



AWARENESS OF FARMERS REGARDING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

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INTRODUCTION

There is an urgent need to modernise the agricultural operations of the country. Many state governments have started a scheme from which farmers can take modern equipment for rent at a low price. This way they don't have to pay the full sum of amount and they will also get the mechanise. The performance of agricultural and food policy in India and calculates a set of policy indicators providing a comprehensive picture of agricultural support. These indicators, developed by the OECD, are already used regularly in the analysis of the agriculture and food sector in OECD countries and emerging economies and are now available for India for the first time. Government intervention in India is found to provide both negative and positive support to agriculture, with market and trade interventions often depressing prices, while subsidies to fertilisers, water, power and other inputs incentivise their use. This reveals the inherent difficulty in attempting to secure remunerative prices and higher incomes for farmers, while at the same time keeping food prices low for consumers. The report also points to policy-induced pressures on natural resources such as water and soil. Detailed recommendations are offered which, if implemented, have the potential to improve farmers' welfare, reduce environmental damage, alleviate some of the pressure on scarce resources, better prepare the sector for climate change, improve food and nutrition security for the poor, improve domestic market functioning and position India to participate more fully in agro-food global value chains.

Non-availability of timely and adequate water for irrigation is now becoming a serious constraint in achieving higher productivity and stability of farming in many parts of the country. Therefore, assured irrigation is the need of the hour. Though the total rainfall in our country is satisfactory, its distribution is highly skewed. Therefore, rainwater harvesting and improving the efficiency of water use are important. It has been assessed that even a 10 per cent increase in the present level of water-use efficiency in irrigation projects may help to provide life-saving irrigation to crops in large areas. Water-use efficiency can be further enhanced by generating synergy with seed varieties, nutrients (macro and micro) and farm implements. The concept of maximising yield and income per unit of water would be used in all crop production programmes. Water users' associations would be encouraged to gain expertise in maximising the benefits from the available water.

The research strategy should be pro-nature, pro-small farmer and gender sensitive. Community-managed seed villages and seed technology training centres are needed, with women playing the major role because of their traditional knowledge of seeds and seed management, especially in tribal communities. Scientific literacy and removal of doubts and fears about the risks and benefits associated with biotechnology and other new technologies, can be achieved through farmers selected in each Panchayats and provided with adequate training, so as to enable them to serve as farm science managers in their respective villages. Soil health enhancement holds the key to raising farm productivity. Steps would be taken to ensure that each farmer is issued with a soil health passbook containing

integrated information on the physics, chemistry and microbiology of farm soils with corresponding advisories.

Cooperatives have an important role to play in banking, input supply, marketing, agro-processing and other agribusinesses to protect farmers from the vagaries of existing imperfections in the supply of inputs, production, value addition and marketing. Cooperatives should function as economic enterprises and not as an extended arm of the state. They require an entrepreneurial approach, competitive edge through suitable enterprise focus and strategic alliances with private and public sector units. Appropriate mechanisms would be put in place so that farmers have greater control of the market channels and improve profit opportunities through cooperatives and SHGs.

Major Policies and Programmes for the farmers in India

Agriculture has remained a highly regulated sector in India with government agencies and parastatals exercising a pervasive influence over it. These regulatory controls are imposed by both central and state governments. The state governments, however, continue to retain the constitutional authority over the sector. After independence, India pursued a policy of food self-sufficiency in staple foods — rice and wheat. The policies were initially focused on the expansion of cultivated area, introduction of land reforms, community development, and restructuring of rural credit institutions. during 2011–12, the Government of India launched and scaled several flagship agricultural policies and sub-schemes focused on rainfed farming, horticulture, crop diversification, and farmer collectivization. Launched in 2011–12 as a sub-scheme under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an initial allocation of ₹250 crore. Focused on small and marginal farmers in rainfed regions using an integrated farmers system approach to buffer against climate risks. Introduced in the 2011–12 Union Budget with an outlay of ₹300 crore to promote nutri-cereals and millets under RKVY. Launched with an allocation of ₹300 crore to ensure a steady supply of quality vegetables to cities with a population of one million or more, promoting protected cultivation like greenhouses and shade-net houses. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation initiated structured promotion of FPOs in 2011–12 under two RKVY sub-schemes—the Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters and the Pulses Development program for rainfed villages—laying the groundwork for the 2013 National Policy on FPOs. Continued major financial support, disbursing over ₹1,049.99 crore in 2011–12 to boost horticulture productivity and supply chain management across states. Implemented under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (Work Plan) up to 2012–13 to combat agricultural labor shortages through state-matched equipment subsidies.

METHODOLOGY

The present Paper focus on the awareness of the farmers about the programmes introduced by the government for to eradicate the problem faced by the farmers and give better facilities to their product good market values and good yield seeds to get better productivity. The most important aspect here is to know that how come the farmers know about the programmes and policies of the government for the sake of the farmers is known. The source of the study is both the primary and secondary data, secondary data are books, journals article and periodicals and primary sources includes books and other government proceedings and the sources collected from the true farmers with structured questionnaires. 50 farmers were personally interviewed and collected the data and has been examined with the help of the table below.

Table: Farmers awareness regarding Government schemes

S.No	Particulars	Yes	% Percentage	No	% Percentage	Total % Percentage
1	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	15	30	35	70	100
2	Welfare programmes of farmers	18	36	32	64	100
3	Crop benefit programmes	19	38	31	62	100
4	Kisan Credit Card	14	28	36	72	100
5	Financial assistant programmes	10	20	40	80	100
6	Animal husbandry programmes	10	20	40	80	100

Source; Field Survey

From about the table it is to be known that the, the farmers who were the backbone of the Indian economic system and they played very important role in preserving the economic inflation of the nation. To know that how the farmers are known about the policies and programmes implemented by the government of India for the enhancement of the farmers socio-economic status. Did the farmers know about the government policies and a programme for the farmers, the most important programmes information is asked to them? The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in 100% only 30 % farmers know about the scheme, it seems that most of the farmers doesn't utilise the help of the programme, it may be due to the lack of information about the Government scheme. About welfare programmes of the farmers, only 36% percentage of the farmers know about such schemes, about crop benefit issues they were been asked only 38% of them know about such programmes, about kisan credit card asked about them only 28% of them know about this facilities to farmers. They did not know about financial assistant programmes for the farmers only 20% of them know about it, it may be due to they would have been educated and they have been attached to political system. They little known about animal husbandry programmes for the farmers to assist them to enhance their economic status.

Major findings

- Most of the farmers did not know about the policies and programmes for the farmers to enhance them.
- Most of the farmers have known about the Kisan credit scheme.
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture scheme was not known to the farmers in the study region
- The awareness programmes are the need of the hour to farmers to know the policies and programmes of the Government'
- The local social workers should help the farmers to know about the programmes of the Government.

CONCLUSION

India's agrarian sector has been in a crisis for a while now. The economic importance of the agricultural sector in alleviating poverty and boosting development cannot possibly be overemphasised. Even though the sector is no longer the largest contributor to India's gross domestic product (GDP), it still employs a majority of the country's workforce. As stated in the earlier section of this unit, we shall examine the issues and concerns relating to agriculture in this section. These will be examined, one at a time, in each of the sub-sections below. It may be pointed at the outset, however, that many of these issues are considerably inter connected. Their segregation here is more for the purpose of a clearer understanding. The policy-makers have adopted several institutional interventions to mitigate the problem of ever shrinking land base and declining access to land; these measures include, among others, the implementation of several land reform and land development programmes at the Government level. Indian agriculture has entered a challenging phase of opportunities for globalisation and diversification. The challenge lies in establishing the institutional structure which facilitates in making use of the opportunities. The hopes have remained somewhat in the realm of dreams. Investment in agriculture has been declining. The impact of decline in public sector investment in agriculture is even more pronounced. As a consequence, investment in rural infrastructure as well Research and Development has adversely affected growth in agriculture. The now it is the need of the hour to make new approach to reach out the programmes to the farmers of the region, if the government makes new method of programmes for make them aware of these Government policies and programmes for the farmers.

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