



BURNING PROBLEMS OF INDIAN FARMERS IN INDIA - AN OVER VIEW

Nitheesh Kumar P K

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, S.N. College, Kerala.

“Rates of growth of agriculture in the last decade have been poor and are a major cause of rural distress. Farming is increasingly becoming an unviable activity.”

Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, 2007

Agriculture is considered the backbone of Indian economy. Despite the fact that in the last 6 decades of planned development era since India became a Republic, a tremendous success India has achieved in the field of industries, agriculture and allied activities of agriculture still continues to provide employment to around 65 per cent of the total workforce. Agriculture and allied activities make the single largest contribution to GDP (Gross Domestic Product), accounting for almost 27 per cent of the total. Now the contribution of agriculture reduced as 13.4 percentage. One paradox in it is that lion share of Indian work force are largely depends upon agriculture, but it's contribution to National Income is only less than 14 percentage.

Agriculture supplies bulk of wage goods required by the non-agricultural sector. It provides raw materials for a large section of industries. Sugar, tea, cotton textiles, jute goods, vegetable oil, etc. industries are regularly fed by agricultural produces. Many cottage industries depend on agricultural operations. The contribution of agriculture to the nation's Forex (foreign exchange reserve) is also quite significant. Agriculture accounts for about 18 percent share of the total value of India's export. Agricultural growth has direct impact on poverty eradication.

With an objective of achieving self-sufficiency in the field of agriculture, the initiatives of Green revolution were introduced during 1960s. The introduction of HYV seeds for the agriculture of wheat and other grains has given very satisfactory results. Other factors such as agricultural finance, famines, and irrigation methods were also considered. These efforts boosted the Indian economy in a great way.

Problems Faced by the Indian Farmers

1. Small and fragmented land-holdings.
2. Seeds.
3. Manures, Fertilizers and Biocides.
4. Irrigation.
5. Lack of mechanisation.
6. Soil erosion.
7. Agricultural Marketing.
8. Inadequate storage facilities.
9. Inadequate transport.
10. Scarcity of capital.

The National Crime Records Bureau of India reported in its 2014 annual report, that 135,445 people committed suicide in India, of which 13,755 were farmers (11.2%). Of these, 5 out of 29 states accounted for 10,486 farmer's suicides (76%) – Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.

India suffers from over population. At present, the population of India is around 1.2 billion. Population is increasing at an explosive rate. Thanks to the advances in medical science and other public health measures, the death rate has been greatly reduced. The growth of population in relation to the growth of economy is much faster resulting in the incidence of malnutrition, unhealthy conditions of living and so on. In India, the birth rate has now declined to about 30 per thousand.

A high birth rate accompanied by a low death rate cannot adjust population to the means of living. Though the growth rate in India is still quite high compared to developed countries. For this, the rapidly growing population swallows up the increased output and our country remains economically backward. This necessitates rapid economic development to meet the requirements of increased population.

The varied natural resources of India remain underutilized due to deficiency of capital equipment. It may be said that the vast resources like land, water, power and natural resources should be fully and at the same time properly utilized for the economic, benefit of the people at large. Under-utilization of natural resources is yet another major problem for Indian Economy. In India there is a great problem of securing adequate revenues through taxation and public borrowing. A large



number of people live below the subsistence level. Again, a high rate of taxation discourages private incentive as well as the free flow of foreign capital.

The Indian economy is characterized by a large volume of unemployment, both in rural and urban areas. Unemployment is a major problem for Indian Economy. India is basically an agricultural country. Most people are engaged in agriculture due to want of alternative occupation. A large part of the population engaged in agriculture can be removed without reducing agricultural output. This is called disguised unemployment. They should be withdrawn from agriculture with a view to increasing their marginal productivity.

Indian economy suffers from the problem of deficiency of capital equipment. People are too poor to save and invest to make for rapid economic development. As a result the per capita availability of capital like steel and energy is extremely low in India compared to developed countries. In India, the per capita real income is very low. This is due to the poor income of the people. For this the purchasing power of the people is extremely low. India has to depend on foreign countries for the supply of machinery, capital goods and technical knowledge.

She export raw-materials and imports manufactured goods which can easily be made at home utilizing her own raw-materials. The import of capital goods involves heavy cost due to higher prices. Some say that India depends too much on import which makes her economy dependable on others and affects the terms of trade. India is very backward in industry, about 70 percent of the working people are engaged in agriculture.

India has defective economic infrastructure. It means that in India, there are inadequacy of the means of transport and communication, irrigation and power. They retard the economic progress of India. However, we may say that in our Five-Year Plans, attempts have been made to improve the transport and power systems. Agencies like Industrial Finance Corporation, National Industrial Development Corporation, Industrial Development Bank, Re-finance Corporation, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation have been set up for the supply of long-term finance to the large-scale industries in India.

In equality of land distribution is one of the important problem faced by the Indian farmers .the major portion of land holdings is goes to the hands of land loads in the country . Not only the farmers are working for the land loads but also the remuneration received by them are very low. Another problem faced by the Indian farmers are fragmentation of land holdings. It is very high in India land reforms in India pour oil into it. In north India and south India simultaneously facing the problems of drought and floods. The government is providing financial aids to the farmers it is helping them up to a certain extent. etc. are the major problems faced by the Indian farmers.

Following Factors Leads to Low Agricultural Productivity

We can classified the low agricultural productivity in India into three they are: a) general factors b) institutional factors C) technological factors.

A) General Factors Include

1. Overcrowding in agriculture.
2. Socio economic factors.
3. Natural factors.
4. Lack of adequate finance.
5. Under developed marketing system.

B) Institutional Factors

1. Small land holdings.
2. Defective pattern of land holdings.

C) Technological Factors

1. Traditional methods of cultivation.
2. Absence of good seeds.
3. Non availability of fertilises.
4. In appropriate irrigation facilities.
5. Absence of agricultural research (R&D).

Why Farmer Suicide Rates are so High

- Financial Stress - constant financial pressure related to the "Farm Crisis" and ongoing drought and flood which add to the economic problems.
- Loss of independence and control: many of the issues are not within the farmer's control – disease, weather, government policy, but the debts are personal



- Sense of Loss: repeated sense of hopelessness, loss of crops, loss of land, loss of income, loss of community, loss of family farm, loss of a way of life
- Geographical remoteness and the potential for social isolation
- Untreated Mental Illness: Lack of access to mental health services in rural areas and the stigma attached to treatment
- Depression arising from exposure to agricultural chemicals/pesticides may increase the risk for mood disorders and ultimately suicide.

Rising agricultural productivity per unit of land will lead to be the main engine of agricultural growth as virtually all cultivable land is farmed. Rural development must also benefit to the poor, land less women, scheduled caste and tribes. The government should promote new technologies and reforming agricultural research and extension system is one of the most important needs for agricultural growth. These services have declined over time due to the chronic underfunding of infrastructure and operation, no replacement of aged researchers etc.

India's legacy of extensive government involvement in agricultural marketing has created restrictions in internal and external trade. More over subsidies on power, fertilisers and irrigation progressively have come to dominate government expenditures in this sector, and are now four time expenditure larger than investment expenditures, crowding out top priorities such agricultural research and extension.

Conclusion

In our forgoing analysis we have discussed the fact that Indian economy has the characteristics of an underdeveloped economy. But this is not an adequate description the nature of Indian economy currently. After independence this long spell of stagnation was broken. With the beginning of economic planning an era of economic development started. Economic development in India has broadly two faces quantities and structural. But due to five-year plans there has been a spectacular progress in both senses in our economic system.

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