

PROBLEMS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BIHAR

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Introduction :

Rural Development is a process, which aims at improving the well being and self realization of people living outside the urbanized areas through collective process. According to Agarwal (1989) rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of rural poor. The United Nations defines Rural Development, as Rural Development is a process of change, by which the efforts of the people themselves are united, those of government authorities to improve their economic, social and cultural conditions of communities in to the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national programme. Rural Development is a process of bringing change among rural community from the traditional way of living to progressive way of living. It is also expressed as a movement for progress. A society or community can be classified as rural based on the criteria of low population density, less social differentiation, less social and spatial mobility slow rate of social change etc. Agriculture would be the major occupation of rural area.

Rural development designates the utilization of approaches and techniques under one single programme, which really upon local communities as units of action. It provides a large umbrella under which all the people engaged in the work of community organizations, community progress and community relation.

Scope and Importance of Rural Development :

Rural development is a Dynamic process, which is mainly concerned with the rural areas, these include agricultural growth, putting up of economic and social infrastructure, fair wages as also housing and house sites for the landless, village planning, public health, education and functional literacy, communication Rural Development is a national necessity and has considerable importance in India because of the following reasons :

1. Bulk of raw materials for Industries come from agriculture and rural section.
2. Around 70% of Indian population gets employment through agriculture.
3. Increase in Industrial population can be justified only in rural population's motivation and increasing the purchasing power to buy industrial goods.

Need of Rural Development :

Rural development is a national necessity and has considerable importance because of the following reasons :

- To develop rural area as whole in terms of cultural society, economy, technology and health.
- To develop living standard of rural mass.
- To develop rural youths, children and women.
- To develop rural institutions like panchayat, co-operatives, post, banking and credit.
- To develop leadership quality of rural area.
- To improve scopes of employment for rural mass.
- For the sustainable development of rural area.
- To eliminate rural poverty.

Agriculture and the Economy of Bihar

After the bifurcation of the state, agriculture has become more important because all the rich mineral resource have gone to the state of Jharkhand. The state is left with residual natural resource endowment such as cultivable land fertile soil and abundant water. Due to this the economy of Bihar is mainly based on agricultural and allied sectors. After the bifurcation of Bihar, the growth rate in terms of both GSDP and NSDP showed remarkable increase in all most all sub-sectors as compared to pre-bifurcation period. However agriculture and all allied sector has accounted miserable growth rate as compared to industrial and service sector.

Basic Features of the Economy of Bihar :

The state of Bihar was reorganised on Nov. 15 2000 with 38 districts, 9 divisions and 101. Sub-divisions 533 blocks and 45,098 villages (census-2001) Bihar is the third most populous state and 12th largest state in terms of geographical areas of about 94.2 thousand square kilometers (census-2011) It is divided by river-Ganga into two parts. After the bifurcation of the state, agriculture has become more important because all the rich mineral resources have gone to the state of Jharkhand. The state is left with residual natural resources endowment such as cultivable land, fertile soil and abundant water. As the state is endowed with appropriate climatic conditions for the cultivation of a wide range of crops and trees. Based on soil characteristics, rain fall, temperature and terrain.

Problems in Rural Development :

1. Traditional way of people's thinking. 2. Poor understanding 3. Lone level of education to understand development efforts and new technology. 4. Deprived psychology and scientific orientation. 5. Lack of confidence. 6. Poor awareness 7. Low level of education 8. Existence of unfelt needs. 9. Personal ego.

Agricultural Related problems / Agricultural Issues :

Bihar lies in the river plains of the basin of the river Ganga. It is endowed with fertile alluvial soil ground Ganga. It is endowed with fertile alluvial soil ground water resources. This makes the agriculture of Bihar rich and diverse. Rice, wheat and maize are the major cereal crops. Arhar, urad, moong, gram, pea, lentils, and khesari are some of the pulses cultivated in Bihar. Bihar is the largest producer of vegetables, which is dominated by potato, onion, eggplant, and cauliflower. In fruit cultivation. It is the largest producer of pineapple, as well as a major producer of mango, banana, and guava. Sugar cane and jute are two other major cash crops of Bihar.

Cropping Patteren :

The net sown area in Bihar is 60% of its geographical area. This percentage is much higher than the all India average of 42% such a high percentage of cultivated land is possible for two reasons. First most of Bihar is plain area suitable for agriculture second, most of the forest had been converted into farmland during the last 2000 years currently, land under forest constitutes only 6% of the area.

North Bihar is a productive agricultural center, while South Bihar is hindered by its flood and drought prone geography. In the south, the Ahar pyne system of agriculture has long been used to cultivate crops.

Food grains :

Rice is cultivated in all districts of Bihar Autumn rice, aghani rice, and summer rice are three different varieties of rice grown at three different times of the year, Maize is also cultivated, with an average annual production level of approximately 1.5 million tonnes and a steady positive trend in production. The leading producer districts are Khagaria and Saharsa. Pulses are grown, more in southern than in northern Bihar. The leading districts are Patna, Bhojpur, Aurogab and Nalanda.

Important for cereals (Wheat and maize) the state is major producer of horticultural crops especially fruits and vegetable. A wide variety of crops horticulture and tree species are grown viz.- cereals (rice, maize, wheat), oil seeds, pulses, fruites, (potato, onion, parwal, okra, peas. Cauliflower, cabbage) aqno culture I fish, Singhara. The state has a total area of 2.81 lakh ha under different fruit crops with a production of 33.8 lakh MT and is the major litchi exporting state of the country. Also in terms of the gross value of components of agricultural production, fruits and vegetables rank second after cereals having 28.6 percent.

Indo-Gangetic plains have predominately rice – wheat cropping system, in view of changing scenario, marketability and commercialization, there is a need of diversfield crops and land use system to bring in more integration, wide variety of choice risk minimization and sustainable agricultueal development. Bihar is a leading state in maize production. It has multiple uses, the baby corn, sweet corn, popcorn and green cobs are remunerative enterprises for increased income nad profit. In Bihar expansion in area under quality protein Maize (QPM) will result in ehnaced profitablility. Maize based industry producing starch, human food, animal and poultry feed etc. can be popularized for better return.

In case of rice, we may concetrate on organic farming of scented rice varieties such as Katarni of Bhagalpur region and Rajendra Basmati Sugandha in Patna region. In comparision to rane rice milling parboiling system has some additional advantage like higher head rice recovery, refianing more protein, vitamin and minerals, greater resistance to insects infestation during storage and leaching loss during cooking.

A variety of agricultural produce viz. milk makhana, mango, litichi, spice, scented rice, pulses, oil seeds vegetable, medicinal and aromatic plants, flowers have immense plntial for commercial agriculture and setting up of processing industry in production area, Jule and paper industries may prove great promise in the north east Bihar region. In Kisanganj area of 10,000 ha, there will be prosperity of Industrialization in the region.

Area specific issues and strategies :

Sourthern Plains :

The main horticultural crops of this region are mango guava, banana, bael, jack fruit, cole crop, onion, potato, parwal, chilies, marigold etc. However, area under fruit crops in this region is low. Bringing more area under high density planting will help in increasing the

production of fruit crops, in the region. The region is known for distress sale of fruits like banana in vaishali district bael in Gaya, Patna and Lakhisarai district, mango in Patna, Munger and Jamui district potato and coal crops in Nalanda and Nawada district, Hence seeling up at psot harvest handling facilities for those commodities in the respective region will help in minimizing the post harvest loss of the produce and will be highly remunerative setting up of processing facilities of turmeric in Banka and Patna district may also be highly remunerative.

Promotion of Horiculture in aras around Patna, Lakhisarai district can also provde high dividnt. Hajipur region is known for quality production of tropical cauliflower seeds intensification of seed production of cole crops, onion etc. will also be highly remunerative.

Northern plains :

The region covers an area of 92,61,000 ha, comprising of district like Bettiah, Motihari, Gopalganj, Siwan, Chapra, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Sitramarhi, Madhubani, Darbanga, The average annual rain fall of the region is 1275 mm.

Northeast Plains :

This region covers an area of 19,56,000 ha, comprising of district like, Madhepura, Purnea, Katihar, Kisanganj, Khagaria, Begusarai, Sahsars, Araria, Bhagalpur etc. The soil is sandy to silty loam, medium to strongly acidic, large area in this region comprise of Tal and Diara lands, Mango, bael, banana, papaya, chiies etc. are the main horticultural crops grown in this region.

The natural water bodes can be utilized for production of makhana and water chestnut. Intensification of cucurbit cultivation for vegetable as well as seed in diara lands particularly during spring summer period can also be highly remunerative.

Other Important Issues :

Seed production and planting material :

Quality seed is in scarce in Bihar, though seed production is highly profitable enterprises. Seed village concept including organized systematic method of breeder, foundation, certified and truthful seed will change the face of Bihar Agriculutre. Since the region has immense potential for furit produciton ensured supply of quality plantiing material of different fruit plants has great scope.

Agri Implement production :

Agriculture and allied enterprise can be a business, which may maximize productivity, income and employment. Many improved implements are required for agricultural operations. Most of them can be fabricated on commercial scale at local level with some incentives and support at policy level.

Storage and Transportations :

Only in horticultural produce, Bihar suffers a staggering loss to the tune of 30% due to inadequate post harvest management. There is a need to better manage our harvest and prepare maturity indices for different markets, cool chain management, CA storage, transport and logistics. Proper storing facilities and transportation at the production site and processing site will minimize post harvest losses and enhance profitability.

Development of Market Infrastructure and Services :

Improvement in infrastructure good motorable roads, assured availability of power to the farmer-through solar power, storage system in large metric tones capacities.

Agricultural credit :

Provision of credit to agriculture sector has been one of the main concerns of policy planners in India since independence. However, an assessment of the situation at ground level indicates that recourse to non-institutional credit continues to dominate as far as rural areas and agriculture sector are concerned. The paper tries to examine the credit policy, crop insurance related issues and the role self help group can play in overall economic development in the state of Bihar, India.

Other agricultural Related Problem :

1) lack of expected awareness, knowledge, skill and attitude. 2) Unavailability of inputs. 3) Poor marketing 4) Insufficient extension staff and services. 5) Multi dimensional tasks to extension personnel 6) Small size of land holding 7) Division of land. 8) Unwillingness to work and stay in rural areas.

Infrastructure Related Problems :

Poor infrastructure facilities like water, electricity, transport educational institutions, communications, health, storage facility etc.

Economic Problems :

1) Unfavourable economic condition to adopt high cost technology 2) High cost of inputs 3) underprivileged rural industries.

Social and cultural problems :

1) leadership among the hands of inactive and incompetent people 2) Malafied interest of leaders. 3) Biased political will.

Administrative Problems :

1) Earlier, majority of the programmes were planned based on top to bottom approach and were target oriented 2) Political interference. 3) Lack of motivation and interest 4) Unwillingness to work in rural area 5) Improper utilization of budget.

Conclusion :

The study shows that the Bihar has diversified agriculture production in favour of horticulture and commercial crops at very slower rate during the post – bifurcation. But it is important to highlight that the area under food grains still occupies more than 86% of total cropped area due to the traditional cropping pattern as well as traditional food habits. Therefore, area, production and yield of non-food grain crops are more stable as compared to food grain crops. Among the agro-climatic zones in Bihar, highest share in area and production of kharif rice, pulses, pea, gram and lentil has been found, while bhadai rice, wheat, mustard and arhar has been found. Katihar appear to be the highest prosperous districts, while Araria at the bottom is having lowest per capita income.

After the bifurcation of Bihar their growth rate in terms of both GSDP and NSDP showed remarkable increase in almost all sub-sectors as compared to pre-bifurcation period. However, agriculture and allied sector has accounted miserable growth rate as compared to industrial and services sector. The share of agriculture and allied sector has declined from 46.70% to 26.51% during 1990-91 to 2008-2009. Despite sharp decline of its share in NSDP, agriculture still plays a vital role in the development of Bihar. The urgent need of the hour is to increase investment in rural infrastructure for water management / soil conservation / constructions of roads to link rural area with urban area etc with appropriate technology, infrastructure and policy support it is possible to reverse the declining trend in food grain production and check the migration of the people from Bihar to other states.

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