

NON-COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S EDUCATION BOARD

Hansraj College Centre, University of Delhi, For 13/03/2020

B.A. (Prog) IIIrd Year, Section - A, Room No.- A101 (09:40-10:40)

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PAPER – ECONOMICS

SECTION – B , UNIT – 1 AGRICULTURE

Measures Adopted by the Government for the Improvement of Indian Agriculture –

Since independence, many steps have been initiated by the government for the development of agriculture. As a result of that agriculture productivity has increased substantially.

1) Abolition of Zamindari System –

Under this system the ownership rights of were laid with intermediaries between cultivators and British government, which were used to be known as Zamindars. The tillers of the soil were left only to suffer for his subsistence therefore they have no encouragement to improve agricultural productivity. But after the abolition of Zamindari system ownership right of land has been conferred to the actual tillers of the land.

2) Consolidation of Holdings –

Earlier holdings in India used to be small and scattered that used to be a great obstacle in using modern technology like – tractors, thrashers etc. Government took initiatives for converting many small and fragmented holdings into one big farm. Farmers were also convinced to get one or two compact farms in place of their fragmented farms. The scheme has been launched in 10 states of the country and it has made considerable progress in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

3) High Yielding Variety Seeds –

Introduction of HYV seeds has been the critical component of Government's strategy to improve agricultural productivity. A variety of food as well as non-food crops have been oriented to HYV technology to make the country self-sufficient in the production of food grains. It is since 1964-65 that HYV seeds are being increasingly used in Indian agriculture. Good deal of research has been conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and different agricultural universities on HYV technology.

4) Insurance Schemes –

Government initiated many crop insurance schemes to assure farmers against the risk of crop failure and excessive rainfall. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme was introduced in

1999 that offered a risk cover to the farmers for various crops. The poor farmers are entitled to a subsidy of 30 per cent of the value of premium.

5) Availability of Credit –

There has always been the problem of unavailability of institutional credit to small and marginal farmers. Government developed Cooperative Credit Societies and Regional Rural Banks to facilitate farmers with readily available loan facilities on lower interest rates. However institutional credit has not totally replaced non-institutional credit, but has certainly provided a great relieve to the farming community.

6) Marketing System –

Earlier farmers were compelled to sell their produce at throw away prices to traders and money leaders in the local market. They used to be exploited by way of fraudulent deductions and underweighment of their produce. Fair deal and timely payment were ensured with the introduction of regulated marketing system and metric system of weighing. These markets are managed by the market committees including traders, farmers and government.

7) Minimum Support Price –

This is the price at which government is obliged to buy farmer's produce in the situation when he is not getting higher price in the open market. This is the critical minimum price which the farmers may consider while planning their production. The MSP's are announced by the government at beginning of sowing session for certain crops on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP).

8) Scientific Cultivation –

The government has promoted the use of superior agricultural technology in the form of drip irrigation, chemical fertilizers, treatment of soil, dry farming etc. Under Intensive Agriculture Area Programme (IAAP) much greater emphasis were given to the development of scientific and progressive agriculture in an intensive manner in the area which have high production potentials. IAAP brought out the way for the green revolution in the country.

Our Suggestions to Remove the Backwardness of Indian Agriculture –

1) Eliminations of Intermediaries -

Intermediaries still continue to operate in many parts of India which need to be effectively eliminated to combat low productivity and backwardness of Indian agriculture. Farmers are left with a little surplus after paying a large share of their produce to middlemen and landlords.

2) Discourage Fragmentation of Holdings –

Fragmentation of holdings must be prevented to make cultivation viable and profitable because the advantage of returns to scale can be enjoyed while farming on a large piece of land. Fragmentation causes wastage of resources thus consolidation of holdings is the best solution to the problem of low productivity.

3) Technological Reforms –

Use of high mechanisation saves manpower and enhances efficiency in agriculture. Thus it is the time to introduce advanced machinery like threshers and harvesters in every part of the country. In India bulk of farmers depends on rainwater for harvesting thus water harnessing system needs to be focused by the scientists.

4) Credit Facilities –

Farmers must get credit at reasonable rates of interest. More and more lending banks must be opened and spread in rural areas. Government must offer loan and insurance to the farmers when there are natural calamities.

5) Marketing Facilities –

Marketing system needs to be effectively developed to protect the interest of the farmers. In the absence of effective marketing system, farmers are compelled to sell their produce in the unorganised local markets involving lots of middlemen and exploited by way of fraudulent deductions and underweighment of their produce.

6) Education –

Farming education may be given to the rural population to improve the levels of productivity and output. Farmer's education is also a determining factor to increase agricultural productivity. An educated and well aware farmer will certainly appreciate the need to update his farm practices.

7) Crop Insurance –

Crop insurance may serve as a useful remedy in this regard. Farmers are subject to a variety of risks as uncertainty of rainfall. Crops are also destroyed by the menace of insects, pests and floods which affects income of the farmers. This measure must target the marginal farmers comprising the bulk of farming population.

