

Farming Profession Under Threat In India

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Introduction:

Agriculture is dying, okay not as in production of food but as a desirable profession. Farmers across the Globe are quitting Agriculture, while the youth is not interested in farming. Then who will grow our food? Food production is said to be the most critical job in the planet. According to a media report nearly 42% of Indian farmers are no more interested to continue farming, some prefer to settle in urban areas. Another report states that 48% farmers don't want their children to take up farming as their profession. While 14% of farmers want their children to continue farming, but their children themselves are not interested in Agriculture. This claims that nearly 78% farmers in India wants to give up farming. Shortfall of labour in some places clearly indicates the problems in agriculture. Large farms rely on imported labour from neighbouring states and even from ends of the country like Nepal. This shows that the younger generations do not want to follow their parents. They are attracted to urban areas which offer more opportunities. A single factor cannot be considered as a perfect reason for this trend because there are more factors contributing to this situation

Factors Responsible:

- 1. Increasing loss:** Most of the farmers who quits farming claims they are running under continuous losses, some says that they are getting less profits compared to the work they do.
- 2. Looking for better opportunities:** People believe that urban life is more luxurious as compared to villages. Majority of farmers want to move towards towns and cities for better opportunities, medical facilities and better education for their children. According to recent reports the average income of farmer is around Rs3900 per month and the daily labor in urban areas get more than that.

3. Climatic conditions: The yield of crops is much dependent on climate. In this climate changing era mostly crops are destroyed because of droughts, unseasonal rains, droughts and pest attacks.

Will It Help Farmers?

Quitting Agriculture and shifting to urban areas is bad not only for the economy but it also affects the farmers. Because there is already so much unemployment and competition in India, even highly educated youngsters are struggling to get a job, and it will not be easy for farmers to get good jobs. Government and private agencies are aiming to increase the productivity of farmers. As the population is increasing, the demand for food is also increasing but the number of farmers is decreasing, so again farming will become a massive profit making profession in future.

Ground Level Facts:

1. Today's Agriculture policies fail to recognize how to choose the crops, input costs and the supply chain are intertwined and perpetuating marginal farming.
2. Proper market analysis is not available to the farmers which lead to over production. This in turn reduces the prices and pushes them to debt.
3. Due to the lack of proper guidance or soil testing, the farmers tend to apply more fertilizers. This reduces the soil fertility and increases the expense of cultivation.
4. Mostly farming is monsoon dependent. Any change in its pattern severely affects the farmer.
5. The storage facilities are inadequate. It forces the farmer to sell the products even at throw away prices to the middle man due to its highly perishable nature.

What Can Be Done To Stop This?

- Out of all problems faced by the farmers, the fluctuating market prices which lead to loss can be considered as a main reason to quit farming. Around 60% farmers are ready to quit farming if other option is available for earning.
- Agriculture sector requires equal growth and infrastructure development like other sectors.
- As manual farming failed to improve the economic status of farmers, the scientific and commercial farming can solve the problems of farming sector.
- Creating a market link for the farm products, so that they get better farm-gate price.

- Shifting from open field farming to environment protected farming/controlled environment farming. This helps in reducing the risk of fluctuating environment.
- The government trying to implement new schemes which are excellent on paper but fail to help farmers, government should ensure that these schemes can really help farmers.
- Introducing drought resistant, short-duration crops, particularly against the backdrop of climate-change across the globe. Plus, the provision of appropriate farm insurance policies will insure the farmers against losses thus enabling them to take greater risks.
- Government needs to open up the cold storage sector for private investors and work with them to properly control the impact of the law of supply and demand.
- There is a great need for a revamp of the existing supply chain mechanisms with an aim of reducing the human resource involvement in it.

