



FARMERS SUICIDE A GREAT DAMAGE TO THE MANKIND: AN ALARM TO INDIA

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Abstract: *Though the modern days have changed the outlook of India, the agriculture stands at the top of the order. Agriculture is the traditional and base occupation of Indians. Till this day the defense of the nation is in the hands of farmers who are feeding the mass by producing food and the soldiers who are protecting against enemies inside and out side the country. The dependence of Indians on agriculture is decreasing in terms of percentage but is increasing in real terms. The dependence on agriculture was 69.7 percent in 1951 which decreased to 66.9 percent in 1991 and to 56.7 percent in 2011. Out of 36.11 crore population 25.16 crore people were depending on agriculture in 1951*

Keywords: *Agriculture, modern, feeding, soldiers, population, soldiers*

INTRODUCTION

“JAI JAVAN JAI KISAN”

Though the modern days have changed the out look of India, the agriculture stands at the top of the order. Agriculture is the traditional and base occupation of Indians. Till this day the defense of the nation is in the hands of farmers who are feeding the mass by producing food and the soldiers who are protecting against enemies inside and out side the country. The dependence of Indians on agriculture is decreasing in terms of percentage but is increasing in real terms. The dependence on agriculture was 69.7 percent in 1951 which decreased to 66.9 percent in 1991 and to 56.7 percent in 2011. Out of 36.11 crore population 25.16 crore people were depending on agriculture in 1951 which increased to 56.62 crore out of 84.64 crore in 1991 and 68.61 crore out of 121.02 crore in 2011. This shows more dependence on agriculture and the main source of lively hood of Indians. Indian agriculture provided employment to 46 percent male and 65 percent female workers. The agriculture was considered as shock absorber in the Indian economy the saying cannot be denied today also. Since the population is increasing the demand for food, different kinds of infrastructure, shelter, etc. are increasing on one hand the supply of land is limited on the other. The development of Indian economy and changing living style and standard has



increased the demand for conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural land. The real estate business has got sharp positive turn. The real estate businessmen for higher level of profit hunting are purchasing agricultural land from farmers by paying little higher price and converting agricultural land into non agricultural land. The agriculturist forgets that he is losing his bread earning land permanently. Due to this, the land available for agriculture is consistently decreasing. On one side growing demand for food and other agro-products' production due to increase in population and domestic consumption and increased demand for exports on the other have put more pressure on agricultural land and agriculturists to produce more. In other words agriculturists have to produce more in less land area. This is increasing pressure on both agricultural land and agriculturist and increasing cost of agricultural production. Hence, the farmers are compelled to use modern and high yielding techniques in their farms. The modern equipments, fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and other argo inputs are so costly which in turn increasing the cost of farming. The increasing cost on one hand and non availability or less availability of funds on the other have made the farmer to borrow at high rate of interest.

OBJECTIVES

This paper has following objectives.

- i. To know the reasons for farmer's suicide.
- ii. To find out the solutions for stopping Suicide.
- iii. To give suggestions for solving the problem.

PROBLEMS OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE

The importance of Indian Agriculture cannot be compared to other sectors of the economy.

The Indian agriculture is facing many problems. They are listed below.

1. Agricultural sector in India is unorganized.
2. Institutional finance is not sufficient to meet the minimum credit requirement.
3. Minimum support price is too less compared to the market price fixed by the traders.
4. The Indian agriculture consists of more number of small and marginal farmers.
5. Exploitation of farmers by middle men.
6. The Government schemes do not reach poor farmer.
7. Increase in indebtedness among the farmers.



8. Development of real estate business.

COMMITTING SUICIDE, THE FARMERS HORRIBLE DECISION

No one in India chooses to become a farmer, no one expects their children to become farmers except farmers. This shows the unhappiness among those who have chosen the farmers profession. In olden days agriculture was popular job but now a day not. Earlier the profession of agriculture was considered as top (Uttam), business was considered as medium (madhyam) and service (naukari) lowest (kanist) and the agriculturist had special respect in the society. But in recent days the farmer is taking ultimate decision. He feels better passing away rather than facing the problems and living with his loving people. There are several forcing factors which can be pointed responsible for the farmer's suicide. They are-

1. Loss due to crop failure because of draught, insufficient rain fall or no rain fall, crop diseases etc.
2. Increasing cost of production due to hike in the price of farm inputs.
3. Given up of organic farming and tending towards modern farming.
4. Disastrous ground water resources like bore wells, open wells, tanks, etc. and decrease in water table.
5. Given up traditional methods of irrigation and depending on power supply. Non availability of power, poor power supply, etc.
6. High fluctuations in prices of agricultural products.
7. Change in the living style and increasing household expenses.
8. Distressed sale of land and decrease in the ability to repay loans and Grave debt burdens.
9. Expecting government's interest or loan waiver scheme.
10. Lack of broad and farmer friendly agricultural policy.
11. Some of the the government policies don't reach the poor farmers

HOW TO OVER COME THE PROBLEM?

Finding solution and stopping farmers' suicide is great challenging issue. Nothing is impossible if really the problem is to be solved. Solutions for the same are with farmer and the government. Following are the solutions which can stop and prevent the problem.

- a. Growing more than one crop at a time.



- b. Growing those crops which bring more profit.
- c. Less borrowing.
- d. Using the loan amount for which it is borrowed. Credit supply and recovery should be soft.
- e. Motivating the farmers to follow organic farming.
- f. Do not waiting for government's loan waiver scheme.
- g. Educating the farmers.
- h. Crop planning, credit planning, water use planning, etc.
- i. Proper, correct and timely minimum support price should be fixed.
- j. Finding new sources of income.
- k. Popularising allied activities of agriculture
- l. Allowing MNCs only in dry lands.
- m. Farmers should love their family members.
- n. All the government policies should reach the poor farmers

CONCLUSION

It is visible that, since 1951 the percentage of dependence on agriculture is decreasing in terms of percentage but it is increasing in real terms. All the times the slogan "Jai Javan Jai Kisan" holds true. Hence utmost care is to be taken about the bread feeder. Though there are many schemes the government some more positive steps. It is the will power of the farmers and sympathetic approach of the government can stop suicide.

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