

Government Policies and Agricultural Development: An Overview in context of Haryana

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ABSTRACT

Present research paper aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the government policies that have shaped and influenced agricultural development in India. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the country's economy, providing livelihoods to a significant portion of the population. Over the years, the Indian government has implemented various policies to address the challenges faced by the agricultural sector and promote sustainable development in this field. This paper attempts to explore key policies, their impact on farmers, and the overall state of agricultural development in India.

Key Words: Policies, development, livelihood, welfare, sustainable.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. Agriculture sector face many problems viz. financial, production and marketing. Farmers highly depend on monsoon rainfall for fulfilling water requirements of crops. Agriculture in India is proverbially called a "Gamble on the Monsoon". As agriculture highly depends on weather conditions a small change in weather causes huge damage to the crop growth and consequences result in change of livelihood of farmers. Not only the weather conditions, but also the diseases and pests affect the crop growth and yield which ultimately results in decrease of farmer's income (Aakash Rawat and Jayant Zechariah, 2022).

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the historical context of agricultural policies in India.
- To examine the impact of government interventions on farmers and agricultural productivity.
- To identify challenges faced by the agricultural sector and assess the effectiveness of existing policies.
- To propose recommendations for improving the current state of agricultural development.

Historical Context of Agricultural Policies in India

Green Revolution

The Green Revolution of the 1960s introduced a significant shift in Indian agriculture, driven by technological advancements and government support. In India, Green Revolution was introduced by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, An Agricultural scientist. It was a successful experiment on five major foodgrain crops, namely; Wheat, Rice, Jawar, Bajra and Maize, that shifted Indian agriculture from subsistence form to commercial one. Due to this remarkable event India became able to produce surplus foodgrains and slowly turned into an exporter, instead of importer of foodgrains. A jump from 34.58 million tons to 74.29 million tons and 11.00 million tons to 55.14 million tons was noticed in case of Rice and Wheat respectively between 1960-61 to 1990-91 (Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India).

Although, pulses and other coarse grains faced a decay or stagnant phase in this time period. Production of Pulses remained 12.70 million tons in 1960-61 and 14.26 million ton during 1990-91. On the other hand, Coarse Cereals production was 23.74 and 32.70 million tons in same time period (Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India), (Nelson, et. al. The impact of the Green Revolution on indigenous crops of India, 2019).

If a critical analysis is made, all over India, only four states; Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were benefited most during the Green Revolution period. As far as Haryana state is discussed, along with all other favourable

conditions, govt. support, in form of subsidies, loans, availability of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, extension of irrigation facilities and electricity remained major pull factors for the grand success of green revolution in the state.

At present, Haryana is a leading agriculture producer state of India that contributes 15 percent in central pool of food grains stated Chief Minister Mnohar Lal in CMO meeting held in Aug. 2022. In the same pattern, some agriculture schemes of Haryana state are discussed below;

Current Government Policies and Programs:

A. National Agricultural Policy

The term “Policy” refers to an action plan to be taken. As far as agricultural policy is considered, it indicates the approach and roadmap, adopted by the government to pursue the pre-determined goals in agricultural sector. In India, agriculture has a significant role in rural areas as people with less education, less income and less resource from rural society directly engage in this primary activity. Such action plans are devoted to the development and advancement of agriculture as well as deal with agricultural issues such as irrigation, credit, subsidies and marketing. Water scarcity, over exploitation of groundwater, Soil degradation, Water logging, Mono cropping, lack of awareness among farmers over and imbalanced consumption of Fertilizers etc. are some major concerns in agrarian sector. Here are some govt. Schemes that tries to deal with above mentioned issues.

B. Minimum Support Price (MSP)

It is a mechanism under which farmers sell their crops to the government. The MSP is a tool which guarantees the farmers, prior to the sowing season, that a fair amount of price is fixed for their upcoming crop to encourage higher investment and production of agricultural commodities. This mechanism or price provide a protection to farmers from market fluctuation and offers stability and income security. For this purpose, a commission was established in 1965, the CACP or Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. MSP is based on the recommendations of the this commission which considers various factors such as cost of production, demand and supply, market price trends, inter-crop price parity, etc. The CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and two other commercial crops. The list of crops is as following.

- Cereals (7) - paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi
- Pulses (5) - gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad and lentil
- Oilseeds (8) - groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria, soyabean, sunflower seed, sesamum, safflower seed and nigerseed and 2 commercial crops viz. jute and copra.

C. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is the flagship scheme of the government for agricultural insurance in India in line with the One Nation-One Scheme theme. PMFBY was launched in 2016. Basically it is a centre sponsored scheme with 50-50 % partnership with states. All kharif and Rabi crops (Cereals, Millets, and Pulses) along with annual/ Commercial/ Horticulture crops like cotton, sugarcane, jute etc. are covered under the scheme. Initially the scheme was launched as a mandate for loanee farmers. Later on, after kharif 2020, the govt. made it optional for all farmers. In the same way, at beginning, premium amount was decided as 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for rabi crops and 5% for commercial or annual or horticulture crops. Thus, the government was liable to grant over 90% subsidy in crop damage conditions but in February, 2020 an upper limit was decided on subsidies. After 2020, the government offered maximum 30% subsidy for un-irrigated areas and 25% for irrigated areas.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana covers pre-sowing to post-harvesting losses due to localized calamities; hailstorms, landslides, flood, cloud burst and natural fire due to lightening. To claim for subsidy farmers need to report crop loss within 72 hours by capturing field photos and uploading them on Crop Insurance App. Post harvesting losses can be claimed strictly within 14 days or 2 weeks after harvesting. A total of 5549.40 lakh farmer applications were insured under the scheme since 2016-17 and Rs 150589.10 crore has been paid as claim. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare.

D. Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

The scheme was started in July 2015 in the eges of Ministry of Jal Shakti. Objective Government of India is committed to accord high priority to water conservation and its management. The scheme has been formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation ‘Har Khet Ko Pani’ and improving water use efficiency ‘More Crop Per Drop’ in a focused manner with end to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities. Along with assured irrigation, reduce water wastage and improve water use efficiency are the core focus areas.

E. Subsidies

The term, “subsidy” means a financial help provided by government to the needful institutions (may be a firm/ community/ person or institution).

Agricultural subsidies are of two types: investment subsidies and input subsidies. Investment subsidies are provided to encourage private investment in agriculture (e.g. investment in drip irrigation, rain water harvesting, farm machines). Input subsidies are provided through subsidizing fertilizers, irrigation, farm power, seeds and pesticides.

Major Farmer’s Subsidy Schemes in Haryana:

It has already discussed that Haryana is a leading agriculture state of the country that acquires a strong irrigation system but due to faulty irrigation practices 14 out of 22 districts are facing scarcity of water for irrigation today. Especially over dependency on groundwater makes Haryana 3rd largest consumer of groundwater in India. 137 percent consumption shows over utilization of groundwater. A total of 119 blocks of the state belongs to dark zone area, whereas, 64 blocks are declared as over exploited in terms of groundwater usage. To settle down such kind of problems and to keep agriculture a sustainable practice here, state government has launched some schemes like;

1. Farm Pond Yojna: This scheme was launched in Oct. 2021. Objective of this scheme was to harvest the rain water within farms so that it can be used for irrigation purposes and it may be helpful in recharging groundwater level. This scheme has been launched in two phases;

➤ **Individual farm Pond:** The capacity of this pond will be 31.5 lakh liter and Rs. 10 lakh will be the estimated cost. The government is providing 70% subsidy (Rs. 7 lakh) on expenditure along with 25 acres of subsidy area to a farmer.

➤ **Community Farm Pond:** The capacity of this pond will be 66.55 lakh liter and Rs. 20 lakh is its estimated cost. The government is providing 100% subsidy on expenditure along with 50 acre of subsidy area to farmers. To avail the benefits from the scheme farmers need to register themselves at Khushhal Bagvani portal or at Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal. Farmers can also do farm fishing in these ponds and earn extra income.

2. Mera Paani Meri Virasat Yojna: This scheme was launched during kharif season of 2022. The objective of this scheme was to improve Crop Diversification by encourage farmers to adopt alternate crops of paddy. State Govt. provides subsidy of Rs. 7000 per acre if a farmer replaced paddy cultivation with a less water intensive crop like cotton, bajra, pulses (9) especially soyabean and gwar), maize or any other fodder crop, fruit or vegetable farming. This scheme is an effort to break the mono cropping system of wheat and rice in Haryana. Paddy cultivation is the main factor of over irrigation in Haryana so this scheme will help not only in improving cropping pattern but also preserve water and soil resources in long run.

3. Dragon Fruit Farming: This scheme has been launched to promote commercial farming in state. The government provides subsidy of Rs. 120000 per acre for Dragon Fruit Farming. This subsidy is bifurcated in two instalments - one for Trellice system (Rs. 70,000) and second is for procurement of Dragon seed and labour of its plantation (Rs. 50,000). Farmer can claim subsidy for maximum 10 acres (Rs. 1200000) just by making registration on Bagvani portal on Haryana state government.

4. Subsidy on Cotton Cultivation: To enhance the declining production of cotton crop in Haryana state government is providing subsidy of Rs. 3,000 per acre on Cotton cultivation. For this farmers have to register on Meri Fasal, Mera Byora portal.

5. Krishi Yantra Anudan Yojna: This scheme is a joint collaboration of state and centre governments. Farmers can avail up to 80% of subsidy on the purchase of agriculture machinery. 10 types of agricultural machines are covered under this scheme. Larger Landlords, Fertilizer broadcaster, Tractor driven Rice Dryer, Tractor driven power weeder, paddy transplanter, Straw beller, Riper Binder, Hey-rac machine, Rotavetor and Mobile shredder.

CONCLUSION

Insurance schemes are made by government so that the farmers of a country or state can benefit and double their income. In a state like Haryana, the farmers are less educated hence the awareness level about government schemes declines. Many of the farmers here face difficulties in the procedure of the schemes. Lack of coordination between banks and farmers is another important issue. Lack of information regarding timeline of registration, crop insurance as well as problem of improper reporting in cases of loss is also one of the major problems. Delay in payment of insurance claims and subsidized

amounts are also a problem. For the successful implementation of such schemes there should be timely payment of compensation amount. There is a need for transparency in settlement of claims. Other suggestions are the procedure should be simplified and awareness program for farmer should be organized.

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