

Indian Agriculture during Planning Period (1951-52 to 1989-90): Before Globalization

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ABSTRACT

The Indian agricultural development has been achieved, especially before the globalization through the five year plans. The basic infrastructure for agriculture, the institutional changes for the support of agriculture, government aid and research activities, altogether benefited the Indian agriculture. The five year plans had a target of achieving defined success. The government of India took great efforts in this regards. This paper gives a brief contribution made by the Indian agriculture during the five year plans.

1. Introduction

The colonial period in India began in 17th century and continued upto 1947. Indian resources were utilized as per the policy priorities dictated by the British government. The British government extracted important resources from India. This was essential for them since they had to give benefits to the Britain. As a result of that, when India became free in the year 1947, the Indian government had number of fundamental problems related to all sectors. The government of India had to design the strategy, which can promote the agriculture and industrial sector in India. The government of Indian declared five years plans, through which the development of economic sectors could take place. Especially, the agriculture in India was most backwarded, which needed a special strategy of development. This paper gives a review of Indian agriculture during planning period.

2. Objectives of the Study:

- 2.1 To take review of Indian agriculture during planning period
- 2.2 To explore the planning period of India over the years
- 2.3 To explain the development of Indian agriculture

3. Hypothesis of the Study:

- 3.1 The Indian agriculture has developed during the post-Independence period.
- 3.2 The five year plans of India has benefitted the Indian agriculture
- 3.3 The progress of Indian agriculture could be stressed during the planning period.

4. Literature Review:

Selvaraj K.N. (1993) has argued that agricultural development in India during the planning period was satisfactory and the development was highly depending on the finance made available through the government. Shashank, Kalirajan and Shand (1998) have argued that, the regional balance was an important issue throughout the planning period, which affected the agricultural development. Further the authors have mentioned that, there had been less agricultural growth over the years. Koichi Fujita (2010) has argued that, Indian could attain the food self-sufficiency in the 1970s. This was the result of green revolution. The Indian five year plans had brought this contribution to the Indian agriculture, which benefited several rural families.

5. Methodology:

The present research analysis is based on the secondary data viz. Reports published by the government of India and Books of various authors. The period of the study is whole from the first five year plan to eleventh five year plan. The researcher has collected selected data related to the agriculture and gave analysis under selective heads.

6. Analysis of Data and Results:

India became free in the year 1947. After this, the government India had to face several social, economic and political problems. There were problems as, 'feudal agricultural system', 'shortage of food grains', 'low agricultural productivity', 'increasing inflation', 'social barriers', 'problem of refugees' and many more. In case of agriculture, Indian government had to re-establish the Indian agriculture in such a way that, it could lead to development. The government of India took special steps for the development of agriculture through five year plans. The

position of Indian agriculture during five year plans can be discussed as below.

6.1 First Five Year Plan (1951-52 to 1955-56):

The first five year plan (1951-52 to 1955-56) was declared and special priority was given to agriculture. The shortage of food grains and inflation had to be addressed through this plan. The first five year plan had an objective to increase the agricultural production and productivity. Increasing the production of crops as, food crops and cash crops were part of this plan. In order to this, the government promoted several major and minor irrigation works. Diversification of rural economy was taken place, under which dairy and horticulture development was promoted. The village industries were promoted. The agricultural research was encouraged. New improved agricultural tools and government financial aid was helpful in this process. As a whole, at the end of the plan, the results were satisfactory.

6.2 Second Five Year Plan (1956-57 to 1960-61):

The first five year plan was just a beginning. At the end of this, the government of India got certain new priorities. Considering the first plan achievements, the second five year plan (1956-57 to 1960-61) was declared. The main theme of this plan was economic development and social justice. The colonial rule had established feudal agricultural relations, which needed to re-establish through certain reform. Under this plan, land reforms were declared as special strategy to promote social, economic and institutional reforms. This was essential for social justice in rural society. Large majority of the people were not having agricultural land, hence there was need to take special step. The 'zamindari' system was prevalent in India, which discourage the agricultural productivity for longer years. The government had to shape the agrarian structure by removing hurdles and encouraging agricultural efficiency. The social and economic structure was interlinked, which was a big problem. Under this second five year plan, 'the abolition of intermediate system' was declared, where agricultural land was made free from the intermediates or zamindars. The government also declared 'tenancy reforms', where special institutional protection was provided to the tenants. This was essential for the rise in agricultural productivity. Besides these, government also declare developmental programmes for agricultural development. Special allocation of funds for the agriculture was made, under which allocation of funds and fertilizers was made. The appropriate agricultural price policy was also designed. As a whole, the Indian agriculture came to certain shape. The process of development was under the control.

6.3. Third Five Year Plan (1961-62 to 1965-66):

The third five year plan (1961-62 to 1965-66) was declared in the intention of agricultural development through certain programmes. The small, medium and large irrigation projects were planned under this plan. The soil conservation

programme was launched through various methods. Production and distribution of fertilizers at subsidized rate was planned. Production and distribution of improved seeds was planned. The distribution of credit at micro level was carried out. Along with this, agricultural extension service was encouraged. The promotion of cooperative sector was also an important measure under this plan. The implementation of land reforms was continued even in this plan period. The community development programme was launched. The responsibility of agricultural development was shared through the states. The state government also launched special programmes under the central funding. Scientific agricultural practice and modern agricultural inputs were introduced during this planning period. As a whole, at the end of the planning period, this resulted into successful planning era. The agricultural development under third planning period was more efficient, since it led to several agrarian changes.

6.4 Annual Plans: (1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69)

The government of India also had to declare annual plans (1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69), where the priority was given to increase in agricultural production and productivity. The programmes were already declared through prior plans, which again continued to implement effectively. The integrated programmes were promoted. Minor irrigation projects and soil conservation projects were promoted under this. The new agricultural strategy was designed during these plans in order to increase the average yield of food crops and cash crops. High yielding variety seeds and multiple cropping pattern were promoted, which resulted into remarkable increase in the agricultural production and productivity. The medium and long loan was made available for this package. Besides these, fisheries, animal husbandry and horticulture sectors were being promoted. As a result of this, the government of India could design the policy of export promotion of agricultural goods.

6.5 Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-70 to 1973-74):

The fourth five year plan (1969-70 to 1973-74) was declared considering the achievements of the earlier plan. The main aim of this plan was to include the large number of rural people, who were away from the benefits. The small farmers and agricultural labours were away from this sphere. This plan declared special programme for the development of this excluded section of the society. Besides this, the plan also had to sustain the agricultural growth at five percent in next coming years. The modern agricultural technology was promoted through education and training. The farmers were target group for this. The distribution of agricultural information was made available. As a whole, this programme was more scientific and practical, which resulted into good results.

6.6 Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-75 to 1978-79):

The fifth five year plan (1974-75 to 1978-79) was launched with special assessment of prior programme achievements. Based on the assessment, this programme made special provisions. The production and distribution of high yielding variety seeds was continued in this plan also, since these seeds were giving high yield. The production and distribution of fertilizers was also carried out. The new agricultural strategy was including these two inputs (HYV seeds and fertilizers) as most essential. The government of India also came to notice that, there had been rise in salinity and acidic soil in Indian agriculture. The plan addressed these environmental issues. The special financial provision was made to promote the biogas plants at village level and also promoted organic sources of manures. The agricultural extension service was made available in several states. The provision of agricultural storage was made. The active participation of agricultural universities was encouraged and agricultural research was being promoted. In this programme, the north-eastern state was also given priority by establishing agricultural research centres.

6.7 Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-81 to 1984-85) :

The sixth five year plan (1980-81 to 1984-85) was launched to promote the long term agricultural growth. The Indian agriculture was lagging behind in export due to steep rise in agricultural productivity with particular crops. The plan encouraged to promote the various agricultural commodities for export purpose. The domestic consumption was also taken care of. The improvement in agricultural technology was not yielding higher in all crops. The selected crop yield was higher, but other crops were lagging behind. The plan had strategy to fill a gap between the actual yield and potential yield in Indian farms. The accelerated agricultural growth was planned under this. The government of India gave priority to remove the constraints responsible for under yield. The agricultural allied activities were also promoted. The fishery was main highlight of these activities, which had greater potential in export. The special financial package was given for technological promotion and packaging. This plan helped to restructure the trade activities, which were favourable to India in many cases.

6.8. Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-86 to 1989-90):

The seventh five year plan (1985-86 to 1989-90) was launched with an objective of agricultural promotion in neglected area. The earlier plan had achieved the considerable success in its target; however the seventh plan also had to set a strategy for agricultural development with higher growth rate. The food grains and oil seeds was important part of this strategy. The rice yields, especially in the eastern region, were promoted. The dry land agriculture was encouraged by this plan. The major programme launched under this plan was 'Special Rice Production Programme in the Eastern States'. This was specially because the eastern states had greater

potential in case of rice production. The plan gave thrust on the special project about oil seeds development. The production of oil seeds was important at that stage, since there was import of such oil. The plan also promoted social forestry to keep environmental balance. The small and marginal farmers were again central part of the plan, since they were responsible for the actual development of agriculture. The agricultural measures were expanded further as functioning of 'regulated market'. Besides this, the responsibility of agricultural development was also on the shoulder of state government. The state governments also brought several legislative measures to shape the agriculture. Agricultural marketing was an important issue, in this regards most of the state government promoted cooperative marketing, which helped the farmers of India.

7. Results:

The Indian agriculture during the planning period, especially before the globalization has achieved success at several fronts. The results from the analysis can be drawn as below.

- i) The first five year plan (1951-52 to 1955-56) was declared with a special priority to Indian agriculture.
- ii) The problems which existed at the time Independence were 'the shortage of food grains and inflation.
- iii) The first five year plan could achieve an increase in production and productivity in Indian agriculture
- iv) The irrigation projects were promoted for the development.
- v) The diversification of rural economy was accepted by the first five year plan.
- vi) The second five year plan (1956-57 to 1960-61) had an objective of economic development and social justice.
- vii) The feudal agricultural relation which has come from colonial period was dismantled by the second five year plan.
- viii) Abolition of intermediate system and tenancy reforms were important achievement in this plan.
- ix) The special allocation of funds for the agriculture was provided for the fertilizers and pesticides.
- x) The third five year plan (1961-62 to 1965-66) was declared with several programmes and schemes. The completion of small and medium irrigation projects and soil conservation were important part of it.
- xi) Production and distribution of improved seeds was also planned in this plan period.
- xii) The scientific agricultural practice and modern agricultural inputs were introduced during this planning period.
- xiii) The government of India had to declare annual plans (1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69), where the priority was given to completion of integrated programme.
- xiv) Agricultural allied activities were promoted during these plans.

- xv) The fourth five year plan (1969-70 to 1973-74) was known as the plan, where special attention was given to small farmers and marginal farmers.
- xvi) The modern agricultural technology was promoted in this plan.
- xvii) The fifth five year plan (1974-75 to 1978-79) was aimed for the production and distribution of high yielding variety seeds.
- xviii) The government of India also had strategy to address the issue of salinity and acidic soil in Indian agriculture.
- xix) The provision of agricultural storage was made available under public sector during this plan.
- xx) The sixth five year plan (1980-81 to 1984-85) was launched to promote the long term agricultural growth. The main part of this plan was to promote agricultural export.
- xxi) The seventh five year plan (1985-86 to 1989-90) was a period, during which the food grains and oil seeds production was promoted.
- xxii) The higher agricultural growth was estimated and achieved.
- xxiii) A special plan for north-eastern was launched during this plan.
- xxiv) Agricultural marketing platform was made available with legislative measures.

8. Conclusion:

The agricultural development before the globalization had gone through various phases. The government of India and State governments have established basic structure for the development. The finance, infrastructure and institutional service were made available to the farmers. Besides that, agricultural research was promoted. The Indian agriculture has achieved increasing production and productivity in case of selective crops. The structure of Indian agriculture was re-established, which had brought several positive effects. Although the agricultural growth rate was not attractive, but at least the Indian agriculture was ready to face any challenges.

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