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“PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA – A CASE STUDY”

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Abstract:-Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Indian economy and despite concerted industrialization in the last six decades, agriculture still occupies a place of pride. It provides employment to around 60% of the total workforce in the country. The agricultural situation started improving after 1960s with the introduction of high yielding varieties of crops and the development of agriculture infrastructure for irrigation credit Storage and marketing. But Indian agriculture depends upon the monsoon farmers have to face the fury of nature in the form of drought, unseasonable rain which causes extensive damage to crops.

Keywords: Agriculture , industrialization , Government policies , scientific manpower.

INTRODUCTION:

India's agriculture and allied sectors have managed to grow by 3.8% in the first six months of the 2010-11 fiscal, against 1% in the year ago period on the back of better kharif crop output. According to the GDP data released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) on November 30, 2010, the country's farm sector grew by 2.5% and 4.4% each in the first two quarters of the 2010-11 fiscal against 1.9% and 0.9%, respectively, in the same period last year.

The production of food grains in the country during 2010-11 has reached an all time high production of about 240m tones as per latest estimate. This is an outstanding achievement for which country is proud of its scientific manpower, efforts of the farmers and Government policies. It has the self sufficiency in food that has raised the international status of the country. With the ever increasing growth in population of India, there is a need for increased food production every year. Even though the food production reached the highest during 2010-11, we cannot be satisfied with it. To meet the estimated requirement of about 280 m tones of food grains by 2020, we need to augment the domestic food production by 4 m tones every year. Enhancing our agricultural production in coming years is a challenge.

Origin of the Research Problem :-

The present research paper is devoted to all study of the agriculture problems and prospectus of Jath Taluka of Sangli District. Jath Taluka is drought prone area of Sangli district it is located in the northern part of the Sangli District.

Demographic Profile of Jath Taluka :-

This profile of the Jath Taluka according to census 2011. it also includes profile is shown in the following table.

Table No.1

Sr. No.	Details of Population	Number
1	Total Population	327747
	i. Male	16893
	ii. Female	159254
	iii. Total Population (Rural)	327747
	iv. Total Population (Urban)	-
2	Literates	
	i. Male	
	ii. Female	
3.	Total Workers	111476
	i. Cultivators / Farmers	70298
	ii. Agricultural Labour	21473
	iii. Agro Based Industrial Worker	2769
	iv. Other Workers	16966

Source: - Sangli District Statistics at a glance 2011-12.

The table no.1 reveals that the population of Jath Taluka according to 2011 census was 100% population is residing in rural area. These populations are directly and indirectly engaged in agriculture. There was percentage of male literates 81.21 and female 61.45 %. The total number of farmers in Jath taluka was 70298 and agricultural labour was 21473 in 2011.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

- 1.To study the impact of drought on agricultural sector of Jath Taluka.
- 2.To study the cropping pattern of the study area.
- 3.To study the agricultural problems and prospects of Jath Taluka.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:-

The present study is mainly based on primary data and secondary data relating to utilisation of land, cropping pattern, rainfall etc. The primary data collected by personal canvassing through questionnaire. This is one of the major sources for data collection. Other information was collected from various Talathi Office, and agricultural offices. The secondary data was collected form the Govt. Reports i.e. Central Statistical Organization, Zilla Parishad of Sangli and Panchayat Samiti Jath.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:-

The agricultural problems of Jath Taluka would be the universal problems for the agricultural drought prone areas of Maharashtra. The total geographical area of the Jath Taluka is 224538 hectares out of which land available for cultivation was 188180 hectare, in this investigation we find the low agricultural productivity scarcity of water, defective storage, lack of use of improved technology, economically backwardness of farmers, Low prices of for agricultural products. There is the basic problem of the Jath Taluka is uneven rainfalls. Comparing to other Talukas in Sangli district the rainfall in Jath Taluka is very low.

Rainfall in Jath Taluka:-

Average Rainfall (in mms) in 2012	558.30
Actual Rainfall (in mms) in 2012	586.30
During Rainy Days Normal in 2012	30.33
Percentage of Rainfall in 2010	93.86

Cropping pattern in Jath Taluka :-

The Cropping pattern in Jath Taluka is shown in Table No. 2

Table No.2

Crops	Area (in hectare)
Cereals and minor Crops	34669
Pulses	12392
Oil seeds	17221
Fruits	8902
Vegetables	1490
Sugarcane	1560
Total	76234

Source: - Sangli District Statistics at a glance 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Problems and Prospects :-

India's massive agricultural sector employs about 60% of the population. Yet accounts for only about 14% of total GDP. Growth in agricultural has stagnated relative to other sectors. Last year the agricultural sector growth rate of 2.7% and relative to 11% growth in service and industry sectors. Agricultural incomes are lower and growing slower than incomes in other sectors. Agriculture sector in India is facing many problems. following problems are observed in the study area.

1.Problem of Social Environment :-

The social environment of Jath taluka is often stated to be an obstacle in agricultural development. The farmers in study area are illiterate, superstitious, conservative and unresponsive to new agricultural techniques.

2.Heavy pressure of population :-

Heavy pressure of population on land is one of the problems in study area. In fact since the non agricultural sector of the Jath taluka has not been able to expand at a sufficiently rapid pace, this pressure has continuously increased. Increasing pressure of population on land is partly responsible for the subdivision and fragmentation of land holdings.

3.Financial Problem :-

Financial institutions are not able to provide timely and sufficient delivery to farmers. 50% of farming community availing credit facilities from private money lenders on higher interest rate which results in to rural indebtedness.

4.Increase in wage rate of Labour:-

The agriculture sector is labour intensive. Day to day the wage rate of agricultural labour is increasing. The prevailing wage rate of agricultural labour is Rs.100/- per day for women and Rs.250/- for men in study area. It is not possible for the farmers to meet the cost of labours.

In study area most of the child labours work in agriculture sector. Some of children work with their families on small

family owned farm

5. Increase in the cost of production :-

Indian agriculture has to become more cost effective to meet the growing challenges and opportunities arising out of WTO agreements and the consequent globalization have to be yield based. Development of infrastructure is essential to support this growth.

6. Natural calamities :

Drought, unprecedented heavy rainfall, floods, cyclones / hurricanes, extremes of temperature are becoming common in one part of the country or the other at different seasons of the year. Technologies need to be developed for drought mitigation and to overcome the problems caused by heavy rainfall / floods. Farmers need to be advised suitably and provided with appropriate technology to overcome these natural calamities. Agro-meteorology plays an important role in giving warning to the farmers about the occurrence of heavy rainfall, cyclones etc.

7. Marketing facilities and support prices:

Governments have provided marketing facilities to sell the agricultural produce. But they are to be further strengthened to meet the requirement of farmers in Jath taluka. To avoid distress sale of produce the storage facilities are to be expanded so that farmers can store the produce and sell it whenever he gets a good price. The support prices given to various food grains need to be based on cost of production of crop on scientific basis. Timely intervention in the market to get a fair price to the agricultural produce is to be adopted to protect the interest of the farmer. Further, storage losses of food grains in the ware-houses need to be minimized. Therefore, improved storage structures due to be designed and constructed in study areas for the benefit of the farmers.

8. Limited Water Availability:-

In the Jath Taluka 60 to 70 percentage of gross cropped area depend on rains. Rainfall is often insufficient uncertain and irregular. Accordingly productivity is bound to be low in Jath Taluka which lack irrigation facilities and are totally dependent on rains. Even in some areas having irrigation facilities potential is not wholly utilized because of defective management. Irrigation is also increasing continuously and the small farmer is there for unable to make use of available irrigation facilities most of the farmers in study area continue to use automated agricultural techniques. Wooden ploughs and bullocks are still used by a majority of farmers. Use of fertilizers and new high yielding varieties of seeds is also extremely limited. Therefore productivity is low.

9. In the study area rainfall is very low. i.e. 586.3 mm in 2012. The monsoon rain in the Jath Taluka is often marked by some important variations from the normal, like climate uncertainty. Often marked expressed in the commonly held view that “Agriculture” in India is a gamble against the monsoon. It is the most outstanding problem. There has been lack of systematic planning of agriculture i.e. cultivation, Production, Processing and marketing.

Recommendations:-

The majority people in the Jath Taluka are mainly depended on agriculture. The economic development of this Taluka is mainly based on agriculture. The problem of agriculture land use planning is envisaged in following ways.

Use of improved seeds and fertilizers requires proper irrigation facilities in study area irrigation can also make multiple cropping possible in a number of areas. Attempts in this field will have to be under taken in the following directions such as modernizing irrigation systems, efficient water management, adequate maintenance of canals etc.

It is necessary to provision of credit and marketing facilities in study area. The commercial banks should be encouraged to lend more to small farmers in study area. The marketing structure also needs reorientation to serve the small farmers in a better way.

CONCLUSIONS:

Agro based industries establishment through co-operative mechanism is necessary in the study area. These industries will increase employment level and also raise the socio-economic status of Jath Taluka. In study area heavy pressure of population on land and the climatic conditions have put limits on the source of income of farmers. The farmer from the study area has to depend upon only one crop and rarely two crops in a year. There is possibility of positive change in the status of farmer's by introduce the subsidiary supplementary activities like dairy, poultry, horticulture etc.

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