

AGRICULTURE:-AN INTEGRAL FACTOR OF INDIAN ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT

The history of **Agriculture in India** dates back to Indus Valley Civilization Era and even before that in some parts of Southern India. Today, India ranks second worldwide in farm output. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry and fisheries accounted for 13.7% of the GDP (gross domestic product) in 2013, about 50% of the workforce. The economic contribution of agriculture to India's GDP is steadily declining with the country's broad-based economic growth. Still, agriculture is demographically the broadest economic sector and plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic fabric of India. Punjab (the five rivers region) is one of the most fertile regions on earth. The region is ideal for growing wheat crop. Rice, sugar cane, fruits and vegetables are also grown. Indian Punjab is called the "Granary of India" or "India's bread-basket." Many records mistakenly mention that it produces 43% of India's wheat, but that is actually its contribution to the national pool. It produces 17% of India's wheat, and 11% of India's rice (2013 data). The total area of Punjab is just 1.4% of total area of India, but it produces roughly 12% of the cereals produced in the country. The largest grown crop is wheat.

Modern varieties, irrigation, and fertilizers were the important contributors of higher growth in crop production. However, technology and institutional support for a few crops such as rice and wheat have changed crop area and output composition significantly in some regions. The results of the crop output growth model indicate that enhanced capital formation, better irrigation facilities, normal rainfall, and improved fertilizer consumption will help increase crop output in the country.

I. INTRODUCTION

India is mainly an agricultural country. Agriculture is the most important occupation for most of the Indian families. In India, agriculture contributes about sixteen percent (16%) of total GDP and ten percent (10%) of total exports.

Over 60 % of India's land area is arable making it the second largest country in terms of total arable land. Agricultural products of significant economic value includes rice, wheat, potato, tomato, onion, mangoes, sugar-cane, beans, cotton, etc.

II. ECONOMIC GROWTH

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. Though, with the growth of other sectors, the overall share of agriculture on GDP of the country has decreased. Still, Agriculture continues to play a dominant part in the overall economic scenario of India.

III. SOURCE OF FOOD FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION

Food is essential for life. We depend on agricultural outputs for our food requirements. India produces large quantity of food grains such as millets, cereals, pulses, etc. A major portion of the food-stuffs produced is consumed within the country. Our farmers work day and night to feed our population that counts over 1.21 billion.

Besides agriculture with a commercial bias, subsistence agriculture with its emphasis on the production of food for the cultivator's family is widespread. Traditionally, Agriculture is followed as the simplest method of obtaining food for the family. Agriculture in India is more a 'way of life' than a 'mode of business'.

IV. EXPORT

India exports excess food and agricultural products. A large proportion of India's export trade is based on the agricultural products, such as jute, tea, tobacco, coffee, spices, and sugar. It helps in increasing the foreign exchange. India is ranked seventh in terms of agricultural exports. In 2013, India exported agricultural products valuing around 39 billion dollars.

V. BASIC OCCUPATION OF MILLIONS

Agriculture is the basic occupation for majority of main-workers in India. A large number of rural women are also engaged in agriculture. According to 2001 census, over 56.6% of the main workers in India are engaged in agricultural and allied activities.

VI. AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES

A number of industries are agro-based industries, such as jute, cotton, sugar, tobacco, etc. Raw materials for such industries are supplied from agricultural produce.

VII. GREEN REVOLUTION

Green revolution began in India with an objective to give greater emphasis on Agriculture. The era of Green revolution that began in 1960s witnessed significant increase in the production of food crops. The introduction of improved methods of agriculture and high yielding varieties (HYV) seeds, mainly wheat, had resulted

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into remarkable improvement in agricultural outputs. The productivity of land increased tremendously giving huge economic boost to the nation.

Estimates for total number of farmers in India, for 2011, accordingly range from 95.8 million (8%) to **263 million** (22%) to 450 million (38%), out of a total population of over 1.2 billion. Others estimate the total number of farmers in India to be about **600 million** (50% of total population).

By one measure at least, agriculture ranks as one of the extraordinary success stories of the past decades. Roughly one quarter of the earth's terrestrial surface is now under cultivation with more land converted to crop production in the 30 years after 1950 than in the previous 150. In many regions - including Europe, North America, Australia and recently Brazil, China and India – humanity has also become adept at raising yields through using inputs like fertilizers and pesticides (UNEP, 2006).

Economic development country depends on the agriculture and industry development. Agricultural sector contribution (national income, foreign exchange, industry and employment) in overall economy of India. Agriculture is the backbone of the country. Nearly two-thirds of its population directly depends on agriculture. About 26% of gross domestic products made from it. Agriculture completes food requirements of the people and produces raw material for industries. From agricultural point of view, India is a unique country. This led to green revolution in several parts of India. It helps in increasing yields and total production of different crops. Farmers are not using artificial ways like fertilizers and use good quality of seeds. Farmer's exploitation (less margin) is responsible for low productivity and also pressure on land and no credit from banks. (Shenggen F, A. Gulati and Throat S., 2008). Indian agricultural development has passes through the four stages.

1	Pre-green revolution (1950-65)	Boot in productivity growth of coarse grains and pulses per unit of land.
2	Green revolution (1966-67,1978-80)	Expansion of area and productivity of wheat & rice, improved/ HYV's- wide spread adoption, expansion of agriculture.
3	Post-green-revolution (1980-2000)	Continued growth in yield through intensification of fertilizers, labour input, and gradual decline in productivity growth, expansion of area under maize, cotton, sugarcane and oilseeds.
4	Commercialization	Further diversification of cropping patterns, from low value to high value crops such as; fruits, vegetable, flowers and other horticultural/medical crops for domestic consumption, processing & export.

VIII. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the Agricultural Development during the Plan Periods in India
2. To study the growth pattern as well as development in the sector

IX. EVALUATION OF POLICY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

Indian British colonial government did not pursue an active policy of agricultural development. The Royal Commission agriculture was appointment in 1926 which made some policies for improving agriculture and promoting the welfare of the rural population.

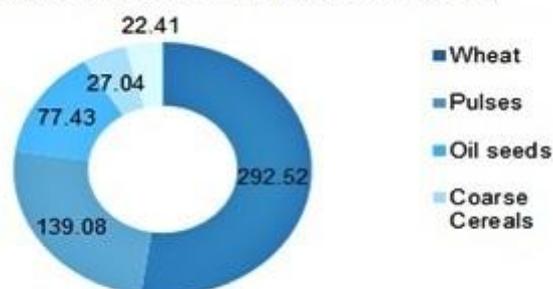
X. THE GREEN REVOLUTION

Indian agriculture plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. For the agriculture sector to supply food, release labour, provide saving, contribute to the market for industrial goods and earn foreign exchange, it has generated more and more marketable surplus. Since the supply of land remains fixed, this requires raising agricultural production. This is why from the mid-1960s; India's planning laid stress on policies to raise the land productivity in agriculture as the most crucial development priority of a long-run development strategy. (M.S. Randhawa et al, 1987). Achievements of Green Revolution are:-

3. Rise in production and productivity.
4. Increase in income.
5. Rise in commercial farming.
6. Impact on social revolution.
7. Increase in employment.

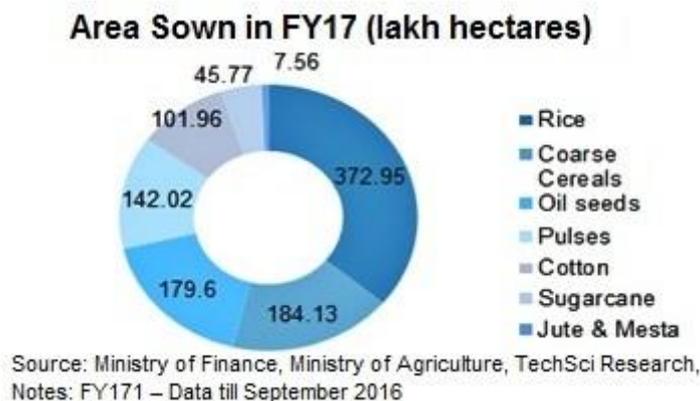
AREA SOWN IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2016 & 2017

Area Sown in FY16 (lakh hectares)



Source: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, TechSci Research

Interpretation:- In India according to the survey of Ministry of Agriculture over 292.52 area is sown for wheat which represents the major contribution of wheat in the development and need of economy.



INTERPRETATION

The area sown in financial year 2017 represents that rice has a major contribution about 372.95

CONCLUSION

Agricultural sector contribution to national income, foreign exchange, industry and employment is a measure of the sector's importance in the overall economy of the country. Agriculture plays a dominant role in the Indian economy. Agriculture plays a very important/significant role in Indian economy. Basically, India is an agricultural country, which depends on natural resources for agriculture. The prosperity of India and Indian economy both depend on agriculture of India. Farmers need medium term credit for, purchase of ploughs agricultural equipment's tractors and other technology and they need long-term agricultural development such as improvement of land (fertilization of land) construction of boundaries and horticulture.

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