

Val II, Issue:VIII, Sept 2012

ISSN : 2230-7850

Indian Streams Research Journal

Impact Factor 0.2105



Monthly Multidisciplinary Research Journal



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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2230-7850

Indian Streams Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

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Globalization of the Agricultural Economy: A Challenge or Opportunity before Indian Agriculture

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Abstract:

Since the new economic reforms of 1991, the Indian economy is going through the phase of globalization. At the same time Indian agriculture has also to with globalized economy. Globalization is becoming a challenge and also the opportunity before agriculture of India. So, the bank credit availability to agriculture and agro based industries must be improved. This would be favorable terms of trade, liberalized domestic and external trade for agricultural products attracted private investment in agriculture in recent years. It is likely that with the appropriate policy initiatives, the process of globalization of agro industries will accelerate in the future.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Present study has been done with intention to know the impacts of globalization on the agricultural sector of India. It also focuses on the measures to be taken for facing the challenge of globalized economy before the Indian agriculture.

IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES:

Globalization is provides an opportunities to the agricultural sector and agro-based industries. Because of globalization markets will lead to competition and a produce would have to be marketed at a competitive prices. Globalization provides an extensive opportunity for farm exports. A number of policy changes have recently been introduced to make agricultural export more viable.

Agro-based industries i.e. sugar factories, oil mills; fruits processing factories have good opportunities to develop such industries in India due to expansion of market. Better cultivation and harvesting methods are available for the fruits cultivated in the area.

SOME MEASURE TO FACE GLOBALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE:

In globalized sense, India needs some more measures to promote globalization of agro-based industries. Indian agriculture and the farmers have been suffering from clashes between food crops, cash crops and wide disparities of productivity according to regions and specific crops. Local production of

Please cite this Article as : D. L. Jamge , Globalization of the Agricultural Economy: A Challenge or Opportunity before Indian Agriculture : Indian Streams Research Journal (Sept. ; 2012)



oilseeds and pulses are yet below the requirements of the nation, which is being fulfilled through huge imports.

With the entry of multi national corporations in the production of seeds and also in distribution and the impacts of patenting under the WTO regime, making available quality seeds to Indian farmers at a negotiable cost is a challenging threat. Here we are giving some corrective measures that could help in the growth of agro-based industries.

1. It is also mandatory to improve rural storing of food crops, cold storing for fruits and vegetables, and transportation facilities for both and developing the efficient marketing & export chains to properly maximize the production and also the export potentialities for facing the problems of globalized agriculture economies.

2. To counter the increasing competition for globalized scenario, companies in the agro-based industry have to adopt new cost cutting processing techniques. Developing the infrastructure is another essential part to support this expected growth.

3. The agriculture credit system in Indian economy emerged before many decades, which is has been played a role as an instrument in increasing production and marketing of agriculture produces and encouraging capital formation in agriculture sector. Credit supply for Indian agriculture has to be expanded at a growing rate than ever before. The larger & big investments are needed for the development and exportation of horticulture, floriculture, aquaculture produce, animal husbandry, fish farming, and medicinal plant products etc. These all products will help to increase the income of agriculture in globalized economy.

4. The enhanced availability of bank loans and credit through priority lending to agriculture and agro based industries, favourable terms of trading, open ended domestic and external trade for agri products have attracted private money in agriculture in past few years. It is looking like that with the proper policy initiative steps, the process of globalization of agro industries will accelerate in the future.

MAHARASHTRA'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN GLOBALIZED SCENARIO:

Maharashtra has emerged as Horticultural State of India. The grapes, pomegranates, mangoes etc. of the State are well known. Thanks to the initiative of MPKV a number of initiatives have been taken by the public and private agencies to exploit the wealth we have in fruits, vegetables, flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants and also their products. Maharashtra particularly Western Maharashtra has become a focal point for all these activities.

The post harvest technology, product development and their diversification have received the special attention of the University and a number of products have already been developed which are also accepted. Work done by the horticultural scientists all over the country indicates that there are a number of technologies available which can result in a number of products, both for internal consumption and exports. It is a concern at the national level that losses ranging anywhere between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 80,000 crores occur in post harvest stages in horticulture and other agricultural crops in our country.

The processing and product development industry is also not well developed in our country. In the developed world including Brazil, Philippines, Thailand etc. anywhere from 70 to 90% of the raw-materials are processed while in India it is less than two per cent. It is the challenge before all of us not only to reduce post harvest losses but also add value to the produce and make more economic gains. I strongly feel that to reduce mal-nutrition and under-nutrition, increase income and generate employment, village industries are crucial for India.

This assumes importance that as more and more rural people are migrating in search of jobs to cities to join the industrial and service sectors. Between 1979 and 2004 the number of people engaged in manufacturing sector rose from 24% to 27%, in the service sector from 37% to 51% and the agriculture sector from 64% to 54%. It is estimated that in the coming years this number of 54% rural people engaged in agriculture will come down to 44%. By 2020 it is expected that the employment trend will be 35% in the service sector, 21% in the manufacturing sector and 44% in the agriculture sector. To employ these 10% of agriculture workers who are displaced from agriculture, we have to generate employment in the villages through village industries and other activities and this is an issue we have to look into.

XITH PLAN AND AGRICULTURE:

When we recollect our experiences during the Green Revolution era we note that all the inputs and

activities starting from seed, fertilizers, pesticides, pricing, storage, extension and irrigation were all simultaneously symbiotically exploited. Today we have to ask ourselves whether all these very basic necessities of farmers are supplied or met with. Every day we hear about complaints of shortages of seeds, spurious seeds, inadequate supply of quality inputs like fertilizers and pesticides, lack of extension services and also inadequate prices for the produce of farmers.

The farmer is in great distress. While we may be talking about modern technologies but we have to devote our attention also to the very basic inputs which are necessary for increasing production. This requires detailed discussion and planning at regional and micro-level. There is a concern at the highest level, about the agricultural growth of India which was planned for four per cent in the 10th Plan but is only 1.2%. The Honorable Prime Minister and the Planning Commission declared that agriculture is not only in crisis but also in great crisis. An Emergency Food Security Mission has been initiated to produce additional quantities of 10million tons of rice, eight million tons of wheat and two million tons of pulses in the 11th Plan. We have started importing wheat which was responsible in the past for triggering of the Green Revolution.

As a person involved with Indian agriculture for a long time, no doubt in my mind that it is possible for India to meet these requirements even if we can fill the yield gap that is existing between potential yield and what we are getting at present. High priority has to be given to bridge this yield gap by all means. In the case of pulses in addition to the conventional pulses we should also pay attention how to use soybean and the defatted Soya flour which has got high percentage of protein and which can meet our protein malnutrition to great extent by appropriate recycling. Since we cannot be complacent on the food and nutrition front we have to make every effort to increase the production of our crops which are important for our people and economy.

CONCLUSION:

With the globalization and liberalization in the field of agriculture, India has to develop competence to compete in the international markets. The competition would be based on reducing the cost of agriculture production, improving the quality of our products and also following the codex alimentary standards, We have to question ourselves also while talking about this global competitiveness, whether our farmers are familiar with all the requirements for exports and, if not we have to educate them through our extension and other services.

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