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Agricultural Development in India

Mr. Dnyaneshwar Vishnu Go



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06

Impact of Economic Reforms on Rural Development

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Introduction:-

Agriculture sector is the mainstay of the rural economy around which all socio-economic act are revolved. Any change in this structure is likely to have immense effect on the existing pattern. After July 1991, series of revolutionary decisions were taken to improve the economic structure and reset the trade imbalance. The reforms included the structural changes in monetary policy. The characteristics of the reforms were 1) Globalization 2) Liberation and 3) Privatization.

Main problems in the rural areas are poverty, low living standards malnutrition, unemployment and lack of industries of the three sectors, the tertiary sector has improved alot, while secondary sector is still improving but the primary sector is lacking for behind. Since agriculture continues to be a tradable sector, this reform policy has far reaching effects on agriculture imports & exports investment in new technology, Infrastructure, agriculture growth income & pricing of products. In this respect, Khusro committee & Narsingham committee was set up. The recommendations failed to have any impact on investment and agriculture growth. Investment in agriculture infrastructure needed a huge sum of money. Also liberalization and agriculture growth, process opened up the agriculture economy. Marketing of

India has a great potential to the development of agro —tourism, because of natural conditions and different types of agri products as well as variety of rural traditions, festivals. More than 31% of population is live in urban areas and they want enjoy rural life and want to know about the rural life. It is a good opportunity to develop an agro-tourism, but here is a problem of low awareness about this business in the farmer and problem of finance and proper view in the farmers.

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agricultural product also improved due to economic reforms.

The main problem of agriculture development was to improve productivity, employment and income of vast population who were dependent on agriculture livelihood. Among those people, small farmers contributed a significant number. Before 1991, 40% of rural households were landless & 23 of the owned land holders were small and medium farmers. In the decade from 1991 to 2000, the percentage of small landholders increased from 14% to 21%. Small farmers grew with the largest shop of 34%. Before reforms the percentage of large farmers was 1% but owned 14% of the total land. The situation is still improving.

IX Plan Strategy on Agricultural Development

The agricultural development strategy for the Ninth Five Year Plan is essentially based on the policy on food security announced by the Government, to double the food production and make India hunger free in ten years. The Strategy to ensure food security as follows: Doubling food production; Increase in employment & income; Supplementary/sustained employment and creation of rural infrastructure through Poverty Alleviation Programmes (APA); Distribution of food grants to the people Below Poverty Line (BPL)

The Ninth Plan Target is to achieve a growth rate of about 4.5% per annum agricultural output and production of 234 MT of food grains by 2001-02. The policy thrust and key elements of Growth Strategy, as proposed in the Ninth Five Year Plan Documentare as follows: Conservation of land, water and biological resources; Rural infrastructure development; Development of rainfed agriculture; Development of minor irrigation; Timely and adequate availability of inputs; Increasing flow of credit; Enhancing public sector investment enhanced support for

research; Effective transfer of technology; Support for marketing infrastructure; Export promotion.

Agricultural planning and development

India is vast country with variety of landforms, climate, geology, physiography and vegetation India is endowed with regional diversities for its uneven "economic and agricultural" development, on account of (i) agro-climatic environments (15 Zones/127 regions), (ii) Agro-ecological regions (20) and 60 sub-regions, (iii) Agro-Ecopedic regions, (iv) Terrain mapping sub-units, (v) Natural resources endowments (geology, geomorphology, soil, ground water, surface water & infrastructure), (vi) Human resources (Population density), (vii) Level of investments in rural infrastructure and (viii) Level of investment in technology and its adoption.

India has total geographical area (TGA) of 329 Million Hectares (MH) out of which, about 265 MH represent varying degrees of potential for biological production (Randaw89), Dhuruv89) report reveals that more than 50% of TG is threatened by various types of land degradation, such as soil erosion, gully & ravine formation, salinity, water logging, shifting cultivation, etc. Development of irrigation potentials considered as the key factor in the sustenance of "Green Revolution", Despite 50 years of development planning, rainfed agriculture is the largest and the most important sector of crop production in India.

Water Resources of India contain diverse group of flora and fauna. Agricultural is the greatest user of Water accounting for about 80% of all consumption. Animal Husbandry and Fisheries require abundant water. Development of Water Resources, since Independence, has been undertaken for specific purposes like irrigation, flood control, hydro-power generation,

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drinking water supply, industrial and various miscellaneous uses. Minor irrigation projects have both, surface and ground water is their source, while major and medium projects mostly exploit surface water resource. The break up of the ultimate irrigation potential under the above three categories is, (1) 58 M.Ha by major and medium irrigation projects, (2) 17 M.Ha by minor surface water scheme. (3) 64 M.Ha by minor ground water schemes.

Fisheries Resources of India are either inland or marine. The principal rivers and the tributaries, canals ponds, lakes, reservoirs comprise inland fisheries. The river extend about 27,3000kms, and other subsidiary water channel comprise about 112,000 kms. Marine resources comprises of about 2 million sq.kms. of EEZ for deep sea fishing and 7,250kms of coastline. With the diverse fish fauna, the development objectives re to judiciously & optimally utilize the resources for (NBFGR2K): Enhancing production and productivity of fishermen, fish farmers and fishing industry; Increasing fish production and thereby, raising nutritional standard of people; Earning of foreign exchange from export of marine products; Improving Socio-economic conditions of traditional fishermen; Generating employment for costal and rural poor; and Conservation of depleting species of fish.

Good infrastructure helps in raising productivity and lowering the unit cost in the production activities of the economy. "Agricultural Infrastructure" refers to "Rural Infrastructure" whereas "Industrial Infrastructure" refers to "Urban Infrastructure". Agricultural development requires (i) agricultural research and extension, (ii) rural financial institution, (iii) irrigation and drainage, iv) agriculture inputs (fertilizers, seeds, credits) and v) marketing and storage facilities.

Agriculture Credit is a crucial input for increasing agricultural production and productivity. Institutional finance for agricultural credit is disbursed mainly by Commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks, Land Development Banks and Co-operative banks. Share of commercial banks in total institutional credit to agriculture is about 48%, that of Co-operative banks is about 46% and Regional Rural Banks account for 6% only. Short-term Credit accounts for 2/3rd of the total institutional lending to the Agriculture.

Drought has multiplier effect on agricultural production during the subsequent year also, due to (i) non-availability of quality seeds for showing of crops, ii) inadequate draught power for carrying out agricultural operations as a result of either distress sale of cattle or loss of life, (iii) reduced use of fertilizers as the investment capacity of the farmers decline, (iv) non-availability of raw materials in agro-based industries and (v) deforestation to meet the energy needs indomestic sector agricultural waste may not be available in required quantity.

The Central Ministry (OA) is responsible for implementation and formulation of national policies and programmes to achieve agricultural growth through optimum utilization of the land resources, water, soil, plant, fihseries& livestock resources.

P.A. Compound Growth of Area, Production & Yield of Major Crops

Crop/Year	1991-2000			2001-2014		
	Area	Prod.	Yield	Area	Prod.	Yield
Rice	0.68	2.02	1.34	0	1.82	1.82
Wheat	1.72	3.57	1.83	1.35	2.65	1.29
Cereals	-2.12	-0.02	1.82	0.25	2.96	2.7
Pulses	-0.6	0.59	0.93	1.59	3.72	2.1
Sugarcane	-0.07	2.73	1.05	1.34	2.1	0.75
Oil Seeds	0.86	1.63	1.15	2.35	4.71	2.31
Cotton	2.71	2.29	-0.41	3.22	13.33	9.99

After economic reforms green revolution played a major role in getting high yield seeds

fertilizers, irrigation facilities in agriculture. As a result the rice production increased by 2% & wheat production by 3.5% compound annual growth rate of area, production and productivity of pulses improved by 1.59%, 3.72% & 2.10% respectively. The production of sugarcane increased by 7 times in 2013-14 as compared to 2000. The above table shows that compound growth rate of are production and yield during 2000 to 2014 has been higher than previous 2 decades, for cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds and cotton but it has declined for rice and wheat.

Conclusion:-

In the past economic reforms era, the private and government culture sector increased alot but the performance of agriculture sector is not satisfactory. After economic reforms green revolution took place. As a result Rice & Wheat production increased. The main problem is the annual growth rate of agriculture sector GDP is not stable and recently the labour productivity rate has declined. All in all there is bit of improvement in rural and agriculture development but a lot of work is still to be done in this sector.

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07

New Agricultural Strategy : A Boon to the Farmer

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1966, the term 'Green Revolution' or New Agricultural Strategy has shown tremendous impact on the development of agricultural sector in India. Under green revolution agriculture becomes different from traditional agriculture. It is more influenced by market forces. Since it came suddenly and brought unexpected results in a very short span of time it is termed as green revolution in agriculture. With the application of HYVs the overall rates of growth of agricultural output accelerated and shown a sudden increase in overall production. In 60 years of planning era agricultural development was more considerable one. Due to green revolution India became self sustained in agro production wherein in 2002 January, it has got surplus stock of 58 crore ton of food grains available in its stock. The period of mid-1960s was very important from the point of view of agriculture sector. New high-yielding varieties of wheat were developed in Mexico and adopted by many countries. As a result of these high varieties, production of wheat per hectare rise to a new height of 50 to 60 quintals in Mexico in 1965. Some other countries too recorded the same positive results.

GREEN REVOLUTION IN INDIA

The application of high yielding varieties of seeds required proper irrigation facilities and extensive use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides. So in India they were introduced in

