

E – Revolution in Agriculture & Rural Economy

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I. INTRODUCTION

India is known as an agricultural country, as most of the population of villages depends on agriculture. Agriculture forms the backbone of the country's economy. The agricultural sector contributes most to the overall economic development of the country. For centuries together, the Indian village has been a self-sufficient and self-contained economy. During the past forty years, rural reconstruction and development have been the major thrust of economic planning, which has caused a rapid transformation in the Indian rural economic structure.

These changes have taken place in spheres, such as land reforms, agriculture, animal husbandry, supplies and marketing, village industries, rural leadership, village administration, etc. With the help of the rural development programmes, a cultivator is able to take advantage of the modern technological facilities in his agricultural operations. These cultivators are now using modern agricultural implements and high-yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizers.

Several other welfare services were introduced, such as opening up of schools, primary healthcare centres, improving the means of transport and communication, and spread of mass media services to rural areas, etc. These welfare services have materially affected the rural life.

A transparent, easy and accessible administration can easily raise growth bar of any society, state or country to the next level. In a democratic country, like India, if government administration can be made accessible for common people and everyone can take advantage of all the good governance, we can see a totally new and positive society. In today's world, technology has emerged as a strong tool that it can easily provide all the relevant information which can help to protect the rights of people. That is why the central government has started the E-revolution campaign to improve the life style of common people and to make the country even stronger. The idea behind the campaign is to make all the government services and information available and accessible through mobile or computer. The main focus of this thought is to make rural, agriculture & common people participate in government activities & facilities and make them more transparent for people.

In a large country like India, Internet has played a vital role to make people aware and more connected to the world. If we look back in the 90s, when the internet was at its nascent age, we can compare this digital India campaign to internet revolution. First time BSNL started the internet services on 15th August 1995 and it was such a huge success that within 6 months, more than 10 thousand people opted for it.

Digital India campaign has many important aspects in which every important government service will have a unique infrastructure available for all residents.

Administration's responsibility and participation to make this transparent is very important because a corruption free society makes a strong base for a flourishing economy. To support this idea, the multipurpose ADHAR CARD is also being linked with DIGITAL INDIA/ E-revolution campaign.

ADHAR CARD provides a unique number to every individual which helps in availing the basic government & private services, mobile & phone connections, bank accounts etc. ADHAR card has been proved as a milestone due to its interaction with PAHAL & E-Locker facilities. JAN DHAN YOJNA, which aims to include all the people to economic growth & digitalization, also accelerates the Digital India concept.

Economic Reforms Process

Since July, 1991 the country has taken a series of measures to structure the economy and improve the balance of payments position. The New Economic Policy (NEP-1991) introduced changes in the areas of trade policies, monetary & financial policies, fiscal & budgetary policies, and pricing & institutional reforms. The salient features of NEP-1991 are (i) liberalization (internal and external), (ii) extending privatization, (iii) redirecting scarce Public Sector Resources to Areas where the private sector is unlikely to enter, (iv) globalization of economy, and (v) market friendly state. Research reports reveal that this macro-economic adjustment programme is remarkable for its relatively painless transition compared with similar programmes elsewhere and a large part of the credit for absorption of these shocks is due to the steady increase in agricultural production. The GATT Agreement signed in 1995 will fundamentally change the global trade picture in agricultural sector.

Impact of Economic Reforms Process on Indian Agricultural Sector

Agricultural sector is the mainstay of the rural Indian economy around which socio-economic privileges and deprivations revolve, and any change in its structure is likely to have a corresponding impact on the existing pattern of social equality. No strategy of economic reform can succeed without sustained and broad based agricultural development, which is critical for

- Raising living standards,
- Alleviating poverty,
- Assuring food security,
- Generating buoyant market for expansion of industry and services, and
- Making substantial contribution to the national economic growth.

Studies also show that the economic liberalization and reforms process have impacted on agricultural and rural sectors very much. According to [Bhalla97], of the three sectors of economy in India, the tertiary sector has diversified the fastest, the secondary sector the second fastest, while the primary sector, taken as whole, has scarcely diversified at all. Since agriculture continues to be a tradable sector, this economic liberalization and reform policy has far reaching effects on (i) agricultural exports and imports, (ii) investment in new technologies and on rural infrastructure (iii) patterns of agricultural growth, (iv) agriculture income and employment, (v) agricultural prices and (vi) food security [Bhalla93].

Reduction in Commercial Bank credit to agriculture, in lieu of this reforms process and recommendations of Khusrao Committee and Narasingham Committee, might lead to a fall in farm investment and impaired agricultural growth [Panda96]. Infrastructure development requires public expenditure which is getting affected due to the new policies of fiscal compression. Liberalization of agriculture and open market operations will enhance competition in “resource use” and “marketing of agricultural production”, which will force the small and marginal farmers (who constitute 76.3% of total farmers) to resort to “distress sale” and seek for off-farm employment for supplementing income.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

E-learning seem to be the best invention since sliced bread one should realize that the transition from classroom to on-line learning means fundamental paradigm shift teacher-centric to learner-centric learning. It is now the learner who is decision maker with the instructor merely acting as the facilitator. The main objectives of the study are-

- To find out the provision and available recourses by DULS for e-learning.
- To find out the library services that promote E-learning.

- To find out the utilization of on-line services by the users.
- To assess the benefits of the users after availing E-journal services.
- To find out coordination between library and teaching department regarding E-learning.
- To find out role of DULS staff in E-learning.
- To find out future prospects and planning.

Hypotheses

While the government is hopeful of the country being on the road to witness 4% agricultural growth, the challenges are manifold. While the agriculture remains the main occupational sector, rural demand has witnessed a slowdown leading many to point over the simmering agrarian crisis. Agriculture growth rate in India has not crossed 3% in the last two years. However, West Asia has been a star performer in this region with 6% growth rate. It should be noted here that Half of India’s labour is in agriculture. But, there is no suitable agriculture policy yet. Hence, according to experts, the present state of Indian agriculture is largely due to policy paralysis. Unlike most of the western and European countries, more than two crops a year can be grown in India.

Agriculture plays a vital role in India’s economy. Over 58% of the rural households depend on agriculture as their principal means of livelihood. Agriculture, along with fisheries and forestry, is one of the largest contributors to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Agriculture is a state subject. As per estimates by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the share of agriculture and allied sectors (including agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery) was 16.1% of the Gross Value Added (GVA) during 2014–15 at 2011–12 prices. During quarter one of 2016, agriculture and allied sectors grew 1.9% year-on-year and contributed 14.2% of GVA. India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices and spice products. It ranks third in farm and agriculture outputs. Agricultural export constitutes 10% of the country’s exports and is the fourth-largest exported principal commodity. The agro industry in India is divided into several sub segments such as canned, dairy, processed, frozen food to fisheries, meat, poultry, and food grains.

Farm crisis in India is deepening, mainly due to back-to-back monsoon failures and falling crop prices. One indicator of the growing agrarian distress is farmer suicides. The current year has seen farmers even in states like Karnataka, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh take their lives. The primary factor behind this distress is the weather. Last year’s kharif production was affected by a deficient monsoon, while the standing rabi crop suffered damage from unseasonal rain and hailstorms. The monsoon has been poor this year as well. Many states have declared themselves as drought hit and this would qualify them for Central assistance. However, there is delay in visits

by central teams to assess the extent of crop damage and release compensation money.

Over the recent past, multiple factors have worked together to maintain growth in the agriculture sector in India. These include growth in household income and consumption, expansion in the food processing sector and increase in agricultural exports. Rising private participation in Indian agriculture, growing organic farming and use of information technology are some of the key trends in the agriculture industry. Several players have invested in the agricultural sector in India, mainly driven by the government's initiatives and schemes. According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the Indian agricultural services and agricultural machinery sectors have cumulatively attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflow of about US\$ 2,182 million from April 2000 to June 2015.

Given the importance of the agriculture sector, the Government of India, in its Budget 2015–16, planned several steps for the sustainable development of agriculture. The government has already taken steps to address two major factors (soil and water) critical to improve agriculture production. Steps have been taken to improve soil fertility on a sustainable basis through the soil health card scheme and to support the organic farming scheme 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana'. Other steps include improved access to irrigation through 'Pradhanmantri Gram Sinchai Yojana'; enhanced water efficiency through 'Per Drop More Crop'; continued support to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the creation of a unified national agriculture market to boost the incomes of farmers.

The Government of India recognises the importance of micro irrigation, watershed development and 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana'; thus, it allocated a sum of Rs 5,300 crore (US\$ 815 million) for it. It urged the states to focus on this key sector. The state governments are compelled to allocate adequate funds to develop the agriculture sector, take measures to achieve the targeted agricultural growth rate and address the problems of farmers.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under the Ministry of Agriculture has inked MOUs/agreements with 52 countries including the US. In addition, the Department of Agriculture Research & Education (DARE) and the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F) under the Ministry of Agriculture have signed MOUs/agreements with other countries, taking the number of partnerships with other countries to 63. These agreements would provide better agricultural facilities in areas such as research and development, capacity building, germ-plasm exchange, post-harvest management, value addition/food processing, plant protection, animal husbandry, dairy and

fisheries. The agreements could help enhance bilateral trade as well.

The agriculture sector in India is expected to generate better momentum in the next few years due to increased investments in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, warehousing and cold storage. Factors such as reduced transaction costs and time, improved port gate management and better fiscal incentives would contribute to the sector's growth. Furthermore, the growing use of genetically modified crops will likely improve the yield for Indian farmers.

II. METHODOLOGY

The surge in digital technologies available over the past few decades has transformed virtually every sector of the global economy, and agriculture is no exception. Information and communications technologies (ICTs) such as mobile phones and SMS messaging are changing the way farmers track weather patterns, access market information, interact with traders and government agencies, and get paid for their crops.

III. CONCLUSION

Now days the penetration of market forces in rural India is increasing and is potential market. With the diverse cultures and languages in India, ICT provides a good platform here. Thus in future there would be substantial upliftment and sustainable development in rural areas. ICTs are changing all the spheres of human lives and agriculture cannot be an exception. ICTs now may act as an agent for changing agrarian and farmer's life by improving access of information and sharing knowledge. The ICT tools can change the ideas, activities and knowledge of the farmers. Farmers feel empowered and can adopt appropriate measures at the time of need. With the new extension of ITC initiatives like Krishivihar, i-Kisan,e-kutir, e-Sagoo, ICT models-AGROWEB, Agropedia, AgrInnovate, etc. Indian agriculture has come to a long way and established several records in terms of production and productivity. IT had the potential to transform agriculture into a better prospect in the wake of climate change and decrease in the cultivable land.