



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Economics

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

KEY WORDS: Sustainable growth, Resources, Development, trends and Economy.

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to study the sustainable development in Indian agricultural sector. 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. Sustainability entails attaining equilibrium between the demand and supply of agriculture produce. The green revolution may bring the efficiency in agriculture produce and thus, the productivity increases. The ultimate performance of agriculture depends on the performance of various resources, the strategies and methods adopted. To face dryness due to the decrease in the rainfall, the agriculturist has to use the innovative strategies. The findings of the study reveal the innovative strategies & achieving the growth.

INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture occupies the most important position in Indian economy. The role of agricultural sector in Indian economy can be seen during its contribution to GDP (Gross domestic Product) and employment. This sector also contributes much to sustainable economic development of the country. The sustainable agriculture development of every country depends upon the judicious mix of their available natural resources. The big objective for the improvement of agriculture sector can be realized through rapid growth of agriculture which depends upon increasing the area of cultivation, cropping intensity and productivity.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

- Agriculture plays an important role in the economic growth and development and has therefore remained the largest platform. Agricultural performance in the 90s has erratically fluctuated widely with a declining trend over the period. The close relationship between the performances of agriculture and that of the economy obviously imply that agriculture must grow at a high rate for it to spur economic growth. However, for agriculture to grow at the expected rate, it is imperative that quality investments are done in key areas that have potential for growth.
- In the last three decades the government has realized that non-targeted investments in agriculture could be disappointing. Any future investments in agriculture must therefore be focused to avoid such disappointments and achieve the intended objectives. For example, even with the general poor performance of agriculture, few sub sectors such as horticulture and dairy have performed well. Thus investments in agriculture should be targeted to areas that are likely to attain high productivity.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the status of the agricultural sector and trends.
2. To identify the key factors those encourage the growth of agriculture sector.
3. To identify areas of intervention that could achieve sustainable agricultural growth.

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.
- Social Sustainability: Social sustainability in farming techniques is related to the data of social acceptability and justice. Development cannot be sustainable unless it reduces poverty. The government should find ways to enable the rural poor to profit from agriculture development. Social injustice is where several section of the society is neglected from development opportunities.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE SECTOR:

Agriculture is one of the most preeminent sectors of the Indian economy. It is the source of livelihood for approximately two third of the rural population workforce in the country residing in rural areas. Indian agriculture provides employment to 65% of the labour force, accounts for about 27% of GDP, contributes 21% of total exports and raw material to some industries. The livestock sector contributes an estimated 8.4% to the country GDP and 35.85% of the agriculture output. In India about 75% people are living in rural areas and are still dependent on agriculture, about

43% of India's geographical area is used for agriculture activities. The estimated food grain production is about 255.36 metric tons in the country.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN INDIA:

Indian Agriculture production in mainly part of the country is closely related to the optimum use of available natural and human resources of the country. The country is a leading producer of coconuts, mangoes, milk, bananas, dairy products, ginger, turmeric, cashew nut, pulses and black pepper. It is also the second major producer of rice, wheat, sugar, cotton, fruit and vegetables. Indian agriculture production is closely connected to sufficient and wise water management practices. Most of the agriculture practices in India confined to a few monsoon months. During the monsoon season, India is generally endowed with generous rainfall; although not infrequently, this bountiful monsoon turns into terror, causing uncontrollable floods in different parts of the country and finally affecting agriculture production.

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:

It has been observed that for a growing country like India the practice of sustainable agriculture is of quite importance as it accelerates the productivity, efficiency, employment, and providing guidance to reduce the practices which affect the quality of soil, water resources and degradation of other natural resources. It basically aims at adopting specialization and using environment friendly tools to protect and preserve the environment as well as to enhance the level of production without harming to the environment. As we see the performance of agricultural sector of India we will be easily recognize that performance have been increased in a significant manner over the years. Despite of many challenges like urbanization, Growth of secondary sector etc. it has achieved a significant growth.

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