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PRO-FARMER SCHEMES ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY LAUNCHED BY GOVERNMENT – A CHALLENGE IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO



Seraphinus Kispotta

INTRODUCTION

It is a moral responsibility of the Government to look after the betterment of the farmers in India. The Economic Survey 2014-15 was released in the Parliament by Arun Jaitley, the Finance Minister, has highlighted various challenges and reforms in the agriculture sector. According to the survey, GDP declined to 15.2% during the Eleventh Plan and then further decreased to 13.9% in 2013-14. There also has been decrease in the number of cultivators from 127.3 million (Census 2001) to 118.7 million (Census 2011).

According to the Economic Survey, growth rates of productivity in agriculture sector are far below global standards; productivity levels of rice and wheat have declined after the green revolution of the 1980s. Another issue is soil degradation due to declining fertilizer-use efficiency.

In the 12th Five Year Plan, the target growth rate for agriculture sector is 4%. Whether this target is going to be achieved, one has to wait

Abstract

The main objectives of this paper is to highlight the Indian Agriculture scenario in general. The basic motto of the agriculture sector lies in increasing the productivity and the production volume of agricultural commodities in order to ensure the food nutritional and livelihood security of the mass population.

Keywords : *Agriculture Production and Productivity Launched , food nutritional and livelihood security.*

Short Profile

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and see. However, Government is trying its level best to achieve it and more. For this there are so many Missions being implemented like, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm, National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology, Integrated Scheme for Farmers Income Security, Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing, and thus guaranteeing the food, nutritional and livelihood security.

Strategic Plan for Prosperity of the Farmers:

The government is very positive that there would be improvement in the living standard of the farmers in India. There are so many schemes related to the farmers have been launched in the recent past. The following schemes have been launched for the prosperity of the farmers:

- Implementation of the “har khet ko pani” and “Per Drop More Crop” under Pradhanmantri

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Krishi Sinchai Yojna should be done through canals, drip and sprinkler irrigation facilities along with the development of dams.

- Sanctioned more than one lakh solar pumps.
- Initiation of the Soil Health Card Scheme in order to increase the productivity energy.
- Use of the Neem quoted Urea to enhance the soil productivity and stop the misutilization of the soil resources.
- Declaration of the New Urea Policy in order to encourage and increase the domestic production.
- Launching the Kissan T.V. channel to assist the farmers.
- Implementation of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission to have increase in productivity of 'Deshi Maweshi Nasal'.
- In order to safeguard the long term security of the farmers, a strong step has been taken in World Trade Organization (WTO).
- There is an increase in the volume of Agriculture loan to 8.5 lakh crores, so that this facility may be easily accessible to all farmers.
- Enhancing the mobile governance through which till date one crore farmers have been sent 550 crores of SMS. This gives important information about the agriculture in terms of increase in

productivity and production. This practice is going on at present as the season has come already.

- The government has prepared the 'Unified National Agriculture Market' in association with states for rendering better facilities to the farmers all over India.
- Initiative has been taken in terms of 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) to enhance the bio-agriculture.
- Empowerment of the Sugar Producers by increasing the import duties.
- Land Bill Amendment-13: through this Bill, government wants to give the increased compensation along with the facilities for road, cheaper houses and employment opportunities so that the living standard may be improved.
- Laying down Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for select key agricultural commodities to ensure food security. Further to prevent fall in prices in the situation of over production. And secondly, to protect the interest of the farmers by ensuring them a minimum price for their crops in the situation of a price fall in the market.
- Government of India on June 25, 2014 increase the minimum support price for paddy and other foodgrains. The table speaks the fact:

(Rs. Per quintal)

Commodity	MSP for 2013-14	MSP for 2014-15	Increase over Previous Year	Percentage increase over previous year
Wheat	1400	1450	50	3.57
Barley	1100	1150	50	4.54
Gram	3100	3175	75	2.42
Masur	2950	3075	125	4.23
Mustard	3050	3100	50	1.63
Safflower	3000	3050	50	1.66

Source: Pratiyogita Darpan: Panorama Year Book 2015 Vol.2 p.218

The step taken by the government is very much appreciated. The farmers are happy with the Minimum Support Price of all these commodities. In all the items there is an increase ranging from 1.63% to 4.54% within one year. The author asked informally to some of the farmers

whether they are happy and satisfied with the present MSP. In reply they nodded their heads positively and they were full of praise for the government. Only worry and concern they expressed was that of the brutal and forceful attitude of the middle persons in the rural area. At times the farmers are forced to sell their commodities even less than the MSP, because of several undue reasons.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS:

1. Increasing Crop production and Productivity, thereby ensuring food security and enhanced income level to farmers.
2. Incentivizing states to enhance public investment in Agriculture & allied sectors to sustain and maintain capital formation and agriculture infrastructure
3. Dissemination of technology / information to farmers Improving credit flow, market infrastructure.
4. Drought Preparedness and Grant of relief under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). The government has taken up the immediate schemes as to increase to 50% compensation for crop destruction due to natural calamities.
5. Endeavoring to ensure adequate and timely supply of inputs and services such as agricultural credit, fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and implements to farmers.
6. Developing suitable strategies for rain-fed farming through people's participation for a holistic and integrated development of potential watersheds, and promotion of a farming system approach for augmenting the income and nutritional level of farming Communities.
7. Assisting the State Governments to improve agricultural extension services by adopting new institutional arrangements through the involvement of NGOs, farmers, organizations and agricultural universities.
8. Endeavoring to bring about the integrated development of markets for agricultural produce to safeguard the economic interests of the farming community.

AUTHOR'S CONCLUSION:

It is very encouraging steps taken by the government, who is pro-kissan in India. An effort has been made really to increase the productivity and production of agricultural commodities especially keeping in mind the increasing and explosive population. The Indian population is

1,21,05,69,573 (2011 final), and now the number has increased at the rate of 17.7% (decadal growth rate). It is a challenge to the government to feed such a huge population. Hence the role and responsibility of the farmers has increased tremendously. This will be possible only when the full facilities and positive thinking must be rendered to the farmers. There should not be the place of politics and corruption in the system.

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