

AGRICULTURAL REFORMS IN INDIA

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Abstract

India is an agrarian country. Agriculture is one of the oldest and most important businesses in all over the world. In India most of the population depends on agriculture sector. The Agricultural sector contributes in GDP about 17-18%. India has implemented number of agricultural reforms since independence. The first reforms were in the 1950 and 1960 which is focused on increasing the agricultural productivity and self-sufficiency. The government of India has introduced number reforms in agricultural sector with the aim of making the agricultural sector more competitive and efficient. These reforms are expected to have a positive impact on agriculture by increasing in production, reducing prices of agricultural goods, and improving the lives of the farmers. In India the latest reforms include the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020, the Essential Commodities Act 2020, and the Electricity (Amendment) Act 2020.

Keywords: Agriculture, Commodities, Agricultural productivity, Green Revolution, Land Reforms, Technology.

INTRODUCTION

In India the Agricultural reforms were changes made to the agricultural sector of the economy. These reforms have been implemented over the years in an attempt to improve productivity, efficiency and market access and also been aimed at addressing social and environmental concerns. Since 1970 Agriculture sector has experienced cyclical growth path around long run annual average of 2.8 per cent. As a consequence the disparities in growth path of agriculture and non agriculture sectors increased sharply after 1990. These disparities got translated to disparities in per worker income in agriculture and non agriculture and income of cultivators and non farm workers. A worker in agriculture sector earned less than one fifth of income of non agriculture worker and farmer earned less than one third of the income of a non farm worker during 2011-12. In India the slow growth in agricultural income and raising the disparities are the main source of persistent agrarian distress in the country.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To study the importance of Indian Agriculture in the economy.
2. To Study the agricultural reforms in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Study based on descriptive method. To collect the data regarding the issue we use secondary sources like Research Paper, Text Books, Magazine and News paper article.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

- 1) India has a large population and the main source of food is agriculture which provides the food for Indians that's why the agriculture is essential for food security in India.
- 2) Agriculture sector provides a livelihood for Indians. In India about 58% of the workforce is employed in agriculture and this sector accounts for a significant share in the GDP.
- 3) Agriculture is an important source of earnings money from exports. India exports a variety of agricultural products which including rice, wheat, sugar, fruits and the vegetables.
- 4) Agriculture is also important for rural development. It provides the large number of employment and income opportunities in rural area which helps to reduce poverty.

Agricultural Reforms in India

After the independence the government of India introduced the five year plan which helps to increasing the growth of the Indian economy through make the policy for development of all the three sectors of the economy.

The government of India mainly focused on Agricultural sector. This included the introduction of the Green Revolution, which brought new technologies & high-yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizers to increasing the agricultural productivity. The India government takes initiative for development of agricultural sector.

A) Agricultural Reforms Before Independence :

In India during the British colonial rule, agriculture was primarily geared towards serving the economic interests of the British Empire. The Policies were implemented to maximize revenue through agriculture leading to exploitative practices and widespread rural poverty. The land was taxed heavily and many farmers were left landless.

B) Agricultural Reforms After Independence :

1) Green Revolution :

In India the Green Revolution were initiated in 1965 which aimed to increased the agricultural productivity through high-yield crop varieties, modern techniques of farming and irrigation system.

2) Land Reforms :

After the independence we saw the government's efforts to redistribute land through land ceiling laws aimed at breaking down the feudal land ownership. The land reforms aim to change the way land is owned and used. In the land reform the redistributing of land from large farmer to small farmers.

3) Market Reforms :

The Indian economy liberalized in 1990 which led to significant changes in agricultural development policies. All the Export barriers were removed and farmers were encouraged to grow cash crops. The markets reforms aim to make agricultural markets were more efficient & it included the removing price controls and opening up agricultural markets to foreign competition.

4) Technological Advancements :

In the agricultural sector advancements in technology brought about new avenues. In India the technological reforms aim to introduce the new technologies in the agricultural sector. It included the development of hybrid seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and the adoption of new farming practices.

5) Recent Reforms :

The institutional reforms aim to improve the way that agricultural policies are made and implemented & strengthening the role of agricultural research and extension services.

The recent agricultural reforms aimed to deregulating the agricultural market allowing freedom to the farmers to sell their agricultural products at outside of the regulated markets.

6) E-NAM (Electronic National Agriculture Market) :

Electronic National Agriculture Market is a electronic trading platform for agricultural commodities. The government of India launched the E-NAM platform which is operated by NAFED. It provides a single platform for farmers to sell their produce to buyers from all over the country & also provides farmers with access to a wider range of buyers which can help them to increase their sales. E-NAM is play important role in the development of the agricultural sector.

7) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) :

The central government launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana in 2015 with the vision to provide irrigation to 100 million hectares agricultural land. The scheme aims to achieve this through a combination of measures like Construction of new canals and dams, innovation and modernization of existing canals and dams, promotion of micro-irrigation, groundwater recharge. The scheme has been a major success with over 30 million hectares of

land being irrigated under the scheme as of March 2023. The scheme helps to improve the crop productivity, farmers' incomes, and reduce the risk of crop failure.

8) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) :

The central government launched the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in 2007 with the vision to promote traditional agriculture and enhance farmers' income. Under this scheme the government provides farmers with training on traditional agricultural methods and practices and also the government provides farmers with inputs for traditional agriculture such as Seeds, Fertilizers & Pesticides.

9) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) :

The Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana known as crop insurance scheme in 2016. This scheme provides the insurance coverage against crop losses due to natural disasters. The premium for the crop insurance was shared between government and farmers. The government bears 50% of the premium for small and marginal farmers and 25% of the premium for other farmers.

10) PM-KISAN (Kisan Samman Nidhi) Yojana :

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was launched on February 24, 2019. This scheme provides the financial assistance to small and marginal farmers of Rs.6,000/- per year in three equal installments of Rs.2,000/- each. The scheme expected to benefit about 125 million farmers.

11) PM-KISAN Maan Dhan Yojana :

The Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi announced the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-Kisan-MKY) on 15 August 2019. The scheme is aimed to providing a monthly pension of Rs.3,000 to farmers who are at least 18 years old and have less than 2 hectares of land. The central government will contribute Rs.2,000/-

per month to the pension fund, while the state governments will contribute Rs.1,000/- per month.

CHALLENGES OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

- 1) Indian agriculture is characterized by low productivity due to a number of factors which including poor irrigation facilities, lack of access to modern technology and fragmented landholdings.
- 2) Indian agriculture is also inefficient due to a number of factors including the use of outdated farming practices, the lack of access to credit and the high cost of inputs.
- 3) Indian agriculture is also volatile. This is due to factors such as weather conditions, crop diseases and fluctuations in market prices of the agricultural products.

CONCLUSION

The future of agricultural reforms in India is uncertain but the reforms have the potential to make the agricultural sector more competitive and efficient. If the reforms are implemented successfully they will benefit farmers, consumers and the economy.

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