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## A Critical Analysis of Role of Agriculture and Rural Development India

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### Abstract

*Agriculture and rural development occupy a central position in the socio-economic progress of India. Despite rapid industrialization, agriculture continues to contribute nearly one-fifth to the national GDP and remains the primary livelihood source for the majority of rural households. Rural development, in essence, focuses on raising the living standards of people in villages by utilizing locally available resources, strengthening infrastructure, and creating employment opportunities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has initiated several programs that link agricultural growth with social and economic progress in rural regions. Agriculture is not only the backbone of food security but also an essential driver of rural employment, environmental sustainability, and overall national growth. The increasing adoption of modern technologies such as improved irrigation systems, advanced seed varieties, and better land-use practices has significantly enhanced productivity. However, rural areas still face challenges like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and migration. Watershed management, crop diversification, and skill development programs have proved effective in mitigating these issues. Agriculture further supports allied sectors such as animal husbandry, dairy, and agri-business, thereby expanding livelihood opportunities. With 70% of India's population still residing in villages, sustainable rural development is crucial for inclusive growth. A balanced approach that emphasizes resource management, social equity, and economic empowerment can transform rural communities. Hence, agriculture should be viewed not only as a means of subsistence but as a strategic instrument for achieving long-term rural prosperity and national development.*

**Keywords:** Agriculture Development, Rural Areas, Human resources, environment, Food security, quality, Production etc.

### Introduction

The primary objective of rural development is to improve the standard of living of people in rural areas by utilizing readily available natural and human resources. Watershed management programs, land planning, and soil conservation practices are widely adopted to enhance water absorption and agricultural productivity through crop diversification. Agriculture in rural areas is not only a source of food security but also serves as a major economic activity providing livelihood to millions of people. Rural development is important not only for the majority of the population living in rural areas but also for the overall economic development of the country. Agricultural development involves the realization of agricultural potential through technology adoption, input allocation, and knowledge dissemination. It also includes improving infrastructure, reducing unemployment, and fulfilling the three core values of development—subsistence, self-respect, and independence.

### Problems of the Study:

The environmental challenges facing Indian agriculture are multifaceted. Climate change, unpredictable monsoons, water scarcity, soil degradation and loss of biodiversity all contribute to the vulnerability of the agricultural sector. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events disrupts crop cycles and reduces overall productivity. Agriculture, being the main source of income for rural households, is deeply impacted by these issues.

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### **Objectives of the Study:**

The main objective of this research is to study the role of agriculture sector in rural development and some specific objectives have been given by the researchers as follows.

1. To study the role of agriculture sector in rural areas.
2. To examine the factors affecting agriculture in rural areas.
3. To analyze rural development in relation to the economic and social conditions of the people.

### **Significance of the Study:**

Agriculture remains the primary occupation of rural populations, ensuring food, fiber, wood, and employment. It provides environmental services, supports economic development, ensures food security, and strengthens rural sustainability. Investment in agriculture thus plays a key role in stabilizing rural development in a sustainable manner.

### **Scope of the Study:**

Agriculture contributes to income growth and poverty reduction in developing nations. It generates employment in rural areas while supplying affordable food to urban regions. Due to favorable climate and fertile soil, India has achieved significant crop production, leading to the establishment of agri-based industries and providing large-scale employment.

### **Limitation of the Study:**

Although the sector plays a very important role in rural development, many problems are faced by the rural people. These include water scarcity, soil degradation, pesticide attacks, commodity price volatility, lack of technology, poverty, poor cropping techniques, arable farming problems due to chemical fertilizers. Agriculture plays an important role in contributing to the development of rural areas as well as increasing the income of the people living in rural areas. In rural areas, farmers have to perform roles such as ensuring food security, providing livelihood to many people, providing affordable food in urban areas, implementing infrastructure, finding business opportunities and contributing to improving the quality of the environment. For the development of rural areas, the government has tried to implement various schemes, but the strict implementation of those schemes is equally important, but there have been problems in their actual implementation.

### **Period of the Study:**

To study in detail the role of agriculture sector in rural development and comprehensive policy in Indian economy, the researcher has completed the said research on the basis of information of 2024.

### **Research Methodology:**

Agriculture sector is important for rural development but in present scenario rural development requires improvement of standard of living and their economic and social conditions in the initial period but due to indifferent policy of the government the farmer is fed up with inflation. In this research paper, articles, journals, newspaper, audio video, reference books, serial books, annual reports, books, magazines, etc., have been studied in detail by the researcher using descriptive analysis method.

### **Research Method:**

Agriculture sector helps to improve the economic and social conditions in rural development but in the present scenario agriculture along with animal husbandry is very important business from the point of view of farmers. Livestock rearing is a business that is practiced all over India as a supplementary business to agriculture, but farmers are facing constant problems due to lack of proper price for their produce. The researcher has completed the said research by using descriptive analysis method while studying rural development and agricultural sector together.

### **Results and Discussion:**

The main problems facing agriculture are usually related to land. Loss of viable land, erosion and other factors reduce the ability of farmers to use land. Other factors include inflation and government restrictions. Due to natural disasters or any other reason such as crop disease, destruction of agriculture by wild animals the income from dryland or irrigated agriculture is not guaranteed, so the businesses that can be done as an alternative source of income to the farmers are called ancillary businesses. Agriculture impacts society in many ways, including supporting livelihoods through food, shelter and jobs, providing raw materials for food and other products and building a strong economy through trade.

### **Agriculture Development:**

In rural areas, agriculture is not only a source of food security but also serves as a major economic activity providing livelihood to millions of people. India has made significant advances in agricultural production in recent decades, including the introduction of high-yielding seed varieties, increased use of fertilizers and improved water management systems. Agriculture sector has a significant contribution in rural development. Agriculture is the main source of income for people living in rural areas. Development in agriculture sector provides employment in rural areas and increases rural prosperity.

### Rural Development:

70 % of the country's population lives in rural areas. Such a large population is moving forward in terms of development of rural areas by doing agriculture and agribusiness. Farmers of our country are getting abundant production of crops due to favorable seasonal climate and good soil in river valleys. Agricultural businesses and various industries based on agricultural production have been set up. This gave employment to lakhs of people. The importance of agriculture sector in rural development is unique. In our agrarian

country, many crops are grown depending on the resources such as climate, land and water available in that area. Farmers in India grow many crops like sugarcane, rice, cotton, sorghum, millet, wheat, maize, soybeans, vegetables, various fruits. The country exports food grains, fruits and dairy products to meet the food needs of the country's population. This earns the country foreign exchange. This is why agriculture is very important in the country's economic income and national income. India's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture.

Chart No. 1 Agriculture Development and Production



### Agriculture Production and Fertilizers:

After independence, agriculture in the country came under irrigation. Farmers have started producing abundant produce using modern technology. The country became self-sufficient in food grain production. Many businesses and industries based on agriculture were set up. Farmers in rural areas became economically empowered. Their standard of living increased. Many industries were set up in the rural areas to supplement agriculture. India is heavily dependent on agriculture. Although the farmers here have been farming for thousands of years, it has been a long time now. As in the post-independence era, we were importing foodgrains from other countries as per the demand. But after Green Revolution we became self-sufficient and started exporting surplus agricultural products to other countries. In the past, farmers here depended entirely on the monsoons to grow food grains; But now dams, canals, pipelines and pump sets are built. Also, these days there are better types of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds that help us grow more food than in the olden days. Stronger than the country and we are the largest

exporter of many food grains. Agriculture sector has a major share in the gross national product and national income of the country. Even today, share of agriculture in India's national income is more than that of developing countries.

### Indian Economy and Development:

A review of 75 years reveals an important feature of our economy that the number of people dependent on agriculture and non-agriculture for their livelihood continues to increase. Considering only rural areas of the country, according to a study, 64 % of people were engaged in agriculture in 2011-12. The remaining 36 % were engaged in non-agricultural occupations. In our country, ownership of agriculture is private. Owned farms, however small in size, are the economic backbone of the farmer and his family, in today's state of development. Even a small land holder can increase the productivity of the farm and own income by growing 2-3 grain crops, vegetables, using excess fertilizers, using machinery. But in dryland areas like West Vidarbha a farmer with 25-30 acres of land can support his family with a single rainfed crop.

**Table No. 1 Agriculture Development and System**

Content	Percentage	Std. Dev.
Farm Management	35%	0.23
Agriculture Support Chain and Business	7%	0.41
Weather Forecast System	20%	0.26
Pest Control	13%	0.16
Agriculture Learning and Information System	15%	0.20
Crop Market Management	10%	0.12

**Source:** Agriculture Ministry of India, 2024

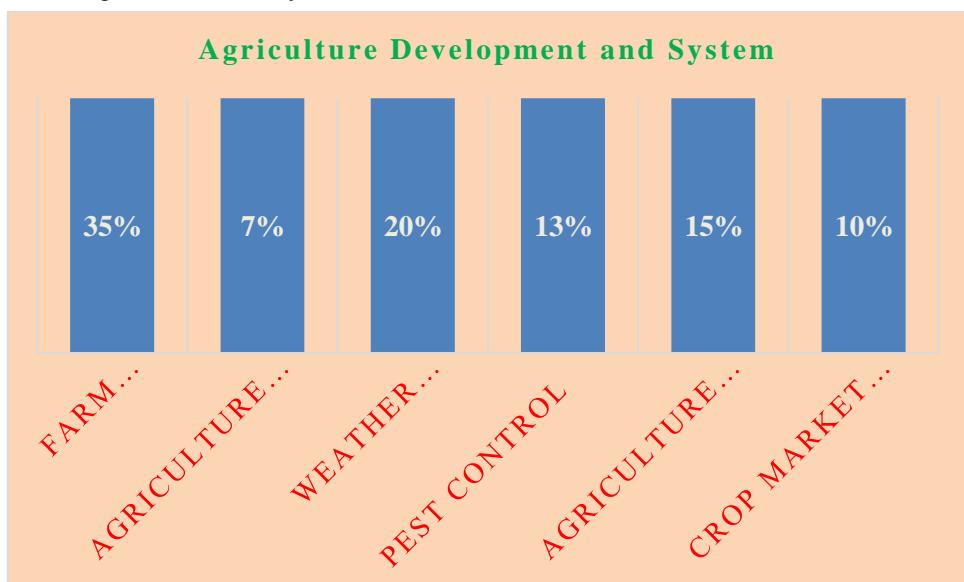


Table No.1 gives information on different methods of agricultural development. It has taken a detailed review of the various factors involved in managing agriculture. In India ten percent is earmarked for crop management and marketing sector while 20% is spent on climate change. 7% is spent on marketing agricultural commodities and reviewing business chain practices. 13 % is spent on pesticide spraying and pest control. A large amount of research is spent on the crop so that it does not produce any kind of pesticides, so organic farming is the need of the hour.

#### Developing Nation and Agriculture Sector:

India ranks second in the world in terms of total agricultural output; Agriculture also plays a big role in the economy. Agriculture is the industry. Even today it is considered among the sectors that provide the greatest employment opportunities. Agricultural jobs help reduce high rates of unemployment in developing countries. Focusing on agriculture sector whenever it comes to poverty reduction; It appears to be more effective than investing in other sectors. Many unemployed youths have progressed through animal husbandry and dairy business. Agriculture is mainly considered as a complementary business to dairy production. But for some farmers it is the opposite. Dairy business is everything for them. On the whole, the standard of living of the people in the

rural areas has been raised due to the use of modern technology in the agricultural sector of the country and in agribusiness. The contribution of agriculture and agri-based business is significant in rural development.

#### Factors Affecting on Rural Development:

Rural development is important not only for the people living in rural areas but also for the overall economic development of the country. Rural development is very important to grow the economy of the country.

1. Social and Economic Infrastructure,
2. Agricultural Development,
3. Public Health, Education,
4. Communication,
5. Village Planning,
6. Literacy Level,
7. Environmental Sustainability

#### Objectives of Rural Development:

1. To improve the quality of life of people living in rural areas.
2. To enhance the economic stability of rural communities.
3. To strengthen environmental sustainability.
4. Reducing inequality in rural areas.
5. To promote participation and empowerment

#### Conclusion:

Agriculture is an important occupation to contribute to the economic and social development of rural areas. Rural agriculture is actively contributing towards improving the economic

conditions of rural people by improving their standard of living. But for that, the necessary resources i.e. capital must be available in the right amount. Agriculture is seen as an important factor for the livelihood of people in rural areas. Agriculture plays an important role in the development of rural areas as agriculture is seen as a means of livelihood for people in rural areas as well as animal husbandry. As people in rural areas are economically backward and poor, agriculture is an important alternative for their livelihood. India's policies have inadequate facilities to improve the standard of living of rural dwellers and provide them with information on modern education, health and land reform.

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#### **Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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