

Interventions For Doubling Farmers Income

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ARTICLE ID: 36

Abstract

Modern innovative technologies increase the income inequality among the different sections of farming population and provide larger benefits to the semi-medium to large farmers as compared to the small and marginal farmers. Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has put a vision for our farmers and agriculture sector to see the farmer's income doubled by the year 2022, when the country would complete 75th year of independence. It is central to promote farmers welfare, reduce agrarian distress and bring parity between income of farmers and those working in non-agricultural professions. Government of India launched several schemes and programme for benefitting farmers in this direction. Agriculture sustains livelihood of more than half of the population of the country. Doubling farmer's income by 2022 is quite challenging but it is needed and is attainable.

Introduction

India has witnessed a silent revolution evolving from food deficient and import dependent nation during the early 1960s to a global agricultural powerhouse today. Despite such gains, Indian agriculture in present case scenario faces several issues associated with adaption to climate change, fragmented landholdings, low farm productivity and high food price volatility. Soil degradation under intensive agriculture is being widely documented in India results further in lower crop yields and productivity. The deficiencies of nutrient elements and inappropriate nutrient management practices in agricultural soils is one of the reasons for low crop productivity, reduced nutritional quality of agricultural produce which leads to animal and human malnutrition. The Inter-ministerial committee constituted by Government of India, recommended the following strategies for doubling farmer's income: (i) improvement in the crop productivity; (ii) improvement in the livestock productivity (iii) resources use efficiency or savings in the cost of production (iv) Increase in the cropping intensity and (iv) diversification towards high value crops (NITI, 2017). In order to enhance the income of the farmers, and reduce the production cost by increasing the input use efficiency, the agronomic



interventions *viz.*, integrated farming systems, crop diversification with remunerative crops, site specific nutrient management, conservation agriculture, micro-irrigation etc. are very important approaches (Bussa and Prasad, 2019).

As the new innovation of technologies in agricultural is widening up. The increases in income inequality among the different sections of farming community which provides large benefits to the medium to large farmers as compared to the small - marginal farmers, because these farmers are in the pink to accept the new technology (Wilson.,2002). The small – marginal farmers could not afford higher farm investment from their own savings to transform traditional Farming in to modern farming. Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has taken the initiative for farmers benefit and double their income by sharing his vision for our farmers and for agriculture sector. In a kisan rally which took place in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh 28th February, 2016, the country would complete 75th year of Independence. The prime minister stated that it is his dream to see farmer's income doubling by year 2022. In the pre-Independence, Agriculture was the backbone of our country. The annual budget of 2016-17 presented in the Parliament by the Government of India concentrated mainly on agriculture and farmer's welfare. Sh. Jaitley announced that the Government will reorient its interventions in the farm and non-farm sectors to double the income of the farmers by 2022. Agriculture plays a major role in economic growth and development. As a provider of food, it is a cornerstone of human existence. It sustains livelihood of more than half of the population of the country. Doubling farmer's income by 2022 is quite challenging but it is needed and is attainable.

Challenges of Indian Agriculture

India has witnessed a silent revolution evolving from food deficient and import dependent nation during the early nineteen sixties to a global agricultural powerhouse today. India has emerged as the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, jute and spices and it is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, tea, groundnut, fruits, vegetables etc.

India has achieved greater milestones in the field of agriculture during past decades. Despite such gain. Indian agriculture is facing many issues associated with adaption to constant climate change, the continuous decrease in agricultural landholdings, low farm productivity and high food price volatility. Soil degradation under intensive agriculture is being widely documented in India results further in lower crop yields and productivity. The multiple deficiencies of nutrient elements and inappropriate nutrient management practices in



agricultural soils is one of the reasons for low crop productivity, reduced nutritional quality of produce leads to animal and human malnutrition. The entire supply chain of perishable food produce is fraught with the issue of post-harvest losses and wastage besides slower growth in the agricultural sector. All these factors ultimately expedite undesirable consequences on Farmer's income. There further the government gave 7 source strategies on doubling farmers income

According to a survey done by Business today. In in year 2016, the survey was based on the average income of farmer's generated annually and average monthly income. Where the survey result showed the Punjab stands in top for farmers income with the income generation of 2, 16,708 whereas Bihar has the least income generation of 42,084 annually with the national average of Rs 77.124 annually

Sources of Growth in Farmer's Income

The doubling farmer's income strategy as recommended by Inter-ministerial committee constituted by Government of India includes two sources of income growth:

a) Source of income within agriculture

- Improvement in the productivity
- Improvement in the livestock productivity
- Resources use efficiency or savings in the cost of production-
- Increase in the cropping intensity
- Diversification towards high value crops

The above steps of the Government of India were on the side of the welfare of country's farmers to enhance their economic condition by doubling their income.

The Seven Point Strategies

The ministry of India has suggested seven-point strategies which assure farmers to double the income in different possible ways which are:

1. Focus on efficient Irrigation along with adequate resource building

- Government is taking effective measures to reduce the risk of agriculture sector through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) & Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) so that farmers feel secure even during the occurrence of natural calamities.
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 after an



extensive review of the prevailing crop insurance schemes. Under PMFBY & RWBCIS, Government provides extensive crop insurance coverage from pre-sowing to post-harvesting losses from natural calamities on the very low premium rates i.e., 2% for *Kharif* crops; 1.5% for Rabi crops & 5% for annual commercial/horticulture crops.

2. Focusing more on institutional loan to minimize the risk factor and ensuring growth of agricultural sector.

This factor highlights the importance of providing farmers with access to formal financial institutions for obtaining loans. Traditionally, farmers in many countries rely on informal sources of credit, such as moneylenders, which often charge high interest rates and impose unfavorable repayment terms. This can result in a cycle of debt and financial instability for farmers. By shifting the focus towards institutional loans, the aim is to provide farmers with affordable and convenient credit options. Institutional loans refer to loans provided by formal financial institutions like banks cooperatives, or government agencies

3. Overcoming deficiencies in agriculture marketing through e-NAM

- E-NAM was launched on April 14, 2016 where 455 mandis were linked to this scheme & online trading has already begun on 116 Mandis.
- Aim is to consolidate disintegrated APMCs & create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Even e-NAM will reduce intermediation costs to enable farmers to get better price of their produce.
- Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act (APMC) was launched (which includes private market yards, direct marketing) & all the State Governments have been directed to implement it in their states.

4. Increase production through improved seeds, planting materials, organic farming & soil health card

- Government has given priority to enhancing the production of wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds & horticultural crop.
- Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) more than 60% of the budget has been allocated for pulses.
- Soil Health Card Scheme has been launched to provide Soil Health Cards to every field in the country.

5. Strengthening ware housing & cold chain facilities

- As per a study, a loss of Rs. 52651 crores of agriculture produce every year has been estimated due to lack of basic post-harvest infrastructure facilities.
- Government invested 30 to 35% of the budget for the growth of cold chain infrastructure under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.
- To encourage farmers to store their produce in warehousing against warehouse receipts (storage of produce for 6 months in warehouse at the same rate as available to crop loan.

6. Value addition through food processing

- Government has allowed 100% FDI in food processing & food retail
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) under which the food processing capabilities will be strengthened through establishment of backward & forward linkages of agro-processing clusters.
- More than 20 lakh farmers are to be benefited by this scheme & it will create employment opportunities for 5.3 lakh people.

7. Allied activities of agriculture like Dairy development, Poultry, Beekeeping, Fisheries, Agro-forestry & Integrated Farming System

- The Government is working on promoting 8 other income generation activities for farmers such as animal husbandry, poultry, beekeeping, fisheries, agro-forestry & dairy development.

Reference

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