



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: SOME ISSUES

Economics

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ABSTRACT

India has been witnessing a blinding pace of growth and development in recent times. Experts are now calling for “sustainable development” and the term has gained currency in the last few years. Being the largest private sector 'agriculture' enjoys a very important position in Indian economy. As it is having link from various sectors like production, processing and marketing; agriculture continuously dominate to change in the India. The paper aims to study the significance of the sustainable development in the field of agriculture by using the secondary data. Agriculture is the main occupation in India as large population is living in the rural areas and having agriculture as their livelihood. Sustainable development in the agriculture sector aims to increase the productivity, efficiency and level of employment and further aims to protect and preserve the natural resources by the over utilization. It also provides mechanism to reduce the soil degradation through multiple cropping systems and through the deforestation and much other reason.

KEYWORDS

Sustainable Development, Agriculture, Economic Sustainability.

INTRODUCTION:

Being the largest private sector 'agriculture' enjoys a very important position in Indian economy. As it is having link from various sectors like production, processing and marketing; agriculture continuously dominate to change in the India. The role of agriculture in developing an economy can be analyzed by the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) contribution made by it. The agriculture sector also contributes to the sustainable development of a country. Sustainable agricultural development depends upon the availability of the natural resources of the country. India is a country where about two third of the population lives in the rural areas and having agriculture as their livelihood. In few decades because of urbanization a fall in agriculture is recorded and that shows a very bad sign. The productivity of agricultural sector is improved by two ways- firstly it can increase output by efficiently utilizing the available resources and secondly output can be increased by variation of input. In a country like India productivity is most important to satisfy the need of people as we have a large population. The issue related to agriculture can be studied through three basic categories. As follows

- Traditional production system
- Modern agricultural system
- Sustainable agricultural system

Naturally much work is needed to grow the agriculture to a level where it is least affected by vagaries of monsoon and needs little from outside the farm, i.e., lesser dependence on chemical fertilizers and waste.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To analyze the extent of sustainable development in the agricultural sector in India.
2. To evaluate the performance of agricultural sector as a part of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in India.
3. To analyze that how and to what extent sustainable development is affecting the production policy in agricultural sector in India.

Significance of Study:

The descriptive paper aims to study the extent and importance of sustainable development its impact and effect on the agricultural practices in India, and how the production policies are changing in accordance with changing scenario of the world.

Method of data Collection:

The data used to study the impact of globalization on employment is based on the secondary data purely. The journals, article, web links, books have been used as source of information. There is no empirical touch to this paper.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT:

The issues of sustainable development can be discuss under three broad types of farming systems viz. traditional production method, modern agriculture method and sustainable agriculture system.

Further we can evaluate them across three dimensions, ecological, economic and social sustainability.

- **Ecological Sustainability:** Most of the traditional and conventional farm practices are not ecologically sustainable. They abuse natural resources, reducing soil fertility causing soil erosion and contributing to global climatic change. But sustainable agriculture has some major advantages over traditional practices.
- **Soil Fertility:** Continuous fall in soil fertility is one of the main problems in many parts of India. Sustainable agriculture improves fertility and soil structure.
- **Water:** Irrigation is the largest consumer of fresh water, and fertilizer and pesticides contaminate both surface and ground water. Sustainable agriculture raise the organic matter content of the top soil, thus raising its ability to maintain and store water that falls as rain.
- **Biodiversity:** Sustainable agriculture practices involve mixed cropping, thus increasing the diversity of crops produced and raise the diversity of insects and other animals and plants in and around the fields.
- **Health & Pollution:** Chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers faultily affect the local ecology as well as the population. Indiscriminate utilize of pesticides, improper storage etc. may lead to health problems. Sustainable agriculture reduces the use of hazardous chemical and control pests.
- **Climate:** Conventional agriculture contributes to the production of greenhouse gases in various ways like reducing the amount of carbon stored in the soil and in vegetation, during the production of Methane in irrigated field and production of artificial fertilizers etc. By adopt sustainable agriculture system, one can easily overcome this problem.
- **Economic Sustainability:** For agriculture to be sustainable it must be economically viable over the long term. Conventional agriculture involves new economic risk than sustainable agriculture in the long term. At times governments are inclined to view export-oriented production systems as more important than supply domestic demands. This is not right. Focus on exports alone involves hidden costs: in transport, in assuring local food security, etc. Policies must treat domestic demand and in particular food security as equally important to the in evidence trade balance. But market production implies certain risks as markets are fickle and change quickly. Cheap foreign food may sweep into the national market, leaving Indian farmers without a market. The main source of employment for rural people is farming. Trends to specialization and mechanization can increase narrowly measured "efficiency", but they decrease employment on the land. The welfare costs of unemployment must be taken into account when designing national agricultural support programs. Sustainable agriculture, with its emphasis on small scale, labour-intensive performance, helps overcome these problems.
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ISSUES & CHALLENGES:

The central issue in agricultural development is the necessity to improve productivity, generate employment and provide a source of income to the poor segments of population. The pace of acceptance of modern technology in India is slow and the farming practices are too haphazard and unscientific. Some of the basic issues for development of Indian agriculture sector are revitalization of cooperative institutions, improving rural credits, research, human resource development, trade and export promotion, land reforms and education.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND SOLUTION FOR INDIA:

Sustainable agricultural production depends upon the efficient make use of soil, water, livestock, plant genetics, forest, climate, rainfall and topology. Indian agriculture face resource constraints, infrastructural constraints, institutional constraints, technological constraints and policy induced limitations. Sustainable development is the management and conservation of the natural resource base and the direction of technological and institutional modify in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human wants for the present and future generations. Such sustainable development (in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector) conserves land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, is environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable. So, to complete sustainable agriculture development the optimum use of natural resources, human resources, capital resources and technical resources are required. The sustainable development in India can also be achieved by full utilization of human resources. A large part of poor population of the country is engaged in agriculture, unless we raise their living standard, overall growth of this country is not possible. If we keep ignoring the poor, this disparity force keeps on increasing between classes. Debt traps in country are forcing farmers to commit suicides. People are migrating towards city with the expect of better livelihood but it is also increasing the slum population in cities. Therefore rural population should be given employment in their areas and a chance to prosper. India have been carrying the tag of “developing” country for quite long now; for making the move towards “developed” countries we should shed this huge dependence on agriculture sector.

CONCLUSION:

The agricultural technology needs to move from production oriented towards profit oriented sustainable farming. The conditions for

development of sustainable agriculture are becoming more and more favorable. New opportunities are opening the eyes of farmers, development workers; researchers and policy makers like agree related businesses, dairy farming, poultry farming cattle farming and fisheries. To conclude, a small-farm management to improve productivity, profitability and sustainability of the farming system will go a long way to ensure all round sustainability.

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