

## **ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN GENERATING INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA**

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### **Abstract**

Agriculture is an important sector of Indian economy as it contributes about 17% to the total GDP and provides employment to over 60% of the population. Indian agriculture has registered impressive growth over last few decades. Agriculture's contribution to the national income has come down over the years but it is still the largest employer of the country. Agriculture is an essential determinant in the quest for ending poverty at all levels, and achieving sustainable food security. The agricultural sector must work more efficiently and sustainably and adapt faster to new environmental conditions.

Keywords: Agriculture, Employment

### **Introduction**

The agricultural sector is the main employer and driver of development in rural regions. Some 1.3 billion people work in agriculture around the world, 97 per cent of them in developing countries. Depending on the region, 30 to 50 per cent of household income in rural regions is generated directly through farming. The employment impetus for regional economic development is enormous, particularly where agricultural production goes beyond subsistence and supplies the food market or enterprises that process primary products. Employment in sectors closely associated with farming.

Reduction of agricultural contribution in national employment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is an inevitable consequence of the economic progress. Agriculture's contribution to the national income has come down over the years but it is still the largest employer of the country. The productivity of land is of paramount importance while studying the total production of the primary sector but as constant use of land has reached its saturation point in spite of technological intervention especially in agricultural advanced states, the productivity of labour is of much intrigue and importance for the policymakers who want to make agriculture a business of profit. Agricultural worker productivity depends on capital input intensity that is the use of modern technology has made labour

more productive Shifting of agriculture workforce to non-agriculture also pre requires condition so as to enhance agricultural worker productivity but this transition is neither smooth nor easy. Over the years the policy of the government has been directed towards more emoluments in forms of handouts and loan write-offs in place of implementing policies towards increasing the productivity of farmers.

Over the years, there has been a long-standing interest on the relationship between agricultural development, employment generation and poverty reduction, as the number of people who are living in poverty and hunger continues to increase. Moreover, agriculture is an essential determinant in the quest for ending poverty at all levels, and achieving sustainable food security.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To study the generating employment and income in agriculture
- To study the employment opportunities in agriculture

### **Employment And Income In Agriculture**

Agriculture accounts for almost 60 per cent<sup>3</sup> of aggregate employment in India. Employment in agriculture is rural-based (97 percent); but it is depressing to note that in the rural sector the rate of growth of agricultural employment is abysmally low. Recently, the Government of India launched an ambitious programmes for agri infrastructure, credit, market reforms, minimum basic income, and risk management, which are expected to improve profitability off arming and farm ventures. The landmark reforms in agricultural marketing are expected to attract more private/foreign investments, reduce market unpredictability and improve price realisation. Every ninth agritech startup in the world is from India and these are growing at 25 percent annually.

### **Some salient facts about Agricultural scenario**

1. Agriculture is the largest provider of livelihood in rural India
2. It contributes 25 percent to India's GDP
3. It is still dependent primarily on the monsoons
4. The growth in agricultural production has been stagnant for the past several years.
5. The drought in north and western parts in FY09 created shortages in supply of food grains.

### **Challenges facing rural economies**

The agricultural sector will not be able to meet this enormous challenge alone. However, its sustainable growth is of fundamental importance for the creation of additional jobs. The overall conditions for the growth of the sector are favourable. Global demand for food, fibres, oils, medicinal plants, energy and other agricultural primary products is on the rise. Increasingly scarce resources such as water, farmland and biodiversity, as well as the impacts of climate change, are forcing adjustments. The agricultural sector must work more efficiently and sustainably and adapt faster to new environmental conditions. In addition, the rising number of people living in urban regions requires more processed foods.

### **Role of agriculture in Indian economy**

1. Share in National Income:
2. Largest Employment Providing Sector:
3. Contribution to Capital formation:
4. Providing Raw Material to industries
5. Market for Industrial Products:

### **Employment Opportunities In Agriculture**

as a response to the increasing demand for skilled labour in a liberalised economy, growing concern about the widespread skill mismatch, need for alignment of training programmes to international standards, making skill training aspirational and attractive to the youth, bringing a synergy between all skill development efforts among different ministries and State governments, and improving the scope for more private sector participation.

### **Central Schemes**

It was observed that the main challenges of skill development among the youth are the high cost of vocational training, less flexibility and mobility associated with vocational education. In order to make skill courses more accessible to the youth, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana or PMKVY was launched with an aim to train 10 million youth between 2016 and 2020. Agriculture training can be taken in 182 different job roles under PMKVY. Other than PMKVY, opportunities for short-term training in agriculture-related job roles are available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Vikas Yojana (DDUGKY), Ajeevika under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), and Barefoot Technician Programme under Mahatma Gandhi National

Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). All youth aged 18 years and above who are citizens of India are eligible for these programmes. Besides, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has a special scheme Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture for aspirational youth in the agriculture sector.

### **State Schemes**

Apart from the Central schemes, States run their own forward looking and aspirational skill development schemes that are NSQF-aligned and linked to employed creation. Some such schemes in which ASCI is involved in curriculum design, assessment, and certification are the Utkarsh Bangla scheme of West Bengal, Placement Linked Skill Training Programme of Assam, SURYA scheme of Haryana, Employment Linked Skill Training Programme of Rajasthan, Entrepreneurship and Employment Linked Skill Training Programme of Uttarakhand, skill training Programmes under APSSDC, UPSDM, and BSDM

### **Conclusion**

A sustainably growing agricultural sector can generate decisive impetus and make significant contributions to the fight against poverty. Employment in agriculture and in sectors directly connected to agriculture plays a crucial role in achieving this. Cooperation between farmers and the processing industry through contract farming provides a chance for regular, reliable income as well as access to expertise and technical and organisational innovations. Precision farming has created a demand for services of skilled professionals in farm machinery, greenhouse farming, pesticide and fertiliser application, micro-irrigation and solar energy. Organic farming has generated renewed interest worldwide and in India, organic products are growing between 25 and 30 percent annually.

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