

Sustainable Growth and Development in Indian Agriculture

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Abstract:

The objective of this research is to study the growth and sustainability in agriculture sector. 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. .

Keywords:

Sustainable Growth, Resources, Development Trends, Economy.

Introduction

There is a vital role of Agriculture sector in the process of economic development of less developed countries like India. Besides providing food to nation, agriculture releases labour, provides saving, contributes to market of industrial goods and earns foreign exchange. Agricultural development is an integral part of overall economic development. In India, agriculture was the main source of national income and occupation at the time of Independence. Agriculture and allied activities contributed nearly 50 percent to India's national income. Around 72 percent of total working population is engaged in agriculture.

These confirm that Indian economy was a backward and agricultural based economy at the time of Independence. After 61 year of Independence, the share of agriculture in total national income declined from 50 percent in 1950 to 18 percent in 2007- 08. But even today more than 60 percent of workforce is engaged in agriculture. In spite of this, it is also an important feature of agriculture that is to be noted that growth of other sectors and overall economy depends on the performance of agriculture to a considerable extent. Because of these reasons agriculture continues to be the dominant sector in

Indian Economy. Since independence India has made much progress in agriculture. Indian agriculture, which grew at the rate of about 1 percent per annum during the fifty years before Independence, has grown at the rate of about 2.6 percent per annum in the post-Independence era.

Expansion of area was the main source of growth in the period of fifties and sixties after that the contribution of increased land area under agricultural production has declined over time and increase in productivity became the main source of growth in agricultural production. Another important facet of progress in agriculture is its success in eradicating of its dependence on imported food grains. Indian agriculture has progressed not only in output and yield terms but the structural changes have also contributed. All these developments in Indian agriculture are contributed by a series of steps initiated by Indian Government. Land reforms, inauguration of Agricultural Price Commission with objective to ensure remunerative prices to producers, new agricultural strategy, investment in research and extension services, provision of credit facilities, and improving rural infrastructure are some of these steps.

Notwithstanding these progresses, the situation of agriculture turned adverse during post- WTO period and this covered all the sub sectors of agriculture. The growth rates in output of all crops decelerated from 2.93 percent to 1.57 percent. The livestock declined from 4.21 percent to 3.40 percent. The fisheries declined from 7.48 percent to 3.25 percent. Only, forestry witnessed a sharp increase from 0.09 percent to 1.82 percent.

Need For The Study

1. 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.

2. 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.

Main Title

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.

Conceptual Development of Agriculture Growth

Since 2000, there has been strong progress in the agricultural sector (which includes crops, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries) overall agricultural growth has averaged 4 percent a year. This is partly due to policy reforms including ongoing impacts of allocating land use rights to individuals, and the result of market-based incentives such as higher prices for crops.

The agriculture performance linkages with rural poverty and household nutrition, supply response and investments in agriculture, performance and potential of rain fed agriculture, efficiency in Indian edible oilseed sector, progress and potential of horticulture, linkages between urban consumption and rural nonfarm employment and agriculture income, subsidies and investment in livestock sector, post harvest management of fish, and cooperative credit.

Economics of Agricultural Development

Three broad stages in the evolution of agricultural production:

1. Primitive stage- subsistence peasant farm
2. Mixed family agriculture- consumption + sale
Modern farm- specialized and commercial farming

Review of Literature

1. Candice Stevens discussed the Green Revolution which includes the new crop varieties, increased yields. He also commented on rapidly increasing populations and shrinking natural resources. To maintain this performance we must improve sustainable resource use, and respond to climate change. He has also focused on the Water management because there is a challenge of increasing food production using less water due to pressures from climate change as well as from urbanization and industrialization, the conservation of water resources is not focused in his report. Development of land could also be one of the ways to overcome matching of demand and supply of food grains.

2. James K. Nyoro (JUNE 2002) focused on various issues like Structure of Agricultural Production including Coffee, Tea, Horticulture, Pyrethrum, Maize and wheat and Dairy. He also discussed the institutes in agriculture like marketing, credit banks, and cooperative societies. But the strategy to meet demand and supply of agro-production is not explained in his paper.

3. Amarnath Tripathi & A.R. Prasad had explained the nature of agriculture and decelerating growth trend in agriculture. They found that the cause of failure of all development policy for agriculture is that there is no availability of any separate development strategy for Indian agriculture. This is due to the fact that we had not available necessary data to study the characteristics of Indian agriculture. But presently we have come a long way from Independence and now we have long-terms data pertaining to Indian agriculture. The innovative strategies are not focused in his paper to overcome dryness in summer

Conclusion

The growth and development in the agriculture is achieved by Green Revolution. It is the need of the tense to maintain the resources and to respond the climate change. The conservation of water resources is required to be focused. To face the difficulties in



summer and the decrement in the rain fall, it is important to save a single drop of water, for this one of the strategies that to pour the water collected by the roof in the land, other strategies may be dividing land in to several other parts to match the demand and supply for food grains and the vegetables.

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