



ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN DEVELOPING RURAL INDIA

Dr Shinde Vandana Hindurao

Assistant Professor Institute of Management Malegaon(Bk) Baramati

ABSTRACT-

Agriculture is still a major source of livelihood in rural areas..Three-quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas and most earn their living from farming. Rural development is important not only for the majority of the population living in rural areas, but also for the overall economic expansion of the nation. Rural development means an action plan for the economic and social upliftment of rural areas. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been the main funding agencies for researches in the Agricultural schemes and programs, these are very useful for the farmers and they can get benefit from these programs, which are definitely useful for rural development.

Key words- Agriculture, rural development, Farming, Economy, government schemes

1.0 Introduction-

"India lives in its villages" - Mahatma Gandhi.

Literally and from the social, economic and political perspectives the statement is valid even today. Around 65% of the State's population is living in rural areas. People in rural areas should have the same quality of life as is enjoyed by people living in sub urban and urban areas. Further there are cascading effects of poverty, unemployment, poor and inadequate infrastructure in rural areas on urban centers causing slums and consequential social and economic tensions manifesting in economic deprivation and urban poverty. Hence Rural Development which is concerned with economic growth and social justice, improvement in the living standard of the rural people by providing adequate and quality social services and minimum basic needs becomes essential. The rural development means the all round development of the rural people. It means sustainable development in quality life of rural people. This is possible only when they have basic things available like food, clothes and shelter it also includes other facilities like drinking water, sanitization hygiene, literacy, health care, political, economical and social freedom. The present strategy of rural development mainly focuses on poverty alleviation, better

livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities through innovative programs of wage and self-employment. The above goals will be achieved by various programs and through support by creating partnership with communities, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, institutions, PRIs and industrial establishments, while the Department of Rural Development will provide logistic support both on technical and administrative side for program implementation. Other aspects that will ultimately lead to transformation of rural life are also being emphasized simultaneously.

Agriculture, with its related sectors are largest livelihood provider in India, more so in the large rural areas. It also contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Sustainable agriculture, in terms of rural employment, food security and environmentally sustainable technologies such as sustainable natural resource management soil conservation and biodiversity protection are essential for holistic rural development. Indian agriculture and related activities have viewed a a white revolution, green revolution, yellow revolution and blue revolution. Information on the government policies, schemes, agriculture loans, market prices, animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture, loans & credit, sericulture etc. is available easily and in detail at government offices and websites. Agriculture and therefore land has played the most crucial role in the evolution of human society. In the context of India the theme of agriculture and rural development was accorded high importance ever since the inception of the institute.

Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been the main funding agencies for researches in the above theme. Rural Development has traditionally centered on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry thus Rural development and agriculture walk hand in hand.

2.0 Problem statement-

Lack of Basic facilities like food, clothing and shelter in rural areas, lack of agricultural methodologies and agriculture boosting and supporting program knowledge that can help farmers grow and become financially independent. Poverty, hygiene, sanitization, employment opportunities etc . are other major problems in the rural areas thereby leading to poor quality of life in rural areas and poor agricultural yield. Thus this paper concentrates on measures to be taken and available resources that can help overcome these challenges.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY-

- 1) To understand the role of agriculture in rural development
- 2) To examine Government Schemes and Programs in Agriculture for Farmers

4.0 LITRETURE REVIEW-

Dr. Amarja Satish Nargunde(2013) As per the recent studies of author, rural areas have surpassed crop production in terms of profit in marginal, small and medium-sizedholdings.

Dairying and crop production together, were more profitable than crop farming alone, for small-scale farmers with irrigated land. Dairying has also acquired the contours of a fully-fledged industry in the country and has positively improved the life of those engaged in this business, directly or indirectly, bringing significant socio economic changes over the period of time.

Nandini Francis(2014) researcher states that Physical infrastructure,Education, entrepreneurship and social infrastructure all play an vital role in developing agricultural regions.Rural development is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies. It is need of the hour to go on introducing new and ongoing schemas for rural agricultural development and creating awareness among the people about the related problems. F-or this to happen it is essential that the public, private and civil sectors must work hand in hand for sustainable rural development by improving Agricultural sector of the county.

Oksana Takhumova(2020) In this paper researchers states that rural development contributes to the economic development of any nation and often plays the vital role in the composition of GDP. Also, it becomes clear that certain tools and incentives need to be applied for making it more efficient and helping it to sustain a leading factor in economic growth. The outcome observed in the course of this research might help stakeholders and policymakers to promise rural development policies and bring to public attention the problems of agriculture andpost-agriculture . It seems that rural areas may become the new hub for innovative economic projects and may give positive net profits from non-agricultural activities.

Joachim von Braun, Ashok Gulati, P. B. R. Hazell, Mark W. Rosegrant and Marie

T. Ruel (2005) In here, the authors suggest five areas for action to see rural India on a higher growth trajectory that would remove hunger, unemployment and malnutrition at a much high pace than has been the case so far. The mentioned five areas for action are interlinked and would best work if pursued in conjunction. The authors emphasize investments with a human face that include and reach out to the rural poor and a reorientation of subsidies toward such investments:

5.0 Government Schemes and Programs in Agriculture for Farmers

Agricultural schemes and programs are one of the vital steps taken by the government bodies and other institutions that are working on improving agricultural sector which is the primary sector of India's GDP and it is very useful for the farmers and they should know about itso that they can get benefit from it and which can ultimately help them grow and thus helping rural development as whole.To help farmers and achieve the overall development of rural areas, Centre had introduced

many schemes. Top priority of the Government of India has always been the welfare of farmers .For this, it has implemented different schemes or yojana's.

PM-Kisan Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana is an initiative of the Government wherein 120 million small and marginal farmers of India with less than two hectares of landholding will get up to Rs. 6,000 per year as minimum income support. [PM-Kisan scheme](#) has become operational since 1st December 2018. Under this scheme, cultivators will get Rs. 6000 in three installments.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan yojana

Narendra Modi launched a pension scheme for the small & marginal farmers of India last September. Under [PM Kisan Maandhan scheme](#) about 5 crore small farmers will get a minimum pension of Rs 3000 / month on attaining the age of 60. Those who fall in the age group of 18 - 40years will be eligible to apply for the scheme. Under this [scheme](#), the farmers will be required to make a monthly contribution of Rs 55 to 200, depending on their age of entry, in the Pension Fund till they reach the retirement date, 60 years. The Government will make an equal contribution of the same amount in the pension fund for the cultivators.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme

[Kisan Credit Card scheme](#) is yet another important Government scheme. Kisan Credit Card scheme was introduced in 1998 to provide short-term formal credit to the farmers. KCC scheme was launched to ensure that the credit requirements for cultivators in the agriculture, fisheries & animal husbandry sector were being met. Under this scheme, farmers are given short-term loans to purchase equipment & for their other expenses as well. There are various banks that offer KCC like SBI, HDFC, ICICI, and Axis.

Pashu Kisan Credit Card Scheme

For the growth and development of animal husbandry sector in India, the Government has launched '[Pashu Kisan Credit Card](#)' for livestock farmers. Haryana is the first state in the country to provide Pashu Kisan Credit Card to the farmers. Under this scheme, farmers are given loan to buy cow, buffalo, goat etc. To apply for Pashu Kisan Credit Card you will have to go to your nearest bank.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana is implemented with the aim to promote organic cultivation in India. To improve soil health as well as organic matter content and to boost the net income of the farmer so as to realize premium prices. Under [Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana](#), an area of 5 lakh acre is targeted to be covered through 10,000 clusters of 50 acre each, from 2015-16 to 2017-18.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana was launched on 1 July 2015 with the motto 'Har Khet Ko Paani' to provide end-to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, distribution network & farm level applications. PMKSY focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' & 'Jal Sinchan'

Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F) had launched a pilot scheme called as "Venture Capital Scheme for Dairy & Poultry" in the year 2005-06. The scheme aimed at extending support for setting up small dairy farms and other components to bring structural changes in the dairy sector. Later on, DAHD&F changed its name to '[Dairy](#)

[Entrepreneurship Development Scheme'](#) (DEDS) & the revised scheme came into operation with effect from 1st September, 2010.

Rainfed Area Development Program (RADP)

Rainfed Area Development Program was started as a sub-scheme under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The aim was to improve quality of life of farmers' especially, small & marginal farmers by giving a complete package of activities to maximize farm returns. It also help in increasing agricultural productivity of rainfed areas in a sustainable way by adopting suitable farming system based approaches. It minimizes the adverse impact of possible crop failure because of drought, flood or un-even rainfall distribution through diversified & composite farming system. The programme also helps in increasing farmer's income & livelihood support for reduction of poverty in Rainfed areas.

Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna

Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna is a scheme for the farmers of Chhattisgarh. The scheme aims to ensure minimum income availability to cultivators growing 1 Rabi and 13 kharif season crops in the state. One Nation One Market'. To register on e-NAM

Soil Health Card Scheme

[Soil health card scheme](#) was launched in the year 2015 in order to help the State Governments to issue Soil Health Cards to farmers of India. The Soil Health Cards gives information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. Check for more information **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It is aimed at promoting Sustainable Agriculture via climate change adaptation measures, boosting agriculture productivity

especially in Rainfed areas focusing on integrated farming, soil health management & synergizing resource conservation.

Rythu Bandhu scheme

Rythu Bandhu scheme also known as Farmer's Investment Support Scheme is a welfare program to support farmer's investment for 2 crops per year by Telangana Government. Under this scheme the government provides 58.33 lakh farmers, Rs. 5000 / acre / season to support the farm

investment, two times a year, for rabi and khari) seasons. It is the first direct farmer investment support scheme in the country, where the cash is paid directly.

Livestock insurance Scheme

Livestock insurance Scheme is aimed at providing protection mechanism to farmers as well as cattle rearers against any eventual loss of animals because of death. The scheme also tells about the benefit of insurance of livestock to dairy farmers and popularizes it with the ultimate goal of attaining a qualitative improvement in livestock & their products.

Conclusion

Farming and related activities make up the basic fabric of rural life, contributing significantly to the overall improvement of rural regions in terms of employment and business opportunities, infrastructure and quality of the environment.,it also contributes to the economic development of any nation and often plays the vital role in the composition of GDP Agriculture sector faced many ups and downs in the year 2020. Farmers had to face many problems due to Covid-19 pandemic. To help farmers, government had initiated many schemes. Top priority of the Government of India has always been the welfare of farmers to improve the agriculture sector and the economic conditions of farmers, which are definitely useful for the rural people for their economic development.

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