

A Study Depressed State Of Agricultural Labour

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Abstract

In the words of Dr. Clouston, we are not required to go far to see proof for backwardness of agriculture. As compared to other countries per hectare production and quantity of produced crops both are very less in our country. Per hectare yield in India is even equal to one-third or one-fourth of other developing countries. It is during drought per hectare yield becomes even less than this. If viewed from the quantity, Indian agriculture is backward doubtlessly. India's per hectare capability is even unutilized. Our agricultural methods need improvement. As compared to European nations we have the efficiency of only 50%.

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Research Paper

The less productivity or the total amount of production in agriculture have its ill effects on India's economy. These are as follows. Lack of food grains. Due to less productivity, we are unable to produce sufficient food grains for ourselves.

The less productivity is agriculture-engaged persons. As per estimates of Prof. Collin Clark per capita production in inter- national units is for New Zealand 2,244, Australia 1,524, Argentina 1,233, Uruguay 1,000, America 661, Denmark 642, Japan 120, USSR 88 and China 47. India and China have the same figures approximately.

The deficit is in per capita income. Incomes of persons engaged in agriculture is only Rs. 500 while in mining and factories it is Rs. 1,700, Railways, Insurance, Commerce and Transport have 1,600 and Government services have 1,100.

Evil effects of economy. Even production of crops giving cash have standard below hence agriculturists have less purchasing power and therefore industrial goods have contracted home market and fall of industries, there is more unemployment in labour and middle class. Rent, interest and taxation is high, domination of moneylender has increased while agriculturists have been sucked.¹

The material and bodily weakness. The Indian agriculturists have very less per capita income. Hence due to poverty they have no good health. After hard labour, they do not even get full meal hence their health gives way and their mental power to do a work is very less.

It besides the units of natural and climate other factors also influence the production of agriculture. Hence worth mentioning is the influence of population. The land is used beyond ratio due to excess population. Transfer of crops system is defective and clay does not get chance to regain its lost power. The following causes can be enumerated for low crops.

The Economics of Development refers to the problems of the economic development of underdeveloped countries.²

The traditional causes of low productivity. Before independence the following causes were held responsible for low yield and though planned development programme has improved in it, still they persist more or less.

Though the study of economic development has attracted the attention of economists' right from Adam Smith down to Marx and Keynes.³

The tilling are is small for agriculture in India. When fields have small size, it cannot give full work to farmer's implements and farming is moreover useless. Tilling is not only on small plot of land but it is scattered. At times fields are found divided at the distance of many kilo- meters Indian agriculture depends on climatic conditions but unfortunately monsoon is irregular and beyond ratio.

Many areas are lacking irrigation facilities and farmers depend on rains. Due to flood and drought many a times crops finish, live- stock in put to loss and farmers bear economic loss.

- Production is less per hectare. Commercial crops occupy very limited fields Fruits and vegetables are given less preference.
- Indian agriculture system is neither extensive nor intensive. It is lame agriculture which has more burden of labour units but capital units are less employed.
- Indian agriculture has excessive burden of population.
- Occupation of agriculture is in the Hands of many small farmers who are uneducated, blind faith and pessimistic. We cannot expect in such circumstance any progress.
- Farmer has to pay various mediatory hence for self-living, little is left with him.
- There is no appropriate arrangement to protect the crops from germs, animals and plant diseases.
- There is no use of food seeds, implements and scientific methods of agriculture.
- Before independence Government did very little for agricultural development.
- In agricultural operation planning and control is much lacking.
- For farmers agriculture is a means of living but not of earning profit business.
- There is no proper arrangement of propaganda of the scientific discoveries and their results.
- Social customs are most defective in the farmers. Hence they spend profligately and worker is unable to adopt occupation according to his wishers.
- System of land tenure is defective hence progressive agriculture cannot be imagined.
- Indian farmers lack very much credit facilities. In villages main source of credit is the creditor who takes improper benefit from the illiteracy and ignorance of the farmers.
- Due to the fall of cottage industries, population has concentrated on agriculture and farmers become devoid of important helping income.
- Modern causes of low productivity. Besides the above causes, the following causes are 'responsible for the undeveloped state of Indian agriculture.

The working of traditional law is diminishing production. What- ever prosperity has been seen till now in agriculture, it has gained only that much that it has suspended the procedure of traditional Law of Diminishing Returns created by the increasing pressure of population growth.

- Farming on less fertile lands. Demand is continuously increasing for agricultural crops. Hence those lands are cultivated which are less fertile so per hectare average crop diminishes naturally.
- Fallow land. Due to more density of population land cannot be left fallow for proper time distance. Consequently waste grass grows more and compared with available quantity of food- grains, agricultural area increases. Hence clay goes continuously bad.
- Lack of capital. To the currency of technical improvements capital is required but it lacks in India.
- Outdated farming practices: inefficient methods reduce productivity.

Though there are various limitations, still Indian agriculturist works with industriousness, care and capability.

Indian agricultural position is better than that of China. As has been shown by the Report of Krishnappa Representation Board 1958, India has more than China the agriculturists who have the tendency to discard and poor. Hence our average yield is very less. Hence we have the problem to increase the standard of best agriculturists out of the average agriculturists.⁴

Need of Re-organization in agricultural systems

Prof. Kaldor in his book 'Characteristics of Economic Development', that agricultural progress is necessary pre-requisite for industrial development. England also had accomplished agricultural revolution before industrial revolution. This was to introduce increase in food production and productivity of the laborers on land so that there will be sufficient food grains for industrial growth and man power increase. After much time much progress in industrialization of the countries of America was possible through import of food grains. Hence the country needs for large scale industrialization, an efficient and multiform economy.

The committee was of opinion that cheap rates of these things will influence them more and farmers will sell their wheat stocks to government. Few states printed the bonus cards but the outlines of the plan has not yet been finalized and thus the recommendation is lying in the ministry of agriculture.⁵

The remedies for improving the Depressed State of Agriculture The following means can be observed to improve the conditions prevailing in the Indian agriculture:

- Development of small scale and cottage industries. This will remove the semi-unemployment of the agriculturists. Their income will increase with high living standard and country's economy will be balanced.
- Prevention of rise of population. For this purpose family planning should be given importance, Real progress is possible by controlling the growth of population.
- Instigation to chak-bandi and Government farming. So that sub-division of land and problems of segmentation are avoided.

- Development of means of irrigation. Though flood control, water flooding and pumping are related to irrigation, hence all these are to be thought over together. Small irrigation schemes should be dealt specially.
- Use of new machines in agriculture. The use of new machines in agriculture will lead to increase in the production. The choice of implements should depend more on the Indian environment. They may be properly demonstrated.
- Application of newest agricultural systems. Transformation of crops, production of mixed crops and the application of scientific systems of sowing and reaping can increase per hectare yield sufficiently.
- Use of adequate manure quantity. Can lead to production increase between 100 to 200%.
- To protect crops from insects and other ills. Government should provide insecticides. Barbed wires may be used to protect the crops from wild animals. There should be adequate arrangement to protect crop from other sicknesses.
- Improvement in the condition of beasts. Domestic animals should be provided proper feeding, treatment and care should be taken to improve their breed.
- Expansion of education: The education to the farmers will lead to knowledge and removal of blind faith, traditionalism and fatalism. Agricultural education will help them to attain knowledge of improvements in agriculture.

The co-operative credit societies should be formed to avail them of short and long term loans on credit. Land mortgage banks should be established. All over Villages branches of commercial banks should be opened. This kinds of credit should be also provided on easy instalment basis and village creditors should be also restrained.

Maintenance of marketing of agricultural products. Mediators should be routed out by the co-operative marketing. Means of transportation should be improved and increased markets should be controlled and to collect crops godowns may be established. The land erosion. To prevent erosion of land trees should be planted and drains should be constructed. If it is possible public co-operation should be taken.

I. Conclusion

The government had taken all steps to procure from the farmers. Firstly they made publicity. They were made to understand that they should not work as traders say. They should co-operate with the government and make successful socialism. It was requested to the members of ruling party to make understand the farmers of their areas and ask them to sell wheat to government.

The procurement prices were raised. Central government decided to pay bonus to state governments on procurement and prescribed the bonus amount. A committee was formed under chairmanship of Shri Pai to reach the procurement objectives. The committee recommended that those farmers who have sold wheat to government, will have at cheap rates as needed diesel, cement, cloth, seeds, fertilizers and other goods.

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