

Geographical study of agricultural problems and solutions in India

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Abstract

Many decades have passed since India's independence, recently we celebrated 74th Republic Day. Since 1947 till now, every region of the country has made substantial development. Today India's space program is included in the world's most successful space programs, Indian army is included in the world's most powerful forces and India's economy is one of the five strongest economies in the world. In other areas too, India is regularly writing new stories of development. Despite these achievements, there is also an area which is still lagging behind in the race for development. The agriculture sector, which plays an important role in areas like food security, rural employment, has not yet reached a condition that can be considered satisfactory. The result of this has been that crores of people of the country dependent on agriculture are still forced to live in extreme poverty and sometimes they are unable to fulfill even their basic needs through agriculture.

I. Introduction :-

India has been an agricultural country since ancient times. About 70 percent of India's people live in villages. Most of this population is dependent on agriculture. Agriculture has given special fame to India in the international arena. About 30 percent of India's gross national income comes from agriculture. In today's era, the organization of Indian society and the joint family system retain their importance only because of agricultural business. The surprising thing is that in our country, despite agriculture being the main and important occupation of the majority of the people, it is very backward and unscientific. Unless Indian agriculture is improved, there is no possibility of improvement in the condition of Indian farmers and development of Indian villages cannot be imagined before the condition of Indian farmers is improved. It can be said in other words. That Indian agriculture, farmers and villages are dependent on each other. Their rise and fall, problems and solutions are also linked to each other.

There are some problems at the root of inadequate development of Indian agriculture, without removing which development of agriculture is not possible, these problems are as follows..

1- Most of the farmers in India lack/shortage of capital to invest in agriculture. Even today, most of the farmers of the country are not able to avail the benefit of institutional credit facilities in practical terms. Many times farmers do not even have enough capital to arrange for basic things like seeds, fertilizers and irrigation. The result is that farmers are not able to produce crops on time or due to insufficient nutrients the crops are not of sufficient quality. Besides this, due to lack of capital, the farmer has to take loans from private individuals at high interest rates, which increases his problems instead of reducing them. In this regard, the Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme launched by the Government of India is proving to be very helpful for the farmers. This helps to a great extent in meeting the basic agricultural needs of the farmers.

2- There is still lack of irrigation facilities in most parts of India. Only those farmers who have sufficient capital are able to manage irrigation facilities privately because the cost of installing irrigation equipment like tube wells is so much that it is not possible for poor farmers to afford it. In this way, most of the farmers become dependent on monsoon and if there is no timely rain, their crops get spoiled and sometimes they are not able to produce enough for subsistence. Similarly, due to excessive rainfall or various natural disasters, crops get spoiled and the farmer gets trapped in the quagmire of poverty.

3- A large population of Indian farmers have very little amount of cultivable land available. A major reason for this is the increasing population. As a result, agriculture has become a means of subsistence rather than a means of earning profit for the farmers, in which they are somehow able to support themselves and their families. Indian agriculture sector is also facing the problem of hidden unemployment.

4- Farmers often do not get adequate price for their produce, a major reason for this is that they sell their crops at prices lower than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various reasons such as to repay loans. Due to which they have to face a lot of loss.

5- Some other reasons include lack of use of modern equipment and techniques in agriculture, lack of transportation facilities, lack of storage facilities, lack of transportation facilities, lack of other basic facilities and poor quality of soil. Problems like shortage etc. are included.

Problems of Indian agriculture:-

Indian agriculture has to face many problems. Due to these problems its backwardness and stagnation continues. Following are some of the major problems faced by agriculture:-

(1) Lack of permanent means of irrigation:-

Crop cultivation in India is largely dependent on rainfall. There is a severe lack of permanent means of irrigation. Dependence on rainwater makes Indian agriculture highly vulnerable: good rainfall results in good harvests, while drought results in significant production losses. For stability in agricultural production, it is necessary that permanent means of irrigation be developed in all parts of the country.

(2) Lack of finance

Another major problem of Indian agriculture is lack of finance. To meet most of their financial requirements, small farmers depend on non-institutional sources; Like- Mahajan, Moneylender and Landlord. They charge very high rate of interest. The availability of institutional finance (finance provided by banks and other financial institutions) is very low compared to the needs of the farmers. Lack of finance is a major obstacle in the growth of Indian agriculture. The high cost of credit keeps farmers trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty.

(3) Traditional approach

Another problem with Indian agriculture is the traditional approach to farming. Despite innovative farm-technological and farm-management practices, Indian farmers still follow traditional knowledge. For him farming is the only means of sustenance, it is not a business. So his focus is to grow those crops from which he can get grain and not from which he can get high profit (and have to bear more risk). A common Indian farmer lacks entrepreneurship and does not want to take any risk to get profit.

(4) Small and scattered holdings

The holdings in India are not only small but also scattered. Small holdings do not allow the use of modern technology. Scattered holdings increase the cost of management. It contributes to the backwardness of agriculture and the poverty of the farmers.

(5) Exploitative farmer relations

Peasant relations refer to the business relations between landlords and tenants. Most of the landowners are 'Absentee Landlords'. They do very little farming themselves. Being dependent on rental income, they tend to exploit their tenants. The lessees who actually cultivate the land pay high rent and other related payments to the landowner. After paying the exorbitant rent to the absentee landowner, the lessee (who cultivates the land himself) is left with very little surplus to invest further. Accordingly, land is used continuously as a means of subsistence and not as a means of commercial profit.

(6) Lack of systematic marketing system

The marketing system of agricultural produce is very disorganised. A large number of small farmers are still selling their produce at low prices in the local mandis. It is also their compulsion to do so. They are forced to sell their produce to moneylenders and moneylenders (in local markets) against the loans taken from them through intermediaries. In short, agriculture in India faces many problems that arise from production to sale of crops. Modern inputs are not used judiciously at the production level due to which productivity remains low. At the marketing level, most of the small farmers are not able to get good prices for their crops because of the lack of organized marketing system.

The Government of India is working on a 7-point strategy for reforms in this sector and doubling the income of farmers.

1- Per Drop More Crop Strategy – Under this strategy, emphasis is being laid on micro irrigation. This will reduce the amount of water used in agriculture, this will not only conserve water but will also reduce the cost of irrigation. This strategy is particularly beneficial in water-scarce areas.

2- Emphasis is being laid on using high quality seeds in the agriculture sector and also awareness is being spread to use the same amount of fertilizers in the fields as is appropriate according to the soil health card. This will improve the quality of the soil and will also effectively reduce the expenditure on fertilizers. This will also reduce soil and water pollution.

3- To prevent agricultural produce from getting destroyed, investment on warehouses and cold storage is being increased. This will prevent wastage of produce, strengthen the food security situation and the remaining produce can also be exported to international markets.

4- Value addition in agriculture sector is being promoted through food processing. There is immense potential in the food processing sector in India.

5- Emphasis has been laid on the creation of a national agricultural market to ensure fair price for the produce. This will bring uniformity in prices across the country and farmers will be able to get adequate benefits.

6- Every year in India, crops are adversely affected due to natural disasters like drought, fire, cyclone, heavy rain, hailstorm etc. in different areas. To reduce these risks, crop insurance has been made available at

affordable prices. Although its actual benefits have not yet reached enough farmers, measures should be taken to ensure that its benefits reach most of the people.

7- Through various schemes, emphasis is being laid on the development of agricultural supporting sectors like dairy, animal husbandry, beekeeping, poultry, fisheries etc. Since most of the farmers of the country are already connected with these things, they can get direct benefits from it. There is a need to work effectively on factors like awareness, breed improvement of animals.

II. Conclusion:-

Since most of the country's population is dependent on agriculture, poverty eradication, increase in employment, eradication of hunger etc. in the country is possible only when the condition of agriculture and farmers is improved. If the above measures are implemented effectively then the condition of agriculture can definitely improve. This will reduce the despair prevalent in this sector, farmer suicides will stop, and people who have given up farming will start taking interest in this sector again. Before improving the condition of Indian agriculture, we should look towards the farmer and his environment. The condition of the villages where Indian farmers live is very deplorable. During the British rule, the debt burden on farmers was very high. Gradually the economic condition of the farmers continued to deteriorate and the socio-economic environment of the villages became very pathetic. Therefore, the condition of farmers can be improved only when they can be benefited through various schemes. A campaign should be launched to make them literate in greater numbers. Such informative programs should be prepared through which our farmers can become aware of modern scientific methods of agriculture.

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