

The Future of Agriculture in India

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Abstract: At the onset of independence in 1947, India had a lot to watch on its backs like poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, superstitions, miserable condition of society, dilapidated agricultural systems and, most importantly, *the not-so-aware deprecated community*. Scholars back then knew what had to be done at the beginning to offset the problems and, start moving on the developmental approach. The 1st Five Year Plan and, along side motivations to boost Indian Agriculture bears testimony of India's urgency and, mindset of the time. From a stage where we were importing food grains and, seemed beggars in the International atmosphere to largest producer and, consumer of food grains - Indian Agriculture has its own fancy past and, whether it will sustain the post-modern world of *non-primary sector* preferences is the real deal.

Keywords: Sustainability, Inclusivity, Development, Growth, Productivity

Origins: India, like any other country in the world sustains itself by engaging in economic sectors like primary, secondary, tertiary and, 'with the onset of technological revolution and, post modern world', even quaternary and, quinary sectors. It is nevertheless to observe that since Independence we have been in the situations where we had to make critical choices related to survival and, forward path to welfarism. India's foreign policy had a significant role to play in shaping the Indian

scenarios, both; domestic and, global. Despite the rumblings associated with 1967-79 (food shortages), India, very well poised and, managed to come out of the situation with a revolution like solution. Something had to drive our courage and, determination in finding out of the box answers for our problems. What was it? What is it? Would it be in the future? These answers not only are helpful in analyzing what went wrong in the last few years in increasing the correspondent chunk in the Indian Agriculture, however, it does give us a memorable glimpse of India's story of Indian Agriculture in the Ancient and, Medieval past.

The references of Agriculture revolution date back to neolithic age and, Anthropology has put, indeed major emphasis, on the Agriculture revolution for humankind to start a sedentary lifestyle and, increased prosperity in culture, material development and, decisions. From the instances in Indus Valley Civilization where the natives had knowledge of the concept of fertility and, in the following Vedic Age where it did not receive that importance under Aryans - Indian Agriculture managed to instill the great confidence in the lives of people, enabling sense of food security, health and, peace in the social milieu. There had been instances in the Ancient and, Medieval past where the agriculture suffered a setback from famines, droughts, floods, earthquakes or civil strifes, it still came out with what it is poised to be regarded, *trait of social justice*. The importance of Agriculture can be observed from the different facts in different eras in Medieval past when Delhi Sultans and, Mughal Emperors spent a bounty on irrigation facilities and, land mapping respectively.

The British, however, did try at initials to improve the condition of Indian Agriculture and, society but they did diverge their interests from welfare to commercialism as they exploited the contemporary Indian

consciousness. The import of bullion from Britain in exchange for Indian textiles and, food grains enabled in them a desire to finance their trade locally in India that gave rise to exploitative revenue systems like Permanent Settlement, Mahalwari and, Ryotwari. It not only ravaged the then social determination, however, the wholesome industry of traditional artisans, crafts, textiles and, agriculture suffered a setback of which's evil impacts we try to eradicate today.

Our national, regional as well as local leaders fighting for Indian independence made their masses aware about British's draconian policies of exploitation and, were successful in mobilizing their support, *if not early*, however, they secured the unwavering and, unconditional consciousness of Indian masses later. Not only the grand dream of independent India was sold to the masses but the evils of poverty, malnutrition and, illiteracy were to be pulled out was also one of the desires of leaders. As mentioned above after Independence, we had set for ourselves the promise of welfare by walking down the lane with mixed model of economy poised with traits like sovereignty, socialism, secularism and, democracy. These ideals gave us the firm footing we had so badly thought about during colonial times in starting the procedure of India's growth story.

Contemporary problems in Indian Agriculture: We talked about our bold moves and, *out of the box* solutions during our tough times with food security, however, the ill effects associated we did not even dare to think at that time are flaunting us openly today. High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds, imported at the time, not only marginally increased our agricultural productivity and, production but secured a sense of renewed confidence and, vigor in Indian peasants. Accompanied land reforms in the form of *Abolition of Zamindari, Tenancy Reforms and, Land Ceiling Legislation*

also sounded positively with most of the Indian peasants, barring few. The input intensive agriculture; envisioned appropriate at that time has sucked out resources today, leaving land- deserted, ground water - depleted and, Indian peasants attitude - negative. Along with all of them, the climatic changes brought mostly with anthropogenic factors have also depreciated the Indian agricultural development as most of the sector is rain-fed. The extreme precipitation in few corners and, droughts in another is a miserable condition to grapple with, seriously requiring the attention of stakeholders concerned. Recognizing the governance level of Indian governments in the last 50 years, it has been quite evidently in light that several big ticket programs have been initiated to cope up and, bring the glory of Indian Agriculture to its feet again. *It is easier said than done* - quite a sentence, however, since when had or have, Indian subjects did not dare to fight back. Technological landscape is essentially required in the modern times to solve the problems of agriculture today along with the strong attitude and, readiness encompassing behavioral change and, willingness to listen and, modify the existential practices.

Panacea for the future of Indian Agriculture: Governments by their welfare schemes have tried to plug the loopholes in the sector. Access to cheap credit availability has been recognized as an enabler, regarding which the increased attention by stakeholders is subsequently transforming and, rewarding. Schemes like **Mudra Yojana** and, several organizations like **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Farmer Producer Organization and, Self-Help Groups** etc, are doing the needy work.

The governance has to be supported with the ideals of transparency, accountability and, responsibility for which the *self-government* along with *social auditing* can not only revamp the profile of Indian agriculture

but also would be handy in negotiating strong developmental outlook. Even the focus of the governments, worldwide has been equally credit worthy as they not only are recognizing the significance of sustainable agriculture but have also promised heavily to bring the monumental change in critical sectors. Global intervention in the form of Sustainable Development Goals and, United Nations Conventions; are also helping governments at national levels to switch their attention and, fiscal urgency.

The blend of organic farming and, ancillary activities, today are not igniting rise in net disposable incomes in the lives of farmers but are trying to bring the long cherished goal of constitutional makers; *socio-economic-politico justice*.

No country in the world would like to be dependent on imports for their food security. However or otherwise India agriculture may seem or look like today, we, as Indians have shown the great resilience and, courage in the past to not only dust the demons out but most importantly realize the value of asset concerned. It is not heart-warming to mention and, observe that a large part of Indian population is into the primary sector and, not producing enough, however, it brings a lot of pride and, joy when, on the contrary, we set to not only transform and, ignite an infrastructural change but to happily appreciate and, accept the great cultural transfusion required in sorting out our problems.

The future of Indian Agriculture depends upon all the stakeholders concerned in the value chain right from the *producer to procurer to marketer to transporter to wholesaler to retailer and, to consumer*. If we as together, building on our strengths and, weakening our vulnerabilities, try to move forward with all the resources at our disposal, even, *the sky would not be the limit*.

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