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ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN INDIA



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ABSTRACT :

Agriculture occupies a key position in the Indian economy. It supplies food to our teeming millions, provides raw material to Industry and earns considerable foreign exchange. It is from a thousand years that India has become concerned with the rural economy and all through that it has considered four items viz. agriculture, animal husbandry, trade or marketing and cottage industries or processing industries as pillars of rural economy not in any compartmental sense but in a co-ordinate sense. Whether one may read the Ramayana, Mahabharata or Purana's, these have been continuously emphasizing the coordinated development of these four pillars. The feature of Indian economy shows that, about two third of its population is employed in agriculture. In countries like U.K., U.S.A., Germany and Canada the people dependent on agriculture are less than 20 per cent of the total population, in some cases less than 5 per cent, but in case of India, 70 per cent population depend on agriculture.

KEYWORDS : Agriculture occupies , rural economy , agriculture.

INTRODUCTION :

The portrait of real India is visible in villages where more than 70 per cent of the total population of the country dwells. Poverty, illiteracy and monsoon vagaries are playing havoc with the rural masses, resulting in their ruthless exploitation. They are ill clad, ill employed and ill fed. Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy. Because its contribution to the overall economic growth through supply of foods, raw materials and exports. It is source of live hood for more than 70 per cent of the population.



OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following are the objectives of the study

1. To know the meaning of Agriculture
2. To study the features of Indian Agriculture
3. To study the of Agricultural Productivity of India
4. To study the yield from agricultural production

METHODOLOGY

The present study analyses the growth of agricultural productivity in India. The study based on Secondary data collected from various books, National and international Journals, publications on various websites.

MEANING OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture includes not only the production of crops by the cultivation of the soil, but also the rearing of livestock. Thus milk, meat and wool are as much agricultural products as are wheat, rice and cotton. We must, therefore, use the word agriculture to include every industry which aims at producing vegetables or animal by the cultivation of soil.

Agriculture therefore is a basic and indispensable industry providing not only most of the foodstuffs but also some of the essential materials of industry. Agriculture is not one industry, but a complex of many different types of production and marketing.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIAN ECONOMY

The economic structure of region can be seen broadly in terms of various sectoral activities. The relative importance of agriculture sector is declining in India. Indian agriculture has been the source of supply of raw material to our leading industries like cotton, jute, textile, sugar, and plantations all depend on agriculture directly. There are many other industries which depend on agriculture in an indirect manner. Many of small-scale and cottage industries like handloom weaving, oil crushing, rice husking etc. depend upon agriculture for their raw materials. Together they account for 50 per cent of income generated in the manufacturing sector in India.

Importance of Indian agriculture also arises from the role it plays in international trade. Agricultural products like tea, sugar, oilseeds, tobacco, spices etc. constitute the main items of exports of India. Broadly speaking, the proportion of agricultural goods which are exported amount to 50 per cent of our exports and manufacturers with agricultural contents (such goods as manufactured jute, cloth and sugar) contribute another 20 per cent or so. The total comes to 70 per cent of India's exports. This has great significance for economic development.

FEATURES OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Agriculture production exhibits certain peculiar characteristics. This affects decisively the provision of agricultural credit as well as marketing of agricultural products.

- i) In agriculture, the law of diminishing return begins to operate at an earlier stage than in manufacture.
- ii) The different factors of production are less clearly marked in agriculture than in the large manufacturing industry.
- iii) Agricultural output ultimately depends on the process of natural growth.
- iv) Agricultural products are mostly foodstuffs and the demand for food as a whole is inelastic.
- v) The lag in instantaneous cost is an important peculiar feature of agricultural production.
- vi) Agriculture is a complex of many industries i.e. it is not a single homogeneous industry but an industrial complex of many different types of production and marketing.
- vii) The agriculturist has to suffer a large number of risks and uncertainties like those of draughts, floods, unsuspected defects in seeds and manures, infectious plant diseases, price, etc.
- viii) The farmer also suffers from ignorance and poverty and is heavily indebted to the village moneylenders and money lenders.

PRODUCTIVITY OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Available agricultural statistics for the pre-independence period, though sketchy and defective, indicate that during the first half of the twentieth century, agricultural production rose only marginally, as compared to the growth of population. India's population rose by 38 per cent between 1901-46, but the area of cultivated land rose by 18 per cent. The average productivity of all crops rose by 13 per cent and of food crops by only one per cent.

The process of decline in productivity has continued in the post-independence period also. The growth of agriculture since independence can be accessed from the following table.

Growth in Agricultural Production (Food grains) in India since Independence

(In Million Tons)

Sr. No	Crops	1950-51	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2006-07
1	Rice	20.58	34.58	42.22	53.63	74.29	84.98	93.35
2	Wheat	06.46	11.00	23.83	36.31	55.14	69.68	75.81
3	Coarse Cereals	15.38	23.74	30.55	29.02	32.70	31.08	33.92
4	Pulses	08.41	12.70	11.82	10.63	14.26	11.07	14.20
	Total Food grains (Growth)	50.83	82.02	108.42	129.59	176.39	196.81	217.28
		-	61.36	32.19	19.53	36.11	11.58	00.04

Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance, Ministry of Agricultural, Govt. of India.

Table 1.3 shows the production of major food grain crops in India. After the green revolution, there has increased in the production of rice and wheat. In 1950-51 the production of rice and wheat were 20.58 and 6.46 million tones, it increases to 93.35 and 75.81 million tons in 2006-07. It means the growth in the production of rice is more than four times and growth in the production of wheat is more than ten times. The growth rate of the production in the year 1960-61 was 61.36 per cent; however in 2006-07 and it was only 0.04 per cent. However it goes to 26.88 per cent in the year 2016-17. The growth of major commercial crops in India is shows in following table.

Agricultural Production (Major Commercial Crops) in India

(Million Tons)

Sr. No.	Crops	1950-51	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2006-07
1	Oilseeds	05.16	06.98 (35.27)	09.63 (37.97)	09.37 (-02.70)	18.61 (98.61)	18.44 (-00.91)	24.29 (31.72)
2	Cotton	03.04	05.60 (84.21)	04.76 (-15.00)	07.01 (47.27)	09.84 (40.37)	09.52 (-03.25)	22.63 (137.71)
3	Raw Jute and Mesta	03.31	05.26 (58.91)	06.19 (17.68)	08.16 (31.83)	09.23 (13.11)	10.56 (14.41)	11.27 (06.72)
4	Sugarcane	57.05	110.00 (92.81)	126.37 (14.88)	154.25 (22.06)	241.05 (56.27)	295.56 (22.61)	355.52 (20.29)

Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance, Ministry of Agricultural, Govt. of India.

Above table shows the production of commercial crops in India since independent. It has seen that the production of commercial crops also increased after independents. In commercial crops the production of sugarcane crop increased more than six times, oilseeds more than four times and cotton more than six times. In 1950-51 the production of oilseeds and sugarcane were 5.16 and 57.05 million tons, it increased to 32.10 and 306.72 million tons in 2016-17. This shows the growth of cash crops production in India. The average yield per hectore of food grain crops are shown in following table.

Average Yield per Hectare

(Kg. / Hectares)

Sr. No	Crops	1950-51	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2006-07
1	Rice	668	1013	1123	1336	1740	1901	2131
2	Wheat	663	851	1307	1630	2281	2708	2708
3	Coarse Cereals	408	528	665	695	900	1027	1182
4	Pulses	441	539	524	473	578	544	612
	Total Food grains	522	710	872	1023	1386	1626	1756
	(Growth)	-	36.02	22.82	17.32	35.48	17.31	07.99

Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance, Ministry of Agricultural, Govt. of India.

Above table shows the average yield of major food grain crops in India. It has seen that the average yield of rice wheat coarse cereals and pulses increased after independent period. In 1950-51 average yield of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses were 668 kg, 663 kg, 408 kg and 441 kg per hectare respectively, it increased to 2131 kg, 2708 kg, 1182 kg and 612 kg per hectare respectively in 2006-07.

CONCLUSION

Agriculture occupies a key position in the Indian economy. Agriculture includes not only the production of crops by the cultivation of the soil, but also the rearing of livestock. Agriculture dominates the economy to such an extent that a very high proportion of working population in India is engaged in agriculture. After 1965, the Government introduced bio-chemical technology with the hope of improving agricultural productivity and through it, improving agricultural production. The increase in yield recorded by India under Green Revolution and the introduction of modern technologies are not particularly unique to India; in fact, it is much less in India than the increase recorded by other developing countries like China.

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