Vol 6 Issue 6 Dec 2016 ISSN No :2231-5063

International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Golden Research Thoughts

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595 **ISSN No.2231-5063**

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Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.aygrt.isrj.org

GRT Golden Research Thoughts

ISSN: 2231-5063 Impact Factor : 4.6052(UIF) Volume - 6 | Issue - 6 | December - 2016

FINANCIAL STATUES OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE SOCIETY

Mukesh Trivedi[1] and Dr. D R Raste[2]

[1](M.Com) , Associate Prof. , Research Scholar , Calrox Teacher's University ,Ahmedabad.

[2]Research Guide , Sahjanandvaniya Mahavidhyalaya, Ahmedabad.

ABSTRACT

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the development of the Indian economy. It accounts for about 19 per cent of GDP and about two thirds of the population is dependent on this sector. Agricultural finance is a subset of rural finance dedicated to financing agricultural related activities such as input supply, production, distribution, wholesale, processing and marketing. Financial service providers face distinct challenges when dealing with this sector. For example, the seasonal nature of production and the dependence on biological processes and natural resources leave producers subject to events beyond their control such as droughts, floods or diseases. The modern agriculture has increased the use of inputs specially for seed, fertilizers, irrigational water, machineries and implements, which has increased demand for agricultural credit. The adoption of modern technology, which is capital intensive, has commercialized agricultural production in India. Besides, the farmers" income is seasonal while his working expenses are spread over time. In addition, farmer's inadequate savings require the uses of more credit to meet the increasing capital requirements. Furthermore, credit is a unique resource, since it provides the opportunity to use additional inputs and capital items now and to pay for them from future earnings.

KEYWORDS: *Indian Agriculture Society, Financial Statues of Indian Agriculture Society.*

INTRODUCTION :

Agriculture, with its allied sectors, is unquestionably the largest livelihood provider in India, more so in the vast rural areas. It also contributes a significant figure to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Sustainable agriculture, in terms of food security, rural employment, and environmentally sustainable technologies such as soil conservation, natural resource management and biodiversity protection, are essential for holistic rural development. Indian agriculture and allied activities have witnessed a green revolution, a white revolution, a yellow revolution and a blue revolution.

Currently, around 51 per cent of India's total workforce is engaged in agriculture and its allied sectors, like forestry, fisheries, and so on. For most of the 21st century India is expected to remain an agricultural society. One cannot underplay the role of agricultural growth in improving rural incomes and securing India's food and nutritional needs.

Our population is expected to be 1.4 billion by 2020. The increasing population, coupled with growing income will generate increased demand for food grains and non-food grain crops. Therefore, Indian agriculture has to achieve and maintain a consistent and higher growth rate of 4 per cent per annum.

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Meaning : "Agricultural finance is the study of financing and liquidity services credit provides to farm borrowers. It is also considered as the study of those financial intermediaries who provide loan funds to agriculture and the financial markets in which these intermediaries obtain their loanable funds.

Definition

Murray (1953) defined agricultural finance as "an economic study of borrowing funds by farmers, the organization and operation of farm lending agencies and of society's interest in credit for agriculture."
Tandon and Dhondyal (1962) defined agricultural finance "as a branch of agricultural economics, which deals with and financial resources related to individual farm units".

Objective

• Highlight of Financial Statues In Indian Agriculture society

Literature review : Ram (1992) made an endeavour to assess the contribution of Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation (ARDC) in the agricultural development of India with special reference to the state of Haryana. Government of India on July 12, 1982 merged the ARDC in NABARD and since then all the functions of ARDC are being performed by NABARD. Up to 30 June, 1982 the state of Haryana got 8.33% share of the total finance disbursed by ARDC but on 31 March, 1991 it decreased to 5.3%. He suggested that Haryana's share should be raised up to the old ratio because Haryana is one of the leading agricultural states in India.

Verma (1992)analysed the effectiveness of agricultural credit by cooperative credit institutions in Nagari block of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. It was found that there is large amount of overdues of loans and the major defaulters are medium level farmers. Lack of proper supervision of end use of loans, inadequate amount of credit sanctioned and the natural calamities like drought are some of the reason of overdues. It was suggested that small and marginal farmers should be involved; the procedure of sanctioning loans should be simplified; and proper supervision on the end use of credit should be made.

Bhattacharjee (1998) observed that Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACSs) have failed to perform up to the expectations due to interference of the government in recovery of dues and other financial matters. The low viability of PACS is not due to their multipurpose operations but due to the imperfect and oligopolistic markets in which they operate. The revenue of PACS is generated through (i) input sales, (ii) credit disbursed, (iii) consumer goods distribution, (iv) produce marketing, (v) deposit mobilization, and (vi) industrial raw material distribution. A comparison of these portfolios provides that sale of consumer goods has the greatest highest impact followed by loan disbursement. Sale of inputs and share of loans have the highest profitability elasticity followed by sale of consumer goods and sale of inputs. It was suggested that cooperatives should concentrate on the credit portfolio among various outputs. It was also found that PACS have not exploited the potential for expansion and viability fully because of centralized and bureaucratic decision-making.

Goyal et al. (2006) made an attempt to study the changes and regional variations in growth of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) in Haryana. It was analysed that there is significant growth in share capital, owned funds, working capital and loan advance and membership. But the growth rate of overdues is very high. There are large scale variations in membership per society and loan advanced per society, proportion of profit making societies was more in the western region than the eastern region. The variables with regard to membership, overdues are increasing but with regard to loan advanced these are reducing. It was suggested that the societies should streamline the recovery drive to improve the viability of societies.

History of Indian Agriculture Society:The establishment of the Society in December 1939 constituted a landmark in the progress in the study of agricultural economics in India . In its establishment a notable role was played by the late Lord L.K. Elmhirst, the founder-President of the International Conference (now Association) of Agricultural Economists and by Dr. T.G. Shirname. Among the distinguished persons who occupied the post of President of the Society in its formative years were the late Sir Malcolm Darling and Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya. But it was left to Sir Manilal B. Nanavati to infuse it with a sense of purpose and direction. It was during his Presidentship covering a period of 17 years from 1943 to 1959 that the Society acquired its present status and

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stability. The Society is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950.

Development of rural credit systems have always been a complicated affair and this is clear from India's history. Intermittent failure of monsoons, unscientific farming practices and rural indebtedness, seasonal need for credit and other risks has ensured that high interest rates remain a norm rather than an exception with respect to credit. This problem was also noticed by our colonial masters and to this date, providing a formal system of credit seems to be a challenge. What I have done here in this post is an attempt to develop a timeline based on an article I came across online. This will be the first among many posts that I intend to write on agricultural credit and I am open to feedback on the same.

1870 - British administration began to notice the problems in Indian agriculture

1904 - Cooperative Societies Act Cooperatives seen as premier institutions for disbursing agri-credit.

1912 - Continuous official attention provision of rural credit. New Act passed in 1912 gave legal recognition to credit societies

1915 - Maclagan Committee - advocated establishment of provincial coop banks - by 1930 all provinces had them →Rise of 3-tier cooperative credit structure

1926-27 - Royal Commission on Agriculture further examined rural credit

1934 - Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 - specific provision for attention to agri-credit

1935 - Sir Malcolm Darling submitted a report on cooperative credit to GoI. Sec 54 - RBI to set up an Agricultural Credit Dept - expert staff →advise central and state govts, state coop banks, co-ordinate RBI functions for agricultural credit

1936-37 - 1st activities - Studies in 1936 and 1937 -> found that entire finance required by agriculturalists supplied by moneylenders, coop and other agencies were negligible

1935-1950→RBI strongly promoted coop cred movement, building a cooperative cred structure →2 separate arms, one for short-term and one for long-term (exists even today)

1945-1950 - over half a dozen committees appointed to study the progress of provision of rural credit

1951 - Provision of credit via coop only 3.3% of cultivators, via commercial banks only 0.9%. Moneylenders charged high interest rates. Legislation on moneylending was advocated to chk malpractices

1954 - Report of All India Rural Credit Survey - foundation laid for building a broader credit structure. Apart from visualising coop as an exclusive agency for provision credit to agriculture, recommended setting up of SBI and using it to extend commercial banking facilities to rural and semi-urban areas

1963 – Agricultural Refinance Corporation set up to provide funds by means of refinance, in vain. Inadequacy of rural credit was a concern even in 50s and 60s

1965-67 - Drought brought some attention back to agriculture when country was focused on industrial growth

1966 - All India Rural Credit Review Committee formed in July to review supply of rural credit in context of 4th Five-Year plan, asked to make recommendations to improve flow of agri-credit. Commercial banks advised to play a complementary role to cooperatives

1969 - Social control and nationalisation of commercial banks (1969 and then 1980) played catalyst role to efforts of leveraging the bank system for extending agri-credit. Concept of priority sector was introduced to help neglected sectors like agriculture

1975 - Decent credit planning through Lead Bank Scheme, each district was placed with a commercial bank to spearhead cred allocation for agri-lending; ARC was renamed as Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC)

1977 - Setting up of a separate structure capable of combining local feel of coop and large resource base of comm banks. Recommendation from Narasimham Committee in 1975, Regional Rural Banks or RRBs were set

1982 - Following the recommendations of the “Committee to Review Arrangements for Institutional Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development”, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was set up in 1982

1991 - Report of Committee on Financial System 1991 provided blueprint for carrying out overall fin sector

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reforms during 1990s. Weaknesses in performance of rural fin institutions since 1991resulted in setting up of various committees/task forces to look into operations

•"The High-level Committee on Agricultural Credit through Commercial Banks" (RV Gupta, 1998)

•"Task Force to Study the Functions of Cooperative Credit System and to Suggest Measures for its Strengthening" (JagdishCapoor, 1999) -> adoption of a Model Cooperative Act, setting up of a Coop rehab and development fund at NABARD et Mutual Assistance Fund at State Level

•"Expert Committee on Rural Credit" (V.S. Vyas, 2001) -> restoration of health of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACs) by scrapping the cadre system, selective delayering of cooperatives credit structure and integration of short and long-term structures.

•"The Working Group to Suggest Amendments in the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976" (M.V.S. ChalapathiRao, 2002) -> suggesting diversification of the business of RRBs, recommended introduction of capital adequacy norms for RRBs in a phased manner, along with the RRB-specific amount of equity based on the risk-weighted assets ratio

1995-96 - RIDF or Rural Infrastructure Development Fund set up in 1995-96. NABARD has major catalytic role in micro-credit movement through SHGs. However on the eve of 1991 reforms, rural credit delivery system was in a poor shape

POST 1991 Summary

• Deregulation of interest rates of co-operatives and RRBs
• Deregulation of lending rates of commercial banks for loans above Rs. 2 lakh
• Recapitalisation of select RRBs
• Introduction of prudential accounting norms and provisioning requirements for all rural credit agencies
• Increased refinance support from RBI and capital contribution to NABARD
• Constitution of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in NABARD for infrastructure projects
• Introduction of Kissan Credit Card (KCC) and stipulation of interest rate not exceeding 9 per cent for crop loans up to Rs.50,000 extended by the public sector banks.

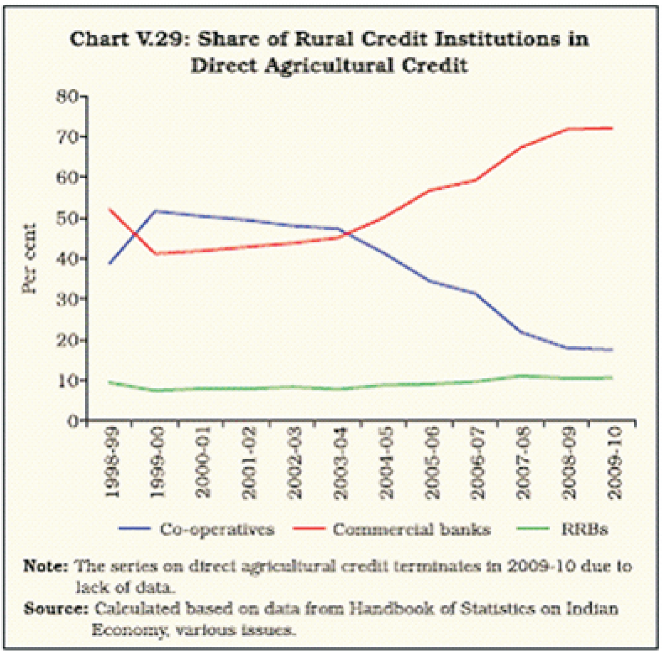

Photo Credit: Reserve Bank of India

It does not look like we have seen the end or will witness any decline in the kind of innovation that will be used to tackle the challenges we face as far as credit is considered in the Indian agricultural context. Though the

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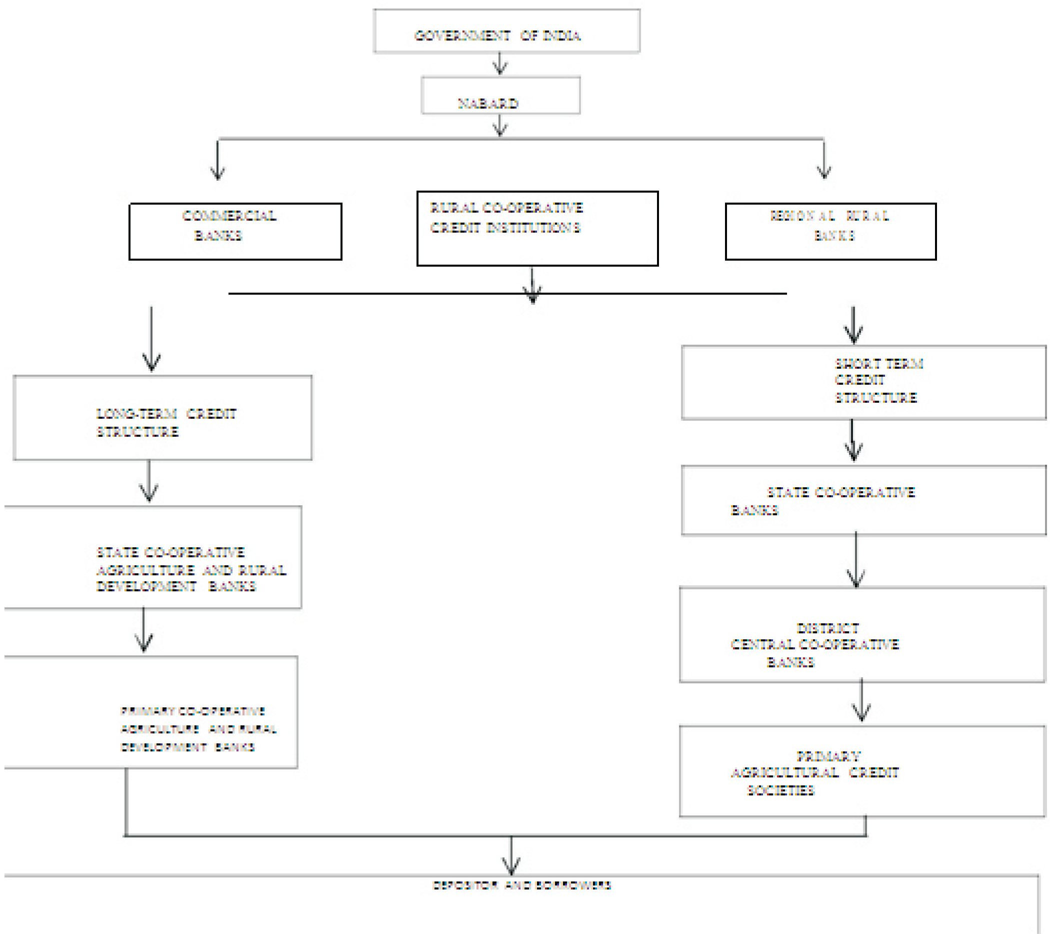
problem is far from solved, we have come a long way. An interesting point to note is that 'Agricultural credit' or the lack of it has indirectly or directly played a role in the setting up of RBI, SBI and NABARD.

AGRICULTURE CREDIT IN INDIA

The importance of farm credit as a critical input to agriculture is reinforced by the unique role of Indian agriculture in the macroeconomic framework and its role in poverty alleviation. Availability and access to adequate, timely and low cost credit from institutional sources is of great importance especially to small and marginal farmers. All India Rural Credit Survey Committee (1954) observed that "The credit fell short of the right quantity, was not of the right type and did not serve the right people". The flow of credit to the agriculture sector failed to exhibit any appreciable improvement due mainly to the fact that commercial banks were not tuned to the needs and requirements of the small and marginal farmers, while the co-operatives, on the other hand, lacked resources to meet the expected demand. The finance to agriculture is broadly in two parts direct and indirect it is later in which more emphasis has been and thus direct support to agriculture has been minimal. All India Rural Credit Survey (AIRCS) has confirmed that formal credit institutions provided less than 9% of rural credit needs in India. Money lenders, traders and rich landlords accounted for more than 75% of rural credit.

Chart no. 1: structure of Agriculture Credit system in India



Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin 2010

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Agricultural production in this country depends upon millions of small farmers. Their intensity, effort and efficiency have helped in raising yields per acre. Finance in agriculture act as a key to farmers. But farmers" money is always inadequate and he needs outside finance or credit. Because of inadequate financial resources and absence of timely credit facilities at reasonable rates, many of the farmers, are unable to go in for improved seeds and manures or to introduce better methods or techniques.

The farming community must be kept informed about the various sources of agriculture finance. Agricultural finance possesses its usefulness to the farmers, lenders and extension workers. The knowledge of lending institutions, their legal and regulatory environment helps in selecting the appropriate lender who can adequately provide the credit with terms and related services needed to finance the farm business.

ROLE OF AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the development of the Indian economy. It accounts for about 19 per cent of GDP and about two thirds of the population is dependent on this sector. Agricultural finance is a subset of rural finance dedicated to financing agricultural related activities such as input supply, production, distribution, wholesale, processing and marketing. Financial service providers face distinct challenges when dealing with this sector. For example, the seasonal nature of production and the dependence on biological processes and natural resources leave producers subject to events beyond their control such as droughts, floods or diseases. The modern agriculture has increased the use of inputs specially for seed, fertilizers, irrigational water, machineries and implements, which has increased demand for agricultural credit. The adoption of modern technology, which is capital intensive, has commercialized agricultural production in India. Besides, the farmers‟ income is seasonal while his working expenses are spread over time. In addition, farmer's inadequate savings require the uses of more credit to meet the increasing capital requirements. Furthermore, credit is a unique resource, since it provides the opportunity to use additional inputs and capital items now and to pay for them from future earnings.

The rural population in India suffers from a great deal of indebtedness and is subject to exploitation in the credit market due to high interest rates and the lack of convenient access to credit. Rural households need credit for investing in agriculture and smoothening out seasonal fluctuations in earnings. Since cash flows and savings in rural areas for the majority of households are small, rural households typically tend to rely on credit. Rural households need access to financial institutions that can provide them with credit at lower rates and at reasonable terms than the traditional money-lender and thereby help them avoid debt-traps that are common in rural India. Timely and adequate agricultural credit is important for the increase in fixed and working capital for farmers. In order to provide sufficient credit to the farmers, many institutional and non-institutional agencies are working. Under institutional agencies cooperative, commercial, regional rural banks and different Government organizations are supplying credit to the needy farmers on priority basis.

PROBLEM IN AGRICULTURE CREDIT IN INDIA

Agriculture in India has always been heavily dependent on the monsoons and has hence been an inherently risky activity. At different times we have also had onerous rural tax systems under different empires, most recently under the British. Indigenous systems of credit had to develop as a consequence of seasonal needs and fluctuations in order to facilitate smoothing of Consumption pattern of farmers over the year. With the intermittent failure of the monsoons and other customary vicissitudes of farming, rural indebtedness has been a serious and continuous characteristic of Indian agriculture. Because of the high risk inherent in traditional farming activity, the prevalence of high interest rates was the norm rather than an exception, and the concomitant exploitation and misery that often resulted. Development of rural credit systems has Therefore, been found to be intrinsically very difficult and, as we will see, an issue of continuing official concern for over a century. The large proportion of population in the lower strata, which is having major share in the land holdings receives much less credit than its requirements. The growing disparities between marginal, small and large farmers continues to be a cause for concern. This observed phenomenon may be attributed, inter alia, to the “risk aversion” tendency of the bankers towards small and marginal farmers as against the large farmers, who are better placed in offering collaterals. The flow of investment credit to agriculture is constrained by host of factors such as high transaction costs, structural deficiencies in the rural credit delivery system, issues relating to credit

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worthiness, lack of collaterals in view of low asset base of farmers, low volume of loans with associated higher risks, high man power requirements.

SOURCE OF AGRICULTURAL FINANCE

1.Non-institutional Credit Agencies

Traders and Commission Agents: Traders and commission agents advanceloans to agriculturists for productive purposes against their crop without completing legal formalities. It often becomes obligatory for farmers to buy inputs and sell outputs through them. They charge a hefty rate of interest on the loan and a commission on all the sales and purchases, making it exploitative in nature.

Landlords: Mostly small farmers and tenants depend on landlords for meetingtheir production and day to day financial requirements.

Money lenders: Despite rapid development happening in rural branches ofdifferent institutional credit agencies, village money lenders still dominate the scene. Money lenders are of two types, agriculturist money lenders who combine their money lending jobs with farming and professional money lenders whose sole job is money lending15.

2. Institutional Credit Agencies

The evolution of institutional credit to agriculture could be broadly classified into four distinct phases - 1904-1969 (predominance of cooperatives and setting up of RBI), 1969-1975 (Nationalization of commercial banks and setting up of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)), 1975-1990 (setting up of NABARD) and from 1991 onwards (financial sector reforms). Institutional funding of the farm sector is mainly done by commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks. Share of commercial banks in total institutional credit to agriculture is almost 48 per cent followed by cooperative banks with a share of 46 per cent. Regional Rural Banks account for just about 6 per cent of total credit disbursement.

Government: The government sector banks extend both short term as well aslong-term loans. These loans are popularly known as "Taccavi loans" which are generally advanced in times of natural calamities. The rate of interest is low and it is not a major source of agricultural finance.

Cooperative Credit Societies: The history of cooperative movement in Indiadates back to 1904 when first Cooperative Credit Societies Act was passed by the Government. The scope of the Act was restricted to establishment of primary credit societies and non-credit societies. The shortcomings of the Act were rectified through passing another Act called Cooperative Societies Act 1912. The Act gave provision for registration of all types of Cooperative Societies. This made the emergence of rural cooperatives both in the credit and non-credit areas, though with uneven spatial growth. Soon after the independence, the Government of India following the recommendations of All India Rural Credit Survey Committee (1951) felt that cooperatives were the only alternative to promote agricultural credit and development of rural areas16. Accordingly, cooperatives received substantial help in the provision of credit from Reserve Bank of India as a part of loan policy and large scale assistance from Central and State Governments for their development and strengthening. Many schemes involving subsidies and concessions for the weaker sections were routed through cooperatives. As a result cooperative institutions registered a remarkable growth in the post-independent India.

Commercial Banks: Previously commercial banks (CBs) were confined onlyto urban areas serving mainly the activities of trade, commerce and industry.

Their role in rural credit was meager i.e., 0.9 per cent in 1951-52 and 0.7 per cent in 1961-62. The insignificant participation of CBs in rural lending was explained by the risky nature of agriculture due to its heavy dependence on monsoon, unorganized nature and subsistence approach. Through nationalisation of CBs in 1969 and CBs were made to play an active role in agricultural credit was accelerated and they are the largest source of institutional credit to agriculture.

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs): RRBs were set up in those regions whereavailability of institutional credit was found to be inadequate but potential for agricultural development was very high. However, the main thrust of

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the RRBs is to provide loans to small and marginal farmers, landless labourers and village artisans. These loans are advanced for productive purposes. At present 196 RRBs are functioning in the country lending around Rs 9,000 crore to rural people, particularly to weaker sections.

Micro financing: Micro financing through Self Help Groups (SHG) hasassumed prominence in recent years. SHG is a group of rural poor who volunteer to organise themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. They agree to save regularly and convert their savings into a common fund known as the Group corpus. The members of the group agree to use this common fund and such other funds that they may receive as a group through a common management. As soon as the SHG is formed and a couple of group meetings are held, an SHG can open a Savings Bank account with the nearest Commercial or Regional Rural Bank or a Cooperative Bank. This is essential to keep the thrift and other earnings of the SHG safely and also to improve the transparency levels of SHG's transactions. Opening of SB account is the beginning of a relationship between the bank and the SHG. Once this process is over, banks liberally lend to the groups or to members and recover the loans conveniently. The banks even offer subsidy to the amount of loans borrowed based on their good response.

ROLE OF COMMERCIAL BANKS IN ARICULTURAL CREDIT

Commercial banks entered the field of agricultural credit in a major way following their nationalisation in 1969. Commercial banks are guided by priority sector lending policy of providing credit to various deserving sectors/sections including agriculture and allied activities. Growth in commercial bank credit to agriculture, which was lower than the growth in aggregate bank credit during the 1990s, picked up sharply in the first half of the 2005s and largely coincided with the growth in aggregate bank credit. There was a downturn in the growth in commercial bank credit to agriculture after 2005/06, when growth in aggregate bank credit also slowed down Previously commercial banks (CBs) were confined only to urban areas serving mainly to trade, commerce and industry. Their role in rural credit was meager i.e., 0.9 per cent in 1951-52 and 0.7 per cent in 1961-61. The insignificant participation of CBs in rural lending was explained by the risky nature of agriculture due to its heavy dependence on monsoon, unorganized nature and subsistence approach. A majorchange took place in the form of nationalization of CBs in 1969 and CBs were made to play an active role in agricultural credit. In the year 1990-91 share of commercial banks increased up to 54 percent. At present, they are the largest source of institutional credit to agriculture. In 2004-05 these banks have accounted Rs 81,481 crore (65 percent) in agriculture credit next year 2005-06 it was Rs. 1,25,859 crore (70 percent). In the year 2006-07 commercial banks supply of credit falls down and reached at Rs. 1,00,999 (67 percent). This fluctuation in commercial bank supply was continuing till the year 2012-13 in this year commercial banks share in credit was Rs. 4,31,543 crore (68 percent).

Progress in regard to flow of agricultural credit is given below:

Table 2: Credit Flow to Agriculture Sector during 2004-05 and 2012-13 (Rs. In Crore)

Year	Cooperative Banks	Share (%)	RRBs	Share (%)	Commercial Banks	Share (%)
2004-05	31,424	25	12,404	10	81,481	65
2005-06	39,404	22	15,223	8	1,25,859	70
2006-07	33,987	24	15,170	10	1,00,999	67
2007-08	35,875	20	17,987	10	1,28,876	70
2008-09	36,165	19	19,325	10	1,32,761	71
2009-10	32,871	18	23,984	13	1,21,879	69
2010-11	78,121	17	44,293	9	3,45,875	74
2011-12	87,963	17	54,450	11	3,68,616	72
2012-13	95,565	18	73,856	14	4,31,543	68

Source: Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy, various issues.

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Table no. 1: Agricultural Credit Flow in India 2004-05 To 2013-14 (Rs. in Crore)

Year	Target	Achievement
2004-05	105000	125309
2005-06	141000	180486
2006-07	175000	229400
2007-08	225000	254658
2008-09	280000	287149
2009-10	325000	384514
2010-11	375000	468291
2011-12	475000	511029
2012-13	575000	607375
2013-14	700000	738615*

Source: Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture

CONCLUSION:

Agricultural credit has played a vital role in supporting agricultural production in India. The Green Revolution characterised by a greater use of inputs like fertilizers, seeds and other inputs, increased credit requirements which were provided by the agricultural financial institutions. Though the outreach and the amount of agricultural credit have increased over the years, several weaknesses have crept in which have affected the viability and sustainability of these institutions. Furthermore, antiquated legal framework and the outdate tenancy laws have hampered flow of credit and development of strong and efficient agricultural credit institutions. A review of performance of agricultural credit in India reveals that though the overall flow of institutional credit has increased over the years, there are several gaps in the system like inadequate provision of credit to small and marginal farmers, paucity ofmedium and long-term lending and limited deposit mobilisation and heavy dependence on borrowed funds by major agricultural credit purveyors. These have major implications for agricultural development as also the well being of the farming community. Efforts are therefore required to address and rectify these issues.

Weneed a major review of agriculture policy to meet the changing needs of both producers and consumers. The difference now is that we need initiatives in a disaggregated manner in many different segments of agriculture and agro industry: horticulture, aquaculture, pisciculture, dairying, sericulture, poultry, vegetables, meat, food processing, other agro-processing and the like.

So what we need to do is to initiate a nationwide major mission programme for different activities, regionally disaggregated, in a similar package mode. The packages will have to be different for each activity and location. To begin with, expert teams will have to be formed for each agro climate zone focussing on the relevant activities there. These teams can then design the package that needs to be put together in each place. The basic ingredients of each package can be similar: provision of technology inputs, infrastructure, extension services, arrangements for the supply of inputs and the corresponding credit model. A key difference in approach would have to be the much greater involvement of region specific market participants, and of private sector suppliers in all these activities, and credit suppliers ranging from public sector banks, cooperative banks, the new private sector banks and micro-credit suppliers, specially self help groups

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