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AGRICULTURE IN HARYANA: ISSUES AND STRENGTHS

Shammi Bajaj
Assistant Professor in Economics
Guru Nanak Girls College, Yamuna Nagar

ABSTRACT
Haryana is one of the smallest states in India with 4.4 million hectare of land forming 1.34% of the total geographical area of the country. Despite recent industrial development, Haryana is primarily an agricultural state. Besides significant progress in manufacturing and services sector, agriculture sector continues to play a major role in the state economy contributing about 14.5% to its GDP as well as providing employment to 51% of the workforce. Haryana is at second position in grain production in the country. The state has the distinction of attaining food self sufficiency in the shortest period. Progressive policies and programmes, good research and development system, required infrastructure and hard working farmers have all contributed to the steady growth in the state. Besides these impressive achievements, the state is facing problems of decreasing size of farm holdings, decreasing cultivable area, increasing soil salinity, imbalanced use of fertilizers and micro nutrient deficiency, harsh climate, low forest cover, storage constraints. Taking into account these problems, Haryana government had been announcing many policies regarding agriculture from time to time in which core areas are focused which help Haryana agricultural economy to strengthen and improvise itself. This paper aims to highlight the various challenges which prove to be the opportunities for the future growth and resilience in agriculture of Haryana and also stresses upon the issues or weaknesses and various measures adopted by the government to improve further the livelihood of farmers to make agriculture a respectable profession.

Keywords: Agricultural Development, Agricultural Programmes, Irrigation, Fertilizers, Haryana

I. Introduction

Agriculture continues to remain the mainstay of Indian economy. It engages almost 72 percent of the country's population, who earn their livelihood from agriculture. According to the recent estimates agricultural sector contributed 50 percent of the country's foreign exchange and 50 percent of national income. Apart from food, it also provides raw material for a large number of industries such as cotton textile and jute, sugarcane, oil, tobacco, beverages and several others which are termed as agro-based industries and which contributed about 50 percent income generated in manufacturing sector of the country (Somiwa, R.R., 1974).

Indian agriculture provides food to feed a large size of population of the country. The modernization of traditional methods of farming is the way of increasing agricultural output per hectare and per unit of farm labour in a country like India.0 percent income generated in manufacturing sector of the country.

II. Agricultural Economy of the State

The British rule was marked by a period of stagnation and deterioration in the agricultural economy of the state of Haryana. Their policies were essentially of destroying the social base in the country and retarding development so that the country could be retained by them as a colonial appendage of the British economy **(Ahlawat,** S.R., **1988).**

The post-independence period was marked by a sharp break from this approach and policy. The Government now considered land reforms and changes in agrarian relations and take initial steps for ushering in a period of development. Since the period of the planning era, Haryana agrarian economy has put up varied performances. The Government extended various schemes, many of which were centrally sponsored, for rural development. The role of Government for the sustainability of agriculture can be examined as gleaned through its concern reflected in its allocations made in the five year plans.

The first major programme was the introduction of 'Community Development Programme' (CDP) which was set into motion in October, 1952 (First Five Year Plan). According to the Planning Commission, "CDP is the method and rural extension, the agency, through which the five year plan seeks to initiate a process of transformation of social and economic life of villages". The central object of this programme was to mobilise local man power for a concentrated effort for lifting the overall standard of life in the countryside through improvement in the level of agricultural productivity.

Another programme known as 'National Extensive Service' (NES) supported by Central Government was also launched. The aim of 'NES' to bring about a change in the mental outlook of the people and to instil in them an ambition for an improved standard of life and to reinforce the will and determination to work for such standard. This organisation was set up for intensive rural work and development of agriculture because the standard of living of rural people could not be raised without agricultural development.

The 'NES' and 'CDP' introduced in India failed to give expected results. The continued slow growth in agriculture induced shift in the programme to lay greater emphasis on agricultural production. As a result, 'Intensive Agricultural District Programme, (1967)', 'Multiple Cropping Programme, (1970)' and Integrated Rural Development Programmes (1976)' were introduced. It was later realized that these programmes like 'small and marginal farmers development programme' which later on was merged with 'IRDP' may not have achieved the desired results in some categories of rural community such as landless labourers, rural artisans and schedule caste did not benefited directly from these programmes (Govt. of Haryana, 1978).

During the sixth five year plan period (1980-85) programmes like TRYSEM (1980), 'Development of Women and Children in Rural Area (1982) for upliftment of women and children below poverty line, 'Drought Prone Area Programme (DP AP)' for control of severity of drought and integrated development based on watershed approach and 'Desert Development Programme' to arrest the spread of desert. 'Small Farmer's Development Agency' (SFDA), 'Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labour Agency' (MFALA), 'Hill Area Development Programme', 'Community Area Development Programme' (CADP), 'Tribal Development Scheme' and 'District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)', 'Mewat Area Development (1980-85)' and 'Siwalik Area Development Programmes' (1992-97) were introduced. Alongwith these programmes some job oriented programmes like 'Jawahar Rozgar Yojna' and 'Employment Assurance Scheme', 'Rice Production Scheme in Eastern Region', 'National Oilseed Development Product' and 'Social Forestry Programmes' were launched from time to time for the development of poor, agriculturist rural people in Haryana.

But these development programmes had a different impact in terms of percolation of benefits to the different sections of population. The big landowners benefited the most and it has also led to the resurgence of a dominant middle and rich peasantry. Income gaps not only widened between the landless labourers and big farmers but also between small and big farmers (Desai, A.R., 1961). Before the formation of the state (Haryana) the economic and structural growth rate was substantially lower when compared with that of Punjab. In the agricultural sector the rates of growth in Haryana and Punjab were about the same (4.5 percent), but when compared with all India growth rate, it was more than double for both the states (Ahlawat, S.R., 1988).

Sheila Bhalla (1981) claimed in her study that Haryana registered the higher growth rate for primary as well as secondary and other sectors. She also found that state's net domestic product (NSDP) per adult worker during 1971 was highest for Haryana, both for the primary (Rs. 1459.00) and total economy (Rs. 1744.31). Primary sector is the major contributor to the net state domestic product (NSDP)* in Haryana. It's share was 37.60 percent during 1999-2000. Secondary and tertiary sectors account for 27.30 percent and 35.10 percent in 1999-2000.

III. Agricultural Inputs

In fact there was no magic, which enabled us to achieve this spectacular progress in agriculture. It required spontaneous efforts at all levels, particularly the wholehearted cooperation and hard

labour of the farmer, labourers and greater use of high boosting inputs. These new inputs have a number of common features. They are generally purchased rather than produced on the farm. They are the product of research and development. These inputs have direct affect on the production and productivity of crops.

The package of improved inputs includes irrigation, use of chemical fertilizers, high yielding variety seeds, insecticides and pesticides etc. The other inputs to be considered are organization and management, migrant labour, mechanization and livestock etc who perform agricultural works within limits of time.

A. Irrigation

Irrigation Is a crucial input which determines the level of agricultural development in any regwn. All efforts to mcrease agricultural production may prove futile if any one fail to provide required moisture to the plants when they required **(Gupta, D.P. 1985).**

Expansion and intensification of irrigation is basic to the improvement in agricultural production and productivity per hectare, changes in cropping pattern and mechanics ofland use **(Singh, J. 1976).** The proper development of irrigation facilities can help in solving problems created by insufficient, uncertain and irregular rains. Irrigation constitutes the basic infrastructure for development of intensive agriculture in a region like Haryana where rainfall is both inadequate and highly variable.

While in the traditional agriculture, irrigation, played only a protective role as an insurance against drought, with the advent of the modern agricultural technology of green-revolution, it has become a basic prerequisite since the new technology and dwarf varieties of seeds need increased and assured water supply. Since the year round frost free climate of Haryana, crops can be grown throughout the year with the help of irrigation, assured water supply is the critical element in multiple cropping. Moreover, irrigation makes production of better quality and high value cash crops feasible. Besides, its direct impact on agricultural production, it increases labour absorption capability of agricultural sector. Irrigation not only promotes a prosperous rural economy but also paves the way of rapid modernization.

B. Chemical Fertilizers

Chemical fertilizer is an important component of new package of technology in agriculture. The high yielding varieties of seeds, by nature of their agronomic traits, are fertilizer intensive. As farmyard manure and green manure cannot possibly meet the full requirements for replenishing the farm soils at the higher levels of production envisaged under the new technology. The use of chemical fertilizers is of crucial importance in full exploitation of yield potentialities of HYV seeds. To maintain the yield level under continuous cropping, adequate supply of plant nutrients in the form of manures and fertilizers is necessary.

Fertilizers consumption in the state of Haryana has been increasing continuously specially after the augmentation of green revolution. Before green revolution, the use of fertilizers was insignificant.

C. Seeds

Seed is a critical and basic input for attaining higher crop yields and sustained growth in agricultural production. Distribution of assured quality seed is as critical as the production of such seeds. Unfortunately, good quality seeds are out of reach of the majority of farmers, especially small and marginal farmers mainly because of exorbitant prices of better seeds. In order to solve this problem, the Government of India established the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) in 1963 and the State Farmers Corporation of India (SFCI) in 1969. Thirteen State Seed Corporations (SSCs) were also established to augment the supply of improved seeds to the farmers.

High Yielding Variety Programme (HYVP) was launched in 1966-67 as a major thrust plan to increase the production of food grains in the country. The Indian seed industry had exhibited impressive growth in the past and is expected to provide further potential for growth in agricultural production: The role of seed industry is not only to produce adequate quantity of quality seeds but also to achieve varietal diversity to suit various agro-climatic zones of the country.

The policy statements are designed towards making available to the Indian farmer, adequate quantities of seed of superior quality at the appropriate time and place and at an affordable price so as to meet the country's food and nutritional security goals. Indian seeds programme largely adheres to limited generation system for seed multiplication. The system recognises three kinds of generation, namely breeder, foundation and certified seeds. Breeder seed is the basic seed and first stage in seed production. Foundation seed is the second stage in seed production chain and is the progeny of breeder seed.

Certified seed is the ultimate stage in seed production chain and is the progeny of foundation seed. Production of breeder and foundation seeds and certified seeds distribution have gone up at an annual average rate of 3.4 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 9.5 per cent respectively, between 2001-02 and 2005-06).

IV. Production Subsidies

In the late 60s and 70s, to foster a rapid agricultural growth especially at a time when India was suffering from frequent famines, GOI began giving subsidies for various production inputs to farmers on a large scale. These included fertilizer and credit from the Central Government, and power and irrigation subsidies from State Governments. It should be recognized that these subsidies had been critical in jump-starting the "Green Revolution" in the 70's and 80's by encouraging farmers to adopt modern high yielding varieties and techniques of production. However, having reached food self sufficiency in the 1990s, these subsidies are imposing increasing costs to the environment and contributing to the dire fiscal situation at Central and State level .

V. Past & Future Tense of Agriculture

Haryana is fortunate to have such a good topological structure having most of the plain area to work upon in the Gangetic planes. The agricultural growth in Haryana is much of stable nature in the last decade having occasional fluctuation to save for. It lead the Green revolution of 1970s and now is contributing app. 15% of National Food Stock. Haryana has vide network of Roads, heavy density of pucca rural roads, and railways network act as artilleries of the state. Also assured and fluctuation free supply of electricity at subsidised rates for farm use, deeply penetrated telecommunication network and backed by the presence of many agro processing industries. All this and constant support by both central and state governments and timely cheap credit availability from Nationalised and Rural Co-operatives Banks, has contributed to take the agriculture to its present status. The future also seems to be quite bright. Organic farming is another area for cutting down costs, improved soil fertility and increased farm income. Scope for development of peri-urban agriculture and protected cultivation of good quality vegetables and flowers is another untapped /under-tapped opportunity for the farmers of Haryana. Linking of markets with producing centres along with existence of International Air Port in the near vicinity offers additional opportunities for exporting to even global markets. Direct Seeding of Rice has the potential of cutting 30%- 35% of cost in rice cultivation. Checking alkalinity of soil, soil erosion, replenishing the water resources, working upon the principle of "MORE CROP PER DROP", mixed cultivation – are the way forward to look to. Agriculture in India has come a long way to what it is today and we all are duty bound to put all out efforts to ensure that its future remains bright in the decades to come.

VI. Conclusion

The government of Haryana has stressed very much on agriculture and trusts that the farmers of Haryana will give full support to them. These efforts will lead to an accelerated annual agricultural growth of more than 5%. All the efforts are being made for the effective implementation of the policies so as to ensure the increased income of farmers and other sections of society related to agriculture.

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