

DISCOVERING THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

In the present study an attempt has been made to investigate the problems in agricultural productivity of the state which is the largest state in term of area in the country .Agriculture is the dominant sector contributing about 21% in Net State Domestic Product. The growth of agriculture sector in Rajasthan has improved tremendously in comparison to many other Indian states, but there are many problems associated with agriculture sector in Rajasthan like ground water problems, farmer's economic conditions, credit problems, use of chemicals and pesticides problems. The large portion of Rajasthan is covered by Thar desert. Various initiatives are taken by government for improving the condition of agriculture in Rajasthan .The condition is now quit satisfactory by various programs like Ingra Gandhi Nehar Yojana, national agriculture development programme, Green revolution. Etc. but still some drawbacks are associated with the programs. Lack of fertilizers and lack of finance and irrigation facilities for farmers is the major problem in Rajasthan. Other big issue is related with the climate changes. Other than these socio economic problems cultural problems also linked with agriculture sector in Rajasthan. Social issues like law of inherent which is major problem with associated with land holding.

KEYWORDS: Entrepreneurship, Indebtedness , Sex Ratio, GDP Ratio

Rajasthan is desert dominant state even then it is not most exclusive state in term of socioeconomic indicators But socio-economic exclusion is vary from district to district. Exclusion is more widely in desert areas than non-desert area in terms of per capita net district domestic product, population density, decadal population growth, and sex ratio but there is inclusion in literacy rate. Rajasthan where most part of the state is arid and the basic factors having relative permanency and fixity are those which tend to make stock raising the most suited farm activity in the region. The desert area of the state is much affected by the economy of the state because there is severity of drought which occurs frequently and the government can avert famine deaths, first, drinking water and, second, fodder for the cattle Ghosh. The agricultural production of the state is affected due to uncertainty of rainfall. Three technological factors, viz, high yielding varieties of seed, fertilizers, and irrigation also affects the growth of agricultural productivity in Rajasthan during 1961-74 i.e. just after the green revolution.

PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURE OF RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan's agriculture has been mostly dependent on monsoon and irrigation. Again uncertainty of monsoon is major condition for farmers and losses the seasonal crop production. So the dependency on monsoon is major crisis

facing by agriculture sector in Rajasthan. Fertilizer use in Rajasthan is very low due to uncertainty of monsoon, impeded drainage, lack of irrigation facilities, desert soil and lack of awareness about the fertilizer in time, non-availability of fertilizer in time.

Soil is the most important natural resources because agricultural production is also depended on the quality of soil. The Rajasthan soil has under developed in adverse climatic condition. Moisture is not available in the soil in large part of state. The crop production in state is influenced by this factor also.

The most important cause of decline in agricultural production is the unfavorable environment for agricultural growth. Most parts of Rajasthan are suffering from inadequate infrastructural facilities such as electrification, market storage, road map, and inadequate credit facilities in rural areas. Resources of irrigation in state are very scarce and lack of irrigation is a permanent and major problem for state. Chemical fertilizers, pesticides, agriculture machinery and high yield varieties seeds; all are not easy to reach the poor, small and marginal farmers. The new technology of agriculture is very expensive for farmers. The financial assistance is not sufficient for use modern technology to small and marginal farmers.

The dry climate of Rajasthan is the major problem for agriculture activities. The scanty, uneven and irregular

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rainfall has converted large areas of state into desert and semi-desert, which have become unfit to cultivation. Poverty among farmers mostly prevents them to adopting new techniques of agriculture. High percentage of illiteracy and low education among farmers also impedes faster development of scientific and technical skills necessary for agricultural development. Distribution of agricultural land defective and major share of it is with non-cultivating owners. Lack of proper management of water supply to cultivated areas in state is also responsible for uneven development of agricultural economy. It's always affecting the agriculture sector and its allied activities

Economy of Rajasthan has faced several droughts and famines in last few decades. It's because, a large part of state is belonging to desert and it called 'Thar Desert'. A lot of money has spent on the droughts and famines relief program me but outcomes are not satisfactory. In recent years Rajasthan has assumed the form of a triple famine, which means the acute shortage of food, fodder and water simultaneously. This makes the situation quite vulnerable, miserable and more challenging. About 70% of the population of the state which earns its livelihood through agriculture gets adversely affected by the condition of droughts and famines and under the stress their economic structures break down completely. Due to this impact farmers again faced several crisis and that type of crisis are also affect the agricultural conditions in the state.

Farmers trapped in the indebtedness. They commit suicide, because they are not able to pay their loan on time. Rainfall, hail, indebtedness, low productivity, lack of irrigation facilities, inadequate finance facilities are other main crisis in agriculture in Rajasthan. Major impact of these crises is that, the farmers want to come out from trapped under crisis. Farmers have gone to the insurance companies for crop assurance. But Insurance companies only rob farmers and government on the base of crop insurance. In that condition, there is nothing spare food and no seeds to bow for farmers. Farmers has given full guarantee of pay of loss on the base of crop insurance, but central and state government only fulfill documents in crop insurance plans.

The farmers of Rajasthan regularly faced crisis in agriculture. Farmers have to go through lots of critical conditions and problems and due to this calamity farmers fail to earn even their livelihood because of flood, drought,

crack, hailstone raining, attack of insects and diseases on crops, destruction of crops and unavailability of money. In such a serious and critical condition, the only option left to them is debt with which fulfill their needs and dreams. In some adverse circumstances, the farmers experience very depressing and miserable in state and as a result some of them even commit suicide.

IMPACT OF ENVIORNMENTAL FACTORS AND LOCAL PRACTICES

A large portion of population of state is still dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. About 55 % of total state's income generated from agriculture and their allied sector. Agriculture in Rajasthan is control by some environmental factors such as: dry climate, Thar Desert, uncertainty of monsoon, lack of moisture soil, lack of irrigation facilities etc. Agriculture sector have facing some manmade crisis such as: lack of fertilizers and modern technology, inadequate financial assistance to farmers, poverty among farmers etc. Physical environment of the state plays critical and significant role in almost every phase of agricultural activity.

The improvement in water use efficiency is urgently required for irrigation expansion and for reducing the excess pressure on ground water. More priority should be given to rain water harvesting and effective water management through promotion of micro-irrigation methods, while efforts should also be made to bring more area under canal irrigation through expansion of irrigation network from neighboring states. Especially after implementation of MNREGA in 2006, the availability of farm laborers' has been reduced considerably mainly at the time of intercultural operations and harvesting of the crops. Therefore, the process of streamlining the convergence of MNREGA with other programs like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Horticulture Mission, and National Agricultural Development Program me etc., may be stepped up, so that the problem of unavailability of labor and infrastructure could be eased. Market-led advisory services and establishment of producer companies may result in higher incomes and greater access of farmers to markets and financial institution.

FUTURE PLANNING

The growth rate of agriculture GSDP (Gross State Domestic Production) is a very important measure to assess

the production and productivity levels of agriculture and gives a measure to compare the speed and acceleration of the agriculture sector. Findings reveal that the state of Rajasthan has faced some major and minor crisis in agriculture sector. Main agriculture crisis are: adverse climate, lack of irrigation facilities, inadequate financial assistance, droughts and famines, lack of knowledge of modern technology, poverty and low education among farmers. So the development of irrigation facilities, especially minor projects, should be undertaken on large scale.

Efforts should be made to provide irrigation facilities to the entire arable land. Better quality and improved seeds, agricultural implements, sufficient fertilizers and necessary pesticides are made available to the farmers. Farmers of the state should be trained in scientific and technical skills of improved farming. Government has to be conscious that farmers should be paid remunerative prices for their produce. High priority should be given to fulfillment of financial requirement of farmers and also given to drought prone area. So that problems of agriculture sector are effectively tackled.

CONCLUSION

Agriculture is largest private sector in India and in Rajasthan also. A large portion of population of state is still dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. About 55 % of total state's income generated from agriculture and their allied sector. Agriculture in Rajasthan is controlled by some environmental factors such as: dry climate, Thar Desert, uncertainty of monsoon, lack of moisture soil, lack of irrigation facilities etc. Agriculture sector has some manmade problems such as: lack of fertilizers and modern technology in agriculture, inadequate financial assistance to farmers, poverty among farmers etc. Physical environment of the state plays a critical and significant role in almost all agricultural activity. The performance of agriculture sector in the state is little satisfactory but there are several challenges in agriculture. Most of the challenges are

adverse climate and implementation of agro-development plans. So it is quite essential that Government and Farmers of Rajasthan both should be conscious about the overall development of agriculture sector and tackle the challenges in agriculture.

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