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Role of Agriculture in Economic

Development of India and Assam, Problems of Agriculture in India with special reference to North Eastern states, Impact of land Reform and green Revolution

Role of Agriculture in the economic development of India and Assam:-

Agriculture plays a significant role in the economic development of India and as well as Assam.

More than 70% of the total population earn their livelihood from agriculture. The parameters where agriculture plays a significant role are:-

(1) Contribution to national Income:- Agriculture is the

main source of state income. More than 50% of the state income, is derived from the agricultural sector. In India at present with the introduction of economic reform measures the share of agriculture is less than the share of other sectors like manufacturing and services.

(2) Source of livelihood:- Agriculture is the main

source of livelihood for the people of the state. Since there were no other source of livelihood so agriculture is the only source of livelihood. Previously the percentage of working population depending on agriculture was 72.1% in 1951. It marginally declined to 66.8% in 1991.

(2) Source of ~~supply~~:-

(3) Source of food supply:- Agriculture supplies food to the vast population of our country.

(4) Role of agriculture in Industrial development.

Agriculture supplies raw materials to the industries of our country. Industries like Cotton, Jute, Sugar etc. get raw materials directly from agriculture.

(5) Commercial Importance: In internal and international trade of India agriculture occupied an important place. The main exported items are the agricultural items like tea, sugar etc. Agricultural items contribute 70% of the total export of the country. It also helps in earning foreign exchange.

(6) Source of Government Revenue:- Agriculture is the main source of revenue for both state and central government.

(7) Role of agriculture in economic planning: The future of planning in India depends on agriculture. That is the progress made on the agricultural front. Eg. Bumper crop implies prosperity all around. Industrial prosperity depends on agricultural prosperity. And vice-versa.

Thus we find that agriculture plays a dominant role in the economy of India and Assam.

Problems of Agriculture in India with special reference to North Eastern States:

Though Agriculture occupies a predominant position in the Indian economy as well as that of the North-Eastern States but still it faces many problems. It is beset with a number of problems. Some of these problems are -

(1) Instability:- Indian agriculture is a 'gamble of monsoon'.

Because of it Indian agriculture exhibits instability in production leading to fluctuations in national income as well as general price level.

(2) Cropping pattern:- The crops that are grown are

divided into two broad categories food crops and non food crops. An unhealthy competition exist between these two crops. By 2000-01 area under non food crop increased and that under food grain decreased. Food grain largest increase is wheat followed by rice, and that under non food crops sugarcane production has increased followed by oilseeds and cotton. Balanced cropping pattern is the need of the hour.

(3) Land ownership:- There is inequality in the

distribution of land. A great chunk of land is owned by the rich people and a small amount is owned by the marginal farmers.

4) Average size of holdings: The average size of

holdings has declined. This makes efficient use of land virtually impossible and add to the difficulties of increasing capital equipment on the farms. Further because of population growth per capita availability of land is low.

The fragmentation of land holding is considered a big stumbling block for increasing productivity in agriculture.

5) Diversified class relations: - India's agricultural

economy is characterised by various classes, large, medium, small and marginal farmers. Because of high growth of population agriculture is the main source of livelihood; many are evicted from land. The severe poverty level is due to its land tenure arrangements of the country. Tenants do not enjoy security of tenure. They are evicted by landlords on any pretext.

6) Production technique: The technique of production in Indian agriculture is old and outmoded.

Due to green revolution some fertilisers, high yielding varieties of seeds are used on an insignificant scale, and some improvements have taken place. Still it is not significant and uniform throughout India.

7) The issue of land acquisition: It is said

that urbanisation is necessary to realise country's growth potential. But as a result of urbanisation arable land is shrinking and it is transferred to non agricultural uses.

like power stations, housing, industrial estates and so on. From this analysis it is clear that productivity is decreasing. Technological, economic and social factors are responsible for the poor productivity performance. However measures are taken to improve the conditions.

In North Eastern states post harvest loss is much due to unavailability of proper storage, limited connectivity, hilly terrain, subsistence agriculture and fragmented land holdings the problem is even much higher.

Lack of a stable market in these region aggravates the problem, lack of mechanisation also creates problem and lack of proper market infrastructure aggravates the problem.

Impact of Land Reforms and Green Revolution:

Land reform measures have been introduced for attaining a rational land distribution pattern. In the narrow sense land reform means land ownership and land holdings but in a broader sense it means reforms necessary to raise agricultural productivity.

The objectives behind land reforms are

① Rational Use of Resources — Make Provision

for the rational use of scarce resources by changing the conditions of holdings

② Raising the level of Production of the agricultural sector

- (3) Land Reform aims at promoting social welfare and thereby to end injustice by distributing the surplus land among the landless workers.
- (4) Raising the standard of living - The main aim is to raise the standard of living of the rural poor through redistributive packages.
- (5) To bring about institutional changes in the Agrarian structure.
- (6) To abolish the intermediaries

The main land Reform measures introduced in India are -

(1) Abolition of the intermediaries - For eg. Zamindaris, Jagirs and inams.

(2) Tenancy reforms: Tenancy legislation have been undertaken - Mainly of three forms: (a) Regulation of rent - Rent payable to the land owner should not exceed $\frac{1}{5}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total gross produce.

(b) Providing security of tenure: Tenancy legislations have made it clear that in no case tenants can be evicted except where landlords themselves want to resume cultivation. The main purpose is to confer upon the tenants the right of permanent occupancy.

(c) Conferring rights of ownership for tenants: This is conferment of ownership rights to tenants in respect of non reasonable land.

(37) ceiling on land holdings: - To reduce the existing disparities in the pattern of land ownership and to make some land available to the landless agricultural workers the imposition of ceiling on land holdings was undertaken. That is land above a certain limit will be acquired by the state and redistributed among landless workers.

(4) consolidation of land holding. Fragmented and subdivided land holdings have made Indian agriculture unremunerative. So consolidation is essential to boost efficiency and economy in India's agriculture.

(5) Co-operative farming: - Efficiency of agriculture can be improved by establishing co-operative farms.

(6) updating of land records: - Security of tenure, distribution of ceiling surplus land, transfer of land through inheritance or sale could not be implemented effectively in the absence of correct land record. Hence computerisation and online updating is made compulsory.

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Impact of Land Reforms:-

Tenancy reforms were introduced to reduce rent, provide security of tenure, and give cultivating tenants an opportunity to purchase land from the owner. Fixation ceiling

on land holdings, distribution of surplus land, improvement of the conditions of the agricultural workers and co-operative organisation for agriculture

1st But we can see that tenancy reforms such as conferment of ownership of land and regulation of rent did not have any positive effect on productivity

2ndly ceiling on land holding could not make much headway in establishing social justice or in improving the productivity

3rdly - land reform programmes have failed to break the vicious circle of low productivity because institutional constraints could not be broken despite land reform measures undertaken

4thly - Land reform programmes could not bring any change in agrarian relations. Productivity is increased by modern technology

5th - ~~landed~~ landed property is now getting concentrated with the Neo-zamindars.

Because of the gap in words and implementation

The land reform measures are not implemented with seriousness for which reforms on productivity and social justice is minimal.

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Green Revolution:

Green revolution is the most important single technical advance in agriculture in India during plan period. It refers to a sustained and continuous increase in yield per acre, take off in traditional agriculture. So the emphasis is on intensive rather than extensive cultivation.

The traditional agricultural practices followed are replaced by modern technology and agricultural practices.

During mid 1960s Prof. Norman Borlaug of Mexico developed new high yielding varieties of wheat and accordingly various countries started applying this new variety. India also adopted HYVP. The very success of this programme depends on adequate irrigation facilities, fertilizers, pesticides insecticides etc. In this way a new technology was gradually adopted in Indian ~~and~~ agriculture. This new strategy is known as the green revolution.

Impact of green Revolution:- Introduction of

new agricultural strategy or green revolution has created a huge impact on the economy of the country. They are -

① Increase in agricultural Production:- Due to the adoption of this new strategy the volume of agricultural production and productivity has recorded a manifold increase.

② Increasing employment opportunities:- Introduction of the new agricultural strategy led to considerable expansion of agricultural employment. Job opportunities

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in rural areas increased due to multiple cropping.

3) Strengthening the forward and backward linkage

Green revolution has strengthened the linkages between agriculture and industry. Introduction of modern technology to agriculture has raised huge demand for agricultural inputs produced and supplied by industries. Thus modernisation of agriculture and development of agro based industries have strengthened both forward and backward linkage between agriculture and industry.

4) Increase in regional disparities:- Introduction of

new technology in agriculture has widened the regional disparities as only some regions are endowed with resources and those are benefited more from modern technology.

5) Inter personal inequalities Green revolution

has created some impact on inter personal inequalities.

6) No response from small and marginal farmers:

Small and marginal farmers could not adopt the new strategy due to their poor financial condition. Majority of rural household had negligible benefit from this new technology.

7) Market oriented:- Introduction of new technology

has transformed the farmers market oriented

2) change
farmers
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comes

Q) change in attitude:- The attitude of the farmers changed after green revolution. Agriculture states changed from subsistence activity to commercial farming.

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