Challenges of Agarian Crisis, A case study of Saran District

Anjali Kumari
Research Scholar
Department of Geography
J.P.U Chapra, Bihar

Agriculture is method or practice of farming including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provided food, wool and other products.

The term agriculture has its origin in the Latin words ager meaning ‘fields’ and culture meaning to culture or cultivate, thus it refers mainly to the tilling of fields for growing crops. Agriculture includes the rearing of livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horse, camels, chicken, ducks and even fish, silk worms and honeybees.

Location of Saran District:

The present area of study is Saran District, is an important district of the state of Bihar, Located in Southern part of newly created Saran Commissionary of North Bihar and headquarter of the saran division is at Chapra, Geographically it lies between 25.36° to 26.13° north latitudes and 84.24 to 85.15 east longitudes. The district of saran is a part of the Ganga – Ghaghara doab has a different physiography: although there are a number of tals, Ox-Bow lakes and deserted Channels of river, particularly along the Ghaghara and in the eastern parts¹ and this area is known Bhanger soil region.

The length of the study area is 122 KM from the river Gandak in the east of sonpur sub-division. Its width varies from 65 KM in the east and 44 KM in the west. It extends over an area of 2641 sq. Kms, and contain a population of 3,943,098 persons, according the census 2011.

This part is divided in to three division according to their physiographiy.

(a) The palin :- The alluvial plain along the big rivers Ganga, Gandak and Ghaghara, which are subjected to seasonal inundation and area of flood prone.
(b) The upland land: This area of the district is far away from the rivers and free from threat of flood in rainy season and this area is densely populated. This area is locally known ‘CHAWRS’ cover large areas in the south and south east of the district.

(c) The daira land: This area have unique feature, which is situated in the beds of the great rivers and they are also called is an interesting example of soil formation. The levels of diara which is so for nothing but a heap of sand, then gradually raises as the water lying stagnant spreads thin large of clay and silt over the sand and this deposit silt deepens at every high flood until at the last diara rises above the flood level, a high fertile soil and produce ‘BHADAI’ crops and highest production of ‘RAVI’ Crops.

**Agricultural Position of Study Area:**

Agriculture is the primary activity of human beings. It varies in spatial pattern in a time and space. Basically agriculture is major source of livelihood in rural of the study area lies in Gandak Ghaghara Doab, a fertile soil region, produces bumper crops. This region is agricultural region in Bihar. Yearly 80% of total population of Saran District have engaged themselves in agriculture and its allied business and 199300 hectares area is net sown area. This area of study enjoys Rabi and Kharif both cropping system and its 101611 hectare area is under net irrigation.

The table 2.1 show the production of different crops for the last five years in the study area.

**Table – 2.1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rabi</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>108225</td>
<td>99827</td>
<td>104900</td>
<td>103608</td>
<td>108049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>42350</td>
<td>42350</td>
<td>41350</td>
<td>36416</td>
<td>42469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>8959</td>
<td>10283</td>
<td>9045</td>
<td>7484</td>
<td>7216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Seeds</td>
<td>6642</td>
<td>6589</td>
<td>6320</td>
<td>5997</td>
<td>7216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato</td>
<td>12067</td>
<td>12712</td>
<td>12680</td>
<td>12772</td>
<td>12500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>83700</td>
<td>59600</td>
<td>52278</td>
<td>80935</td>
<td>71853</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source – Compiled from the data of Directorate of statistic, Bihhar

Table 2.2 show the distribution of land in cultivated area.

Table – 2.2

Types of cultivable land of Saran District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Land</th>
<th>Area (In Hectare)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Land</td>
<td>54212</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium High Land</td>
<td>13326</td>
<td>07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Land</td>
<td>36630</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Land</td>
<td>23300</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaur Land</td>
<td>42271</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diara Land</td>
<td>29561</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>199300</strong></td>
<td><strong>98%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source – Compiled from the date of Directorate of statistic, Bihar.

As we know that saran is agricultural area, where mostly people engaged in primary work, only few percentage of people evolved in secondary and teritary work. But due to some reason this area also suffered from many problems toward agriculture. Agriculture in this district is the gamble due to rain fall. Some time the precipitation is very low it causes drought situation as well as some time it became too much is also caused for heavy flood. So it is major challenging situation for farmers about their good production. The situation of production fully depends of percentage of rainfall in the study area.

There are some factors which is responsible for agrian challenges towards study area.

1. Small and fragmented land holdings.
2. Seeds.
3. Manures; fertilizers and Biocides.
4. Irrigation.
5. Lack of Mechanization.
7. Agricultural Marketing.
8. Inadequate storage facilities.
9. Inadequate transport.
10. Scarcity of capital.

These 10 factors are major challenges in the progress of the study area. We should try to improve and rectify these situations through proper planning for satisfactory development of agriculture.

**Suggestion:**

1. Government should implement more schemes towards the agricultural field.
2. The project of agricultural development should be transparent.
3. It is necessary to be aware of the facilities and schemes launched by the government.
4. Banks should cooperate with farmers and their functioning for crop-related activities.
5. There should be proper storage facilities for crops after harvesting.
6. We should try to plant more trees for the conservation of soil erosion and its related problems.
7. Government should set up agro-based industries that provide jobs as well as proper livelihood for local people of the study area.
8. Government should be focused on the three main resources of the study area: forest, land, and water resources.
9. It is also very necessary to focus on the education of each and every person for better development in agriculture as well as in other aspects of life.
10. Agriculture is the backbone of the study area, so it needs skilled training in agricultural methods.
References

- Statistics office of Bihar.
- Saran Gazetteer.
- Gender & Governance – Human Development Resource Centre, UNDP.
- Sources of information :- Offices of agricultural offices and B.D.O. Offices