



Janata-Party Government's Contribution to Agriculture in Karnataka

KEYWORDS

Dr Gurubasavarajaswamy pandita

DoorNo 425 SIXTH CROSS BOGAADI SECOND STAGE NORTH MYSORE KARNATAKA INDIA PIN 570026

The people of Karnataka brought about a change in the Government in January 1983 and reaffirmed their faith in that Government again in March 1985. The Janata Government under Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde introduced the development process in the key sectors. They can be examined as follows:

INVESTMENT AND PRIORITIES

The Karnataka's sixth five year plan for 1980-85 had completed three years of implementation by 1983. A new government had to manage this implementation of the sixth plan in the remaining two concluding and crucial years.

The sixth plan had broadly the objectives of accelerating the growth of the state's economy. Creating more employment and establishing of an economy with greater social justice and less income inequalities. The Planning Commission had approved an outlay of Rs. 2,265 crores for the sixth plan. By 1983, Rs. 1,372 crores of the sixth plan had been spent leaving a balance of Rs 894 crores for the remaining two years.

Utilising the flexibility of the planning process offered by annual plans, the new government made a bid for a fresh look at the goals. The priorities and implementation focusing attention on achieving accelerated growth with greater alleviation of poverty providing more and more goods and services required by the poorer sections of society. Offering an employment guarantee for those who sought work in rural areas, introducing innovative approaches to tackle the problem of the drought and making tireless efforts for improving the quality of living of the masses.

Larger investment coupled with better management and development of human resources for reducing the objectives were imperative. This led to the conceiving of new programmes and wherever necessary for modification of the existing programmes for the realisation of the new perspectives.

Total Development Outlay

The development outlay in the state includes the state plan outlay, expenditure on centrally sponsored and central sector schemes, expenditure on Cauvery Basin Irrigation projects which were pending approval, expenditure on Western Ghats Development and non plan development expenditure. The total development expenditure which stood at Rs. 3137.11 crores during 1980-83 reached Rs. 6255.03 crores by the end of 1985

AGRICULTURE

In spite of severe drought conditions that was witnessed during the years 1984-85. Agricultural production had not suffered a set back during this period 1983-85 as com-

pared to the first three years of the sixth plan. This was possible mainly due to greater thrust envisaged by the new government to agriculture coupled with sustained emphasis on irrigation. The average annual food grains production in the state was 65.03 lakh tonnes during 1980-83 which increased to 70.59 lakh tonnes during 1983-85. Average annual production of oil seeds also increased from 7.5 lakh tonnes during 1980-83 to 8.86 lakh tonnes in the next two years. In this while traditional crops like ground nut production increased considerably thanks to extension services, sunflower was introduced in a big way with an average annual production at 1.5 lakh tonnes during 1983-85 which was about two fold higher than the level maintained during 1980-83. This had raised new hopes in the production of oil seeds in the state.

PROGRAMME OF DRY LAND FARMING

There was a new dimension in the state's policy towards agriculture as conceived by the new Janata Government and this had centred around the 'development of dry land farming' which hitherto remained as a residuary sector in the entire agricultural scenario of the state. The shift in emphasis on the dry land farming had raised hopes in the large chunk of the farming community which was wholly dependent on monsoon for crop production. Under the programme of Dry Land Development, water sheds of about 25,000 to 30,000 hectares had been identified in all districts to take up intensive development. In order to co-ordinate the functions as envisaged in the programme Four Dry Land Development Boards had been set up in the state, one each for a revenue division.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

In order to subserve the programme of Dry Land Development in an effective manner, the agricultural extension services were intensified in a big way. The extension services had a clear role in the success of this programme in carrying the dry land techniques such as inter-cropping, appropriate agronomic practices, optimum utilisation of rain water to the field level. Training and visit system which was introduced in the year 1979-80 in the state was effective in reaching the modern farm techniques to the farmers due to effective extension network, it was possible to cover larger area under high yielding varieties besides other farm improvements. Area under high yielding varieties increased from about 24 hectares in 1980-81 to 28 lakh hectares in 1984-85. Annual average area under High yielding varieties was about 30 lakh hectares during 1983-85 as against 27 lakh hectares during 1980-83-

USE OF FARM INPUTS

Use of important farm inputs like quality seeds, fertilisers, pesticides were maintained at a high level. About 9.48 lakh quintals of quality seeds were distributed on an av-

erage per annum between 1983-88 as against 6.98 lakh quintals during 1978-83. Similarly consumption of fertilisers increased considerably to 27.87 million tonnes during 1983-1988 from 18.55 million tonnes during 1978-83 period. Agricultural production increased to 354. About 43 lakh tonnes during 1983-88 inspite of severe drought conditions from 340.18 lakh tonnes during 1978-83.

CROP INSURANCE AND AGRICULTURAL PRICE POLICY

With a view to protect the farmers from crop failures the scheme of crop insurance was introduced in several taluks of state covering a variety of crops such as paddy, jowar, ragi and ground nut. Expenditure during 1984-85 was anticipated at Rs. 5 lakhs for this purpose against Rs. 1.5 lakhs spent during 1982-83. An outlay of Rs. 6 crores was provided for this scheme in the seventh plan with a matching contribution of Rs.6 crores by the government of India. In order to ensure fair deal to the farmers of their produce, the state government constituted 'Agricultural prices commission' in 1984-85. The commission would examine the cost and price structure of agricultural commodities and recommend remunerative price. State Government offered much higher open market prices in 1984-85 for certain commodities as compared to support prices recommended by the agricultural prices commission.

2. IRRIGATION

Development of irrigation received high priority in the Karnataka's development plans. Total investment that had gone into irrigation worked out to Rs. 1487 crores by the end of 1984-85. of this, expenditure incurred during the sixth plan was Rs. 706 crores.

Investment on irrigation during 1983-84 and 1984-85 was significantly higher than the investments made during the first three years of the sixth five year plan. Minor irrigation had received increasingly higher priority during 1983-84 period and 1984-85 as against the decelerating trend observed during 1980-83 period. Concerted efforts were made to complete the major projects like Upper Krishna-phase 1, Ghata Prabha Stage III, Malaprabha, Hemavathy, Harangi and Kabini. By and large, about 70 percent of the total investment on major irrigation went to these projects. Irrigation potential created during 1983-85 in two years was more than the potential created during the three years 1980-83. By the end of 1984-85, total potential created was 25.11 lakh hectares. Well irrigation became increasingly popular. Programme for constructing the irrigation wells with the assistance of the financial institutions received greater attention from the middle of the sixth five year plan. There were 3.59 lakh wells in 1979-80 and their number went upto 3.84 lakhs by 1982-83, and 4.05 lakhs by the end of 1984-85. In 1983, a programme for popularising sprinkler and drip irrigation was launched with an amount of Rs. 24 lakhs.

In order to bring about all-round development in the major and medium irrigation areas, Command Area Development Authorities were constituted in early fifth plan period, though full statutory backing was provided in 1980.

World Bank assisted Minor Irrigation Project could not take off till 1983-84. Investment under this project was less than two crores during the first three years of the sixth five year plan. Execution of the tank works picked up from 1983-84 onwards and more than Rs. 17 crores were spent during 1983-84 and 1984-85. During 1984-85, a number of measures were taken to remove the long standing hurdles in the execution of various major irrigation projects. For instance, there were 196 land acquisition cases unsettled in the project areas of Upper Krishna stage I, Tungabhadra, Malaprabha and World Bank Minor Irrigation Project area. Of them 170 cases were settled. A number of bottle necks in the supplies of basic inputs like iron, steel etc were cleared so that the execution of the work could progress as per schedule.

HORTICULTURE

With its varied agro-climatic conditions and topographical features, Karnataka is richly endowed in respect of horticulture. Karnataka stood first in respect of coffee with a contribution of 77 percent to the All-India production. It also stood first in respect of areca. With regard to pepper and cashew it stood second and respect of cardamom and coconut it stood third in the country. The state is also well known for several fruit crops and vegetable crops. It was also equally known for flowers. Almost every horticulture crop grown in India is grown in Karnataka. As such, development of horticulture had a unique place.

REFERENCE

1. Kaufman, Daniel, et al, (2002) Governance matter II" policy research paper, 2772 | * 2. Shome SK Anthony Shome Toney, malay political leadership Roet ledge publication, UK 2002 pp 310-340 | 3. Shastri Vanita, the politics of economic liberalization in India, contemporary south Asia, 6 March 1998, pp 27- 56. | 4. Thimmaiah G. and Abdul Aziz (1984), The political economy of land Reforms, Ashish Publishing New Delhi p 9. | 5. 1988 Five Meaning full years of Janata Government, Government of Karnataka information 1988, p.10. | 6. Thimmaiah. G. (1994) Power politics and social change, Sage New Delhi. | 7. Solidarity (Hyderabad) and Sanket (Bhopal) at Ford Foundation, New Delhi, October 2002, P-7. | * 8. Madan Mohan M. The Hind, 12th January 2004, P-2. | 9. 'National Report, and Panchayatiraj and Natural Resource Management. How to decentralise management over natural resources by overseas Development Institute (London), Social and Economic Research Associates (London) TARU Leading Edge (New Delhi and Hyderabad, centre for Budget and Policy Studies Bangalore'. | 10. Vishwanathan, S. A New political class, Frontire, Tuesday 7 June 2005, Page-2 | 11. USAID Program and Operations Assessment Report No. 21. Spreading Power to the Periphery, An Assessment of Democratic Local Governance. By Harry Blair center For Development Information and Evaluation, September 1998-P-24. | 12. James Manor, Change in Karnataka over the Last Generation: Villages and Wider Context, Institute of Development studies, University of Sussex 2005; p.1 | 13. Ibid p-36 | 14. Ibid P-39 | 15. James Manor, "Blurring the lines between parties and social bases: Gundu Rao and the Emergence of a Janata Government in Karnataka" in State Politics in Independent India, John R. Wood (ed), London West View Press 1984, p-157. | 16. Joseph T... ad Sangita S.N. Preferential policies and 'Sons-of the soil' Demands; Indian experience ICES, IK Publications, articles Jan - 1998 P-9.