



AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract :

India's rural areas have a population of roughly “12 per cent of the world's total, making them larger than Europe. 833.5 million people, or 69 per cent of the total population, still live in rural areas in India, making it one of the most rural countries globally (Ohlan, Ramphul, 2016). A large portion of the population lives in rural areas. Still, they contribute a disproportionately small share of gross domestic product. They have poor growth metrics, such as a decrease in human development index and life span in Indian states with every increase in the rural population and a lack of access to education”. Similarly, rurality is associated with higher rates of infant mortality, low-quality pregnancies, and a population living below the federal poverty line and at risk of starvation.

India is primarily an agricultural country and their basic livelihood is farming. As far as development methods, social alliances and political arrangements are concerned, the rural sector is in a challenging and abandoned to a large extent. Moreover, the gap between the availability of technological innovations in the agricultural sector has expanded between the rich and the poor, as the wealthier farmers, relative to the small ones, earn a significant share of new agricultural technology.

In rural areas, farmers are heading toward non-agricultural practices because of a lack of revenue. The 12th Plan’s key objective is to encourage farmers so that they can improve the potential of small farms by increasing knowledge connectivity, increasing investment opportunities. MGNREGA provides the wage, guaranteed for 100 days and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) aims to create sustainable livelihoods for the poor (BPL) by enabling them in their federation’s Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and manufacturing. These two important government schemes are concentrated for rural development initiatives mainly in the field of agriculture. Still there are lot of problems which were faced by the farmers like poor supply of water, uneven climatic conditions and poor management of crops.

Key Words : Agricultural development, Rural Development

Introduction :



As India is a rural country, India is home to two-thirds of its inhabitants. Rural people are growing at the same rate as the overall population of the country (Arora & et al., 2021). According to the official figures, “registrar and Census Commissioner C Chandramouli said that the rural and urban distributions are 69 per cent and 30 per cent respectively. The proportion of people living in rural areas dropped from 72.19 per cent in 2002 to 68.84 per cent in 2010, as urban population grew from 27.81 per cent to 31.16 per cent. In 2010, the overall literacy rate in India was 74 per cent, with men accounting for 82 per cent of the total and women holding for 66 per cent of the total (CENSUS, 2011). But the majority of the population has been living a troubled life, owing to the agricultural sector lacking job opportunities due to India’s rapidly developing population. Rural growth is becoming more critical in the Indian ecosystem for two vital reasons. First the agricultural sector mainly depends on seasons and second, the rural sector being backward is a significant barrier to the general development of the Indian economy.

India is primarily an agricultural-based country and their basic livelihood is farming. As far as development methods, social alliances and political arrangements are concerned, the alleviation of the rural sector is challenging and moreover abandoned to a large extent. The gap between the availability of technological innovations in the agricultural sector has expanded between the rich and the poor, as the wealthier farmers, relative to the small ones, earn a significant share of new agricultural technology (Gangopadhyay, Mukhopadhyay, & Singh, 2008).

As shown in the 2011, Programme Evaluation Report (Planning Commission, Government of India,) the total rural population of the country is 83.25 crore (68.8 per cent of the total population) (Planning Commission, 2013). A general consensus has been reached that rural development should be inclusive and sustainable in order to reduce poverty. The provisional Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) for the Ministry of Rural Development is Rs. 44,3261 crores (against the 11th Plan period Rs. 29,1682 crores) which includes in the main programs. Despite the fact that agriculture currently accounts for just 23 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is still the primary source of livelihood for the majority of the rural population. Within the rural sector, important additional reforms are taking place and there are strong signs of increased implementation in this respect”. Compared to the 10th Plan, agricultural development has improved and the progress continues in this respect.

**Table 1.1 Agriculture and associated sectors growth**

Five Year Plan	Share of Agriculture in the Economy (in %)	Growth Rate of Agriculture and Allied Sectors (in %) (All figures based on 2004-05 prices)	Growth Rate of Total Economy (in %)
Ninth Five year Plan	23.4	2.5	5.7
Tenth Five Year Plan	19.0	2.4	7.6
Eleventh Five Year Plan	16.8	5.8	9.3
2007-08	15.8	0.1	6.7
2008-09	14.6	0.8	8.6
2009-10	14.5	7.9	9.3
2010-11 (2 nd RE)	14.1	3.6	6.2
2011-12 (Rev Est)	15.2	3.7	8.0

Source: Central Statistical Office, New Delhi, 2013

Nowadays in rural areas, farmers are heading toward non-agricultural practices because of a lack of revenue. The 12th Plan's key objective is to encourage farmers so that they improve the potential of small farms by increasing knowledge, connectivity for markets, and increase investment opportunities. MGNREGA provides the wage company and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) aims to create sustainable livelihoods for the poor (BPL) by enabling them in their federation's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and manufacturing (Minister of Rural Development, 2013).

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT IN HARYANA

Almost two decades of nonviolent resistance by the people of Haryana led to the creation of the new state of Haryana on November 1, 1966, as a result of the partition of Punjab. As part of Punjab, Haryana remained an underdeveloped region even after gaining independence in 1947. It was not given its fair share of development plans, programmes, utilities, agriculture, irrigation, and other resources. New growth and stability have been ushered in by Haryana State's distinct political identity due to improved agricultural productivity in the region (Haryana State Gazetteer, 2020).



First, as part of Punjab then as an independent state, Haryana has passed and adopted legislative acts regularly. Legal actions relating to land reform in Punjab were enacted in 1954, 1956, 1958, and several other years. The Haryana Ceiling on Property Holdings Act of 1972 was created to unify the state's land ownership restrictions legislation (Planning Commission, 1966).

From being a state with food deficit in 1966 when it was formed, Haryana has been a pivotal contributor to its food grain pool. The exponential increase in agricultural output in Haryana was extraordinary in scope. As a result, it has contributed much to the state's varied political leadership, innovative scientific and technological advancements in agriculture and land reforms, large aid from the central government and efficient infrastructure (Haryana State Gazetteer, 2020).

Since the country's independence, there have been significant advancements in nearly every aspect of agriculture in India. To feed the country's growing population, attempts have been devoted to enhancing agricultural productivity and putting more land under cultivation for agriculture. There has been an increase in the farming sector's net sown area, irrigated area, and crop yields. Profits per hectare have also increased significantly, for the farmers. The government has enacted new land reforms, agricultural programmes, and agricultural strategies periodically to advance the agricultural sector. Steps have been taken to abolish the intermediary structure between both the state and the farmers, to protect tenure, to ensure that cultivator's possession of the land was assured, to put a cap on agricultural landholdings and to redistribute land for the use of new agricultural practices (Sharma, 2021).

Public institutions and their linkages to political processes have consolidated their grasp and position simultaneously as these advances. Small and marginal manufacturers like farmers, women, and rural craftspeople have a low financial situation that doesn't allow for much room for creativity to thrive. There is a rapid increase in small and marginal agricultural jobs, skilled women, and unemployed youth in Haryana, even though there has been much progress in agriculture. This is due to population growth, fragmentation of holdings, higher life expectancy, education, and other socio-economic factors (Haryana State Gazetteer, 2020).

Agricultural expansion has led to a social and cultural shift in the population of Haryana since the state's inception. Their impact on people's standard of living may be seen in the Green Revolution and agrarian reform. In Haryana's culture, some discrepancies still arise as economic growth progresses. Compared to small-scale farmers in Haryana, big farm owners



have greater access to digital information and technology and more financial ability to adopt modern inputs. As new developments are introduced, they can expand their operational holdings. This group of people is usually well-educated, well-trained, and has easy access to the benefits of development organizations and political leaders.

Conclusion : India's Green Revolution introduced new agriculture technologies, which enhanced agricultural production and it also show some negative aspects like as long-term soil fertility loss, widespread plant genetic variety loss, increased pesticide danger, and the environment are only a few consequences. “The policies and practices of Government and practices in rural techno-infrastructure advancement such as highways, irrigation, electricity and other modes of supply, utilities and marketplaces for agricultural growth were implemented after independence. Land reform, remunerative pricing policies, credit availability, and several different forms of support for small and marginal farmers were made possible thanks to policy and regulatory involvement. Farmers have become self-sufficient in food grains thanks to new agricultural technology, resources, and public policy (Nelson, Ravichandran, & Antony, 2019).

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