indirect livelihood of people living in rural areas, depending on farming and affiliate business. The livelihood of 31 percent of urban people living in urban areas depends on agriculture.

2. Food supply to the people

To provide food to the Indian people, crops are grown in a big way. Foods like wheat, rice, jowar, millet, cereals and oilseeds include green revolution because of the positive change in the agricultural sector, due to the increase in the production of livelihoods, due to artificial insemination in the animal husbandry business, the Shevat Revolution has succeeded. Agriculture sector is considered for supply of food to huge population.

3. Fodder availability for livestock

Fertility availability is important for cattle in India. Agriculture produced by agricultural products is the production of fodder for agriculture as well as in agriculture. Milk business, the milk processing industry gets encouraged to generate employment.

4. Agriculture sector contribution to national income.

The share of agricultural sector in the national income of the country is larger. In 1950- 51, agriculture sector's contribution to national income was 57% and in 2001-02 it was 26.2% and the share of agriculture and allied sector in total GDP was estimated to be 17.4 percent in 2016-17.

5. The agricultural sector is the main tool of employment.

If you think of 2011 census, 58% of the population is working in the field of agriculture. They have to rely on the farm sector for their livelihood. Even if employment is available from the agriculture sector, the quality of living is not raised. The problem of migrating seasonal unemployment is in the field of agriculture. Due to the absence of opportunity for self-employed, lack of professional and technical education, together with family methods, lack of scientific approach, etc., due to various reasons, the growing population in rural areas is dependent on agriculture.

6. To promote industrial development

The raw cotton required for the industry is available from the farming sector. Industry depends on many areas of cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds etc. Small businesses like handloom, rice, and these rely on agriculture. Fruit juice, papad, tea, coffee, soap, oil and salt stand on raw materials in the industry sector. Increasing agricultural productivity increases farmers' purchasing power, increasing demand for industrial products increases the cost of farm produce, which leads to cost reduction in the cost of increase in production. Industrial development process can accelerate in agricultural development in many ways

7. Foreign Currency Availability

Export of essential commodities and services required by the country for the development of the country must be increased. In order to get the modern technology of the developed country, there is huge opportunity for the country to export agricultural products to India. There is an opportunity to get foreign currency through exports of food grains, tea, sugar, tobacco, oilseeds, spices etc. The importance of agriculture business cannot be denied in the economic socio-economic development of the country. Agriculture development is mandatory for industrial growth. Every sector of the economy has a direct and indirect relationship with the agriculture business.

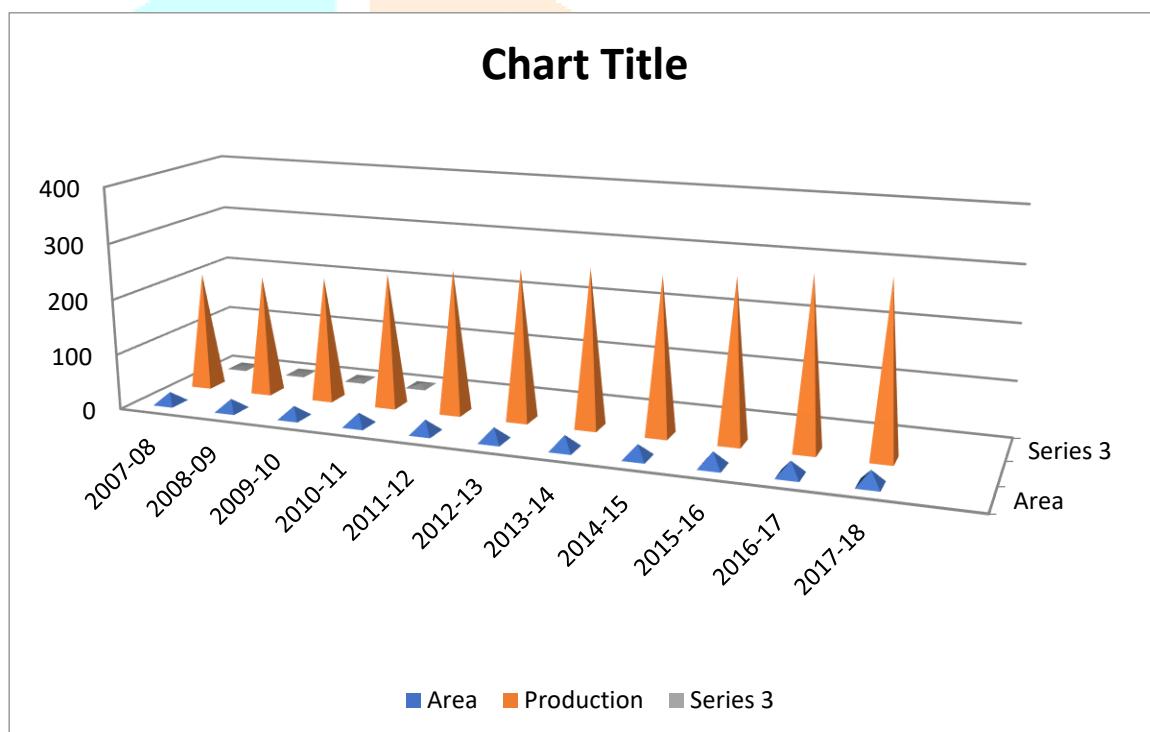
Review of Agriculture Production in India: The trend of agricultural production in recently is as follows

Table: -Area and Agriculture Production

Year	Area (m. Ha)	Production(m.MT)
2007-08	20.2	211.0
2008-09	20.5	214.4
2009-10	20.8	223.2
2010-11	21.8	240.4
2011-12	23.2	257.3
2012-13	23.7	268.8
2013-14	24.5	280.8
2014-15	23.2	277.7
2015-16	25.5	286.2
2016-17	24.8	300.2
2017-18	24.9	305.4

Sources: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare -2018

From the above table it appears that the increase in agricultural production during 2007-08 to 2017-18 shows that there is an increase in agricultural production. Even if you think of agriculture, agriculture area is increasing.



Conclusion

The above study shows that agriculture is the oldest and most traditional business in India, and development of agricultural sector depends on the development of the industries, transport, banks and financial institutions, foreign trade, etc. The importance of agriculture is more common in the Indian economy. In the pre-indigenous period, the share of agricultural sector in the national income of India has been decreasing, in the post-independence period, if agriculture is to be developed, then development and welfare of people in rural areas will be there. After independence, considering the Indian agricultural sector, the government has announced various schemes for rural development, some of which have helped in rural development, but these schemes should be implemented. After reviewing the Indian agricultural production, it seems that growth in agricultural production is seen from 2007 to 2018. rural development of our country includes any programme for promoting the social and economic welfare of rural population or the upliftment of the masses in rural areas”.

As may be seen this meaning is comprehensive block in India were set-up under the community development programme which was started on a pilot basics in 1952 and was extended in states to the entire country by 1963. Since then the development blocks have continued to function as primary units for rural and agricultural development not only in our country but in whole of the world.

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