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## AGRICULTURE POLICY A FUTURATE VISION OF INDIAN FARMERS

Ashok Arora<sup>1</sup>

Lecturer (Economics), RPVV Sector 10 Dwarka, New Delhi<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract:** *The analysis shows that improved agricultural production and rapid industrial development have led to a substantial reduction in poverty levels in recent years, from 55% in 1973 to 26% in 1998. Despite its remarkable growth and development, India still has the largest number of poor people in the world. With about 250 million people living in poverty, India accounts for around one-fifth of the world's poor. Child malnutrition has the highest rate of malnutrition in this nation. Around 25% of kids suffer from extreme malnutrition. More than 50% of pre-school pregnant women and children are anemic. The depth of hunger among the malnourished is high, too. Farmers' Produce Exchange and Trade (Sponsorship and Facilitation) Bill, 2020. It seeks to provide for the development of an environment in which farmers and traders enjoy freedom of choice in relation to the selling and purchase of agricultural products.*

**Keywords:** farmers; policy; 2020; industrial growth; productivity;

### I INTRODUCTION

India has large population pressures on resources such as land to meet its food and growth needs. The soil, water and bio-diversity natural resource base is under extreme pressure. The massive rise in population (despite the slowdown in growth rates) and the substantial increase in income demand an additional 2.5 mt of food grain per year, in addition to the considerable increase required in the supply of livestock, fish and horticultural products. Under the assumption of 3.5% growth in per capita GDP (low-income growth scenario), the demand for food grains (including feed, crop, waste and exports) is expected to be at a level of 256 mt in 2020 consisting of 112 mt of rice, 82 mt of wheat, 39 mt of coarse grain and 22 mt of pulse. The market for sugar, fruit, vegetables and milk is projected at 33mt, 77mt, 136mt and 116mt respectively. The market for meat is estimated at

9mt, 11mt fish and eggs.

77.5 billion. Potential improvements in the production of cereals and non-cereal agricultural commodities would, in turn, have to be accomplished by improved productivity, as the prospects for expansion of the region and the livestock population are limited. In order to satisfy the expected demand for the year 2020, the country must have a yield of 2,7 tons per hectare.

For rice, 3.1 tons for wheat, 2.1 tons for maize, 1.3 tons for cereals, 2.4 tons for cereals, 1.3 tons for pulses, 22.3 tons for potatoes, 25.7 tons for vegetables and 24.1 tons for fruit. The production of livestock and poultry products must be increased by 61 per cent for milk, 76 per cent for meat, 91 per cent for fish and 169 per cent for eggs by 2020 over the base year of TE 1999. The average yield of most crops in India is still very low.

## Objective

To find out a report on the new 2020 law for farmers that is optimistic in terms of farmers' new growth.

## Trends Emerging

The agricultural sector has seen satisfactory growth due to improved technology, irrigation, inputs and pricing policies. Livestock, poultry, fisheries and horticulture have been on the rise in production in recent years and will have increased demand in the future. The manufacturing and service sectors have risen faster than the agriculture sector, resulting in a decreasing share of agriculture in national accounts. Despite structural change, agriculture remains a key industry, providing jobs and livelihood opportunities for more than 70% of the country's population living in rural areas. The contribution of small farmers to national and household food security has gradually increased. The availability of water for agricultural use has reached a critical level and requires the urgent attention of all concerned. India has a high population pressure on land and other resources to fulfill its food and development needs. The soil, water and bio-diversity natural resource base is under extreme pressure. The challenges facing food demand are formidable given the lack of availability of favorable factors for past growth, the rapid decline in factor productivity in major crop systems and the rapid decline in resource base. There are still very few opportunities to leverage agricultural capacity that can be tapped to reach future targets. There are serious holes in both the yield capacity and the transition of technology, as the national average yield of most commodities is low, which, if properly addressed, could be exploited. Concentration was on increased production of a few crops, such as rice and wheat, which could easily lead to increased overall food and agricultural production. This resulted in a

substantial loss of natural resources and the full concentration of resources of poor farmers in rainforest dry areas remained neglected, exacerbating the problems of inequity and regional imbalances. This also contributed to a high concentration of undernourished people in these low productive, rain-fed areas. This period has also witnessed a rapid depletion of soil nutrients, agrobiodiversity, including indigenous land races and breeds. Agricultural policy must accelerate the overall growth and economic viability of agriculture in a holistic manner. Farmers must obtain the requisite assistance, motivation and rewards. It must focus on both income and expanded on-farm and off-farm jobs and livelihood opportunities.

## Main Concerns

The following persistent and emerging problems for sustainable agricultural growth and poverty alleviation must be considered in the national priority setting:

- 1) Strain on population and demographic change;
- 2) b) Depletion of baseline infrastructure and water scarcity;
- 3) investment in agriculture, structural reform and effects on the poor;
- 4) globalization and the participation of the poor;
- 5) New science and technology and funding for research and technology development;
- 6) Rapid urban growth and urbanization of poverty and deceleration of rural poverty reduction.

In resolving the above concerns, the policy statement on agriculture must take into account the following unusual opportunities:

- a) Conservation of natural resources and environmental conservation.

- b) The enormous untapped potential of our land and water resources and agricultural systems
- c) Technology revolution, particularly in the fields of molecular biology, biotechnology, space technology, ecology and management.
- d) Knowledge and communication revolution and the ability to connect producers, extension workers and scientists to national and international databases

### Visualization

The report on agriculture policy needs to express a clear vision on the following of the few basic parameters of the agricultural sector around which the policy framework needs to be established.

- Organisation of agriculture: a strong long-term strategy where inter-sectoral ties are explicit.
- Conservation and management of natural resources: the remedy must lie within the political economy. Otherwise, the allocation of funds for the creation of watersheds, agroforestry, soil conservation and so on would not yield the desired results.
- Systemic change: the policy document must set out new approaches and new institutions free of red tape and self-help.
- Investment goals: there is a need to build a consensus on investment issues, priorities and policies. The policy document must improve the argument for greater investment in rural areas and must also re-examine its programs in the light of complementarities.
- Incentives: the document must express a clear picture of the incentive system.
- Management of risk

### *Challenges, strategies, methods*

#### **Enhancing the output of major commodities**

The yield of major crops and livestock in the area is much lower than in the rest of the world. In view of the fact that the boundaries of the expansion of the cultivated area are almost closed in the region, the potential increase in food production in order to meet the continued high demand must come from an increase in yield.

**Integrated control of nutrients:** attention should be given to balanced usage of nutrients. Phosphorus deficiency is probably the most common soil fertility problem in both irrigated and unirrigated areas. Fixing the distortion in relative prices of primary fertilizers will help to correct the imbalances in the use of primary plant nutrients. - nitrogen, phosphorus and potash and the use of biofertilizers. Improved location-specific research on efficient fertilization practices (such as balanced use of nutrients, correct timing and placement of fertilizers and, where possible, use of micronutrients and soil modifications), improvement of soil testing facilities, development of improved fertilization and distribution systems, and development of fertilization systems are required to improve the efficiency of fertilization use.

**Deceleration of total factor productivity:** public investment in irrigation, development of infrastructure (road, electricity), research and expansion and efficient use of water and plant nutrients are the dominant sources of TFP growth. The key cause of deceleration is the sharp deceleration of total investment and, more so, of public sector investment in agriculture.

**Bridging Yield Gaps:** a huge untapped yield capacity exists for all crops in most countries, accounting for more than three-fourths of the crop area. Focus must be put on countries in which the

actual yield levels are below the national average yield. Bihar, Orissa, Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are priority countries accounting for 66% of the rice region that need to concentrate on bridging yield gaps to meet target demand and yield growth. We must concentrate mainly on Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, accounting for 68% of the wheat field. Significant importance must be given to Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in the case of coarse cereals. In almost all states with a particular focus on Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, which have three-fourths of the total pulse area, more emphasis is required to meet the demand for pulse. The target annual increase in pulse yield from these states must be 6%; otherwise the nation would experience a lack of pulse for all times to come.

### **Water for Sustainable Food Protection**

India would have to generate more and more from less and less land and water resources. Alarming rates of soil water depletion and severe environmental and social problems of some of the major irrigation projects, on the one hand, and the multiple benefits of irrigation water in improving production and efficiency, food security, poverty alleviation, on the other hand, are well known to be further elaborated here: in India, water availability per capita was more than 5000 cubic metres. It is now around 2000 m<sup>3</sup> and is expected to decline to 1500 m<sup>3</sup> by 2025. Furthermore, the consistency of the water available is declining. There are also gross differences between the basins and the geographical regions.

### **Focus on the rain-fed ecosystem**

Resource-poor farmers in rainfed environments are engaged in less intensive cultivation, and as their incomes rely on local agriculture, they benefit little from increased food production in irrigated areas.

In order to support them, efforts must be stepped up to disseminate the available dryland technologies and to create new ones. Efforts to promote available dryland innovations, increase the stock of this expertise, and remove pro-irrigation biases in public investment and spending, as well as credit flows, for technology-based agricultural growth would need to be broadened. Watershed production to increase yields of rainfed crops and extend the seed revolution to include oilseeds, pulses, fruit and vegetables. Agricultural system research to establish location-specific technologies in the rainfed areas needs to be stepped up. The strategy for greening gray areas would lead to the second Green Revolution, which would entail a three-pronged strategy-watershed management, hybrid technology and small farm mechanization.

### **Accent on the diversification of agriculture and value added**

In view of the shrinking natural resources and the ever-increasing demand for greater food and agricultural production resulting from high population and income growth, agricultural intensification is the key to the future growth of agriculture in the region. Product diversification research should be another important field. In addition to developing technology to promote intensification, the country needs to pay more attention to the development of technologies that will encourage agricultural diversification, especially towards the intensive production of fruit, vegetables, flowers and other high-value crops, which are expected to increase income growth and generate effective demand for food.

### **Emphasis on post-harvest management, value added and cost-effectiveness**

Post-harvest losses typically vary from 5 to 10 per cent for non-perishables and about 30 per cent for perishables. This loss might and must be minimized. Let us note that the grain saved is the grain produced. Focus should therefore be put on

the production of post-harvest handling, agro-processing and value-added technologies not only to avoid high losses, but also to improve quality through proper storage, packaging, handling and transport. Building on globalization and increasing productivity, this strategy would increase India's agricultural export contribution, which is proportionately extremely poor.

### **Increased spending in agriculture and infrastructure**

Public investment in agriculture has been declining and is one of the key factors for declining productivity and low capital formation in the agricultural sector. With the burden of productivity-driven growth in the future, this alarming pattern needs to be reversed. Private investment in agriculture has also been sluggish and needs to be stimulated by effective policies. Considering that almost 70% of India still lives in villages, agricultural growth will continue to be the driving force behind broad-based economic growth and development, as well as the conservation of natural resources, leaving food security alone and poverty alleviation. Accelerated investment is required to promote agricultural and rural growth through:

- Improved production of crop varieties, livestock breeds, microbial strains and productive technology packages, in particular land and water management, to escape biotic, biotic, socio-economic and environmental constraints;
- Increased and environmentally sustainable production and post-harvest and value-added technologies;
- Reliable and timely availability of quality inputs at reasonable prices, institutional and credit support, particularly for small and resource-poor farmers, and support for the development of land and water resources;

- an effective and credible infrastructure, procurement, evaluation and transition and extension framework, including sufficient linkages and partnerships; again with a focus on reaching small farmers;
- Improved institutional and credit support and increased opportunities for rural jobs, including through the development of agriculture-based rural agro-processing and agro-industry, improved rural infrastructure, including access to knowledge and effective markets, farm to market roads and related infrastructure;
- Special attention to the needs and involvement of women farmers;
- Primary education, health care, clean drinking water, safe sanitation, adequate nutrition, particularly for children (including school lunches) and women.

### **Appropriate policies would need to endorse the above investments.**

This does not discriminate against agriculture and the rural poor. Given the growing role of small farmers in food security and poverty alleviation, development efforts must be geared towards meeting the needs and potential of these farmers through their active involvement in the growth process.

### **Combating poverty and hunger**

Almost one-fourth of India's population, 251 million out of nearly one billion, is below the poverty line. One hundred and seventy million poor, 68 per cent, are rural, and the remaining 32 per cent are urban (Table 4). Since 1983, the number of rural poor at national level has decreased; the number of urban poor has increased. This is largely due to migration of the destitute from the villages to the cities. This pattern has serious consequences for urban food and urban food sustainability, urban poverty and the environment. A question could be raised as to



whether rural settings and opportunities may be enhanced to ensure the protection of livelihoods and, ultimately, to rationalize migration to cities.

### **Emphasis on empowering small farmers**

The contribution of smallholders to food security for the increasing population has increased considerably, even though they are the most poor and vulnerable in society. Off-farm and non-farm employment opportunities can play an important role. In the light of expectations under the liberalized scenario, non-agricultural jobs in rural areas has not changed. Greater focus needs to be placed on non-farm jobs and appropriate budgetary allocations and rural credit via banking networks should be put in place to fund appropriate rural enterprises. Specific human resources and professional development programs to train them would make them better decision-makers and more profitable. The production of human capital to increase the productivity of these small holders should be given high priority. Awareness and skills development of rural people in both the agriculture and non-agricultural sectors is therefore important for achieving economic and social objectives. It will therefore be important to maintain a careful balance between agricultural and non-agricultural employment and the agricultural and non-agricultural economy, as both sectors are closely interlinked.

### **Control of disasters**

The frequency and severity of disasters, such as floods, droughts, cyclones, etc. In recent years, earthquakes have increased. The devastating earthquake in Gujarat has brought untold devastation to the entire state and created a national tragedy. Specific efforts should be made to develop appropriate technology to improve preparedness to anticipate and handle disasters. Effective and efficient information and communication systems, disaster planning and national and international mobilization of technology and resources are

important. The expertise of other countries in disaster prevention and management should be shared.

### **Holding the Speed of Globalization**

The globalization of agricultural trade would contribute to market access; new opportunities for jobs and income generation; productivity increases and increased investment in sustainable agriculture and rural growth. I assume that, if well handled, the liberalization of agricultural markets would favor developed countries in the long run, forcing the introduction of new technology, moving production functions upwards and attracting new capital to the deprived sector. However, this can only happen if we take into consideration the needs of billions of small and subsistence farmers, fisherfolk and foresters in the short and medium term. The magic of globalization has not yet been felt in India. Over the past decade of liberalization, some patterns, such as the slowdown in agricultural GDP growth rate, the declaration of yield growth rates and low non-agricultural jobs, have emerged against expectations. However, as we globalize, it is important that we do not neglect the social expectations for a more just, fair and prosperous way of life. Trade deals must be supplemented by operationally successful steps to promote the process of adaptation for small farmers in developed countries.

### **CONCLUSION**

The study shows the Farmers' Produce Trade and Trade (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020. It seeks to provide for the development of an environment in which farmers and traders enjoy freedom of choice in relation to the selling and purchase of agricultural products. The agricultural sector has seen satisfactory growth due to improved technology, irrigation, inputs and pricing policies. Livestock, poultry, fisheries and horticulture have been on the rise in production in recent years and will have increased demand in the

future. No national professional community in the world has more people, or more poor people, than India's agricultural sector, which is now shaken by major farmers' protests against three pieces of legislation recently passed by the Government of India.

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