

Agricultural Policy After Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

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Abstract-- Indian agricultural policy seems to be changing over time. This is how the Green Revolution, the White Revolution and the recently introduced Rainbow Revolution come to fruition. India's productivity has increased, exports are more than a rectangle, but the standard of living of ordinary farmers has not improved. Technology should be developed and decentralized to benefit ordinary farmers. Water use planning should be strict. The government should change its approach to agriculture and make efforts to uplift the living standards and economic status of farmers. The 3 laws currently proposed cannot rule out the possibility of uprooting the majority of poor farmers in a developing country like India.

Introduction--

Agriculture sector plays a vital role in the process of nation building in India. In addition to satisfying the hunger of the people, the agricultural sector has provided employment to a large number of people. In 1950-51, the share of agriculture in India's GDP was 53% while the workforce dependent on it were 72%, If you think about it today, the proportion of GDP is 14% and the proportion of workers are still 50%. This means that even though India has embraced globalization, its dependence on agriculture for employment does not seem to have diminished.

After Nehru, India launches some policies in agriculture sector. Mainly, it was Green revolution, Second important was Operation flood and in 2000, National Agricultural Policy declared. It can be seen from the rough results of agricultural policy.

Total production of food grains had increased from 55 million tonnes in 1949-50 to 297.50 million tonnes in 2019-2020, Means India's food grain increases approximately 6 times in last 60 years and total production of pulses had increased from 8 million in 1949-50 to 23 million tonnes in 2019-20, means production increases only 3 times in those years.

Milk production in 1968-69 prior to launch of operation flood was 21 million tonnes only which increased 198 million tonnes in 2019- 20. operation flood was the world's biggest dairy development program. India is the world's largest milk producer with 40 % of global production. India's imports were 20350 million USD and export 38739 million USD.

From the above figures, we can see that we have taken the lead in food grains, pulses and milk. Our import-export also positive but overall agriculture does not seem to have benefited as much from globalization as in the development of services and industries.

Body of Text--

The Indian agricultural policy introduced after Nehru can be divided into two parts, before and after the new National Economical Policy (NEP). Before globalization two major revolutions happened in India. First was Green Revolution and second was Operation Flood also called White Revolution. The post-globalization strategy includes the NAP 2000 and the Rainbow Revolution.

Before Globalization--

Since independence, agricultural yields were poor until 1960s, when the situation was further aggravated by repeated droughts. Therefore, the green revolution was initiated in the 1966. in order to increase food production, reducing malnourishment of the country.

Green revolution introduced High-Yield Variety seeds, Pesticides, Fertilizers which converts in productivity. Its biggest achievement was India's self-sufficiency in

food grain. Northwest states having good irrigation as well as infrastructure so it was helpful for them but other south and eastern states have slow growth in agricultural productivity. So they don't seem to have benefited much.

The main crops cultivated at the time of green revolution were rice, wheat, maize, barley etc. The production of rice and millets were higher than the production of wheat, maize and barley come together. Cash crops like cotton, jute and sugar cane were not part of green revolution. India has lost more than 1 lakh varieties of indigenous rice after the 1970s. Many native crops were replaced by hybrid crops.

GR leads too many adverse effects such as low water level, soil unproductivity, demolished local varieties, suicides among farmers etc.

Operation Flood was one of the successful program in this sector, launched in 1970. As you know Operation flood helped to reduce poverty. But livestock and land are owned by men, a large number of women are seen working for free. And Most of the work related to animal husbandry is done by women. However, the male control over the income generated by animals.

After Globalization--

After the NEP, first time Indian government declared NAP 2000. Main objective of this policy was to increase agriculture sector growth over 4% annum by 2005. Policy has been considered as coordinated approach for green revolution, blue revolution and white revolution. Thereafter, the policy has been termed as a policy of promising Rainbow revolution.

Policies after NEP declared lots of objectives like, Raising value-added per hectare, protecting the interest of poor farmers, Research and Training in agriculture, checking environmental degradation etc.

Rainbow revolution is an integral development program of agriculture sub sectors. It includes the integration of all the other agricultural revolutions like green revolution, blue revolution, pink revolution etc.

Objectives of rainbow revolution are to promote organic farming, to maintain environmental sustainability as well as resource sustainability, price protection to farmers, market availability to farmers etc.

Challenges of the sector are 1.Low level of education and other technical skills of the workers making difficulty for them to find employment outside agriculture. 2. Inadequate storage infrastructure and improper market chain system. 3. Lack of credit to small and marginal farmers. When it adequate to some farmers they can't be liquidate in time due to lower rates or devastation of crops and it converts in increasing debt. 4. Nearly 75% of the annual rainfall in India during the monsoon season which is 4 out of 12 months means remaining 8 months are dry.

When we saw objectives and challenges of sector, understands nothing is changed. Both have maintained their respective positions. Government indifference, inefficient agricultural universities, Lacks of research are the main reasons behind this.

Let's see one example- India has good oilseed growing capacity. Land is also favorable. But we are dependent on imports of edible oil. Oilseeds like sunflower, soybean, groundnut etc. have not significant growth. Palm and soya oil share sum up to 70 - 75 % of our consumption. Most interesting is palm oil is 100% imported and soya oil imports have also increased sharply. The value of this vegetable oil imports in 2019 7300cr. approximately.

India may be self-sufficient in edible oil but it needs structural change in agricultural policy. The help of government is needed.

Finally, we have to think about the three firm laws that are about to come and their consequences. Forty years ago, the US corporate sector entered in to their agriculture sector. Today, the agricultural sector is dominated by large companies including seed

market, pesticides, and dairy products so and so. Considering the subsidy, about 70 to 75 % subsidy benefits only to 20 to 25 % of the big farmers. Situation of the small and poultry farmers have deteriorated since their government allowed private sector (some big companies) in agriculture sector. All this will be happen in India if those three firm laws implemented here. Despite the US population, its area, and its place in the list of developed countries, the economic status of small farmers is low. So everyone should think about what our future will be with those laws.

Conclusion---

Indian agricultural policy seems to be the culmination of the current situation. This lead to the transformation of success into failure after a period of each policy. The end result of this is negative and it can be seen in the agriculture sector & farmers.

Seeds, fertilizers, irrigation projects do not seem to have contributed much after the Green Revolution. Also, after the new economic policy, the agricultural sector does not seem to be as efficient as other sectors, as a result of which the farmers are seen to be economically backward.

The allocation for agriculture R&D is a meager Rs. 8,514 cr. in financial year 2021-22. Our government spends not even half of what a private international company like BAYER spends on every year.

Though India is a leader in milk production, the benefit of milk price is very small for the farmers.

Suggestions--

To promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional Agriculture products exports.

Agricultural sector needs productive research, which will benefit even small farmers, needs government not only encouragement but incentives also.

There is a special need to provide livestock in the name of women, Establishing dairy and animal husbandry groups at the local level on the lines of economic self-help groups and providing them with financial assistance will empower women empowerment and strengthen the agricultural sector also. Women based dairy programs also helpful in sector.

Lack of adequate planning, excessive watering of crops facing water crisis, we need to adopt water saving technologies.

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