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Seminar-II

Farmer's Security: A means to live a long life in agriculture

Synopsis

India is a developing country; its majority of the population belong to the rural area. Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for about 58 percent of India's population. Agriculture contributes to nearly 20 percent of Indian GDP. But still, they live their lives in poverty. Agriculture is dying, not as in the production of food but as a desirable profession. The challenges of today's world are bringing many pressures to bear on agriculture. This scenario heightens the critical role to make agriculture more competitive and sustainable. Hence, 42 percent of Indian farmers do not want to continue farming and instead wish to settle down in urban areas. And many have no knowledge of recent agriculture developments, they still rely on the knowledge passed over from their ancestors. Hence awareness about new developments is very much necessary. As agriculture provides major share in countries economy and need to give farmers security.

Objectives:

1. To understand the concept of farmer's security
2. To know the different problems faced by the farmers
3. To understand the different programs/schemes launched by Government related to farmer's security.
4. To review related research/case studies.

Farmer security

Farmer security refers to social, economical, psychological and nutritional security of farmers which ranges from self-strength to efficiency building of farmers, which can be achieved by empowering farmers to shape one's life.

Problems faced by farmers

The major problems faced by the farmers are poor irrigation facilities, infertile land, change in climate conditions, lack of storage facility, lack of market information, lack of transportation and post-harvest losses etc.

Programs/schemes launched by Government related to farmer security:

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card, Farmers Portal, Integrated Farming System Demonstration (IFSD), Contract farming, Protected cultivation, National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Kisan Rath, National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Minimum Support Price (MSP), Crop Insurance- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Research studies

Grover *et al.* (2017) indicated that, there was a judicious use of fertilizers on soil- tested farms compared to control farms and also expressed that yield and net income was higher in paddy and basmati crops in soil-tested farms as compared to control farms.

Kowsalya (2017) revealed that, 46.87 per cent of beneficiaries had medium level of livelihood security followed by high (33.75 %) and low (19.38 %) level of livelihood security. Whereas three fourth (77.50%) of non-beneficiaries had low level of livelihood security followed by 15.00 per cent had medium and 7.50 per cent had high level of livelihood security. The results showed that there were large differences in livelihood security among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Shwetha *et al.* (2021) from their study revealed that ‘sugarcane + dairy + horticulture’ practicing farmers have better livelihood security than other farmers in Mandya district.

Conclusion

Agriculture is the lifeline for rural economy. Even though several schemes are concentrating on the overall development of farmers, still there is a need for prioritization of social, economic, psychological and nutritional security of the farmers. In this connection proper interventions need to be strengthened for enhancing the farmers security in general and national development in particular. Hence, awareness should be created for better utilization of benefits from all the schemes to enhance the security of the farmers.

References

- GROVER, D. K., SINGH, J. M., AND SANJAY KUMAR, 2017, Impact of soil health card scheme on production, productivity and soil health in Punjab. *Agricultural Situation in India*, **76** (7):29-32.
- KOWSALYA, K.S., 2017, Impact of integrated farming system demonstration (IFSD) programme on livelihood and nutritional security of farmers of Mandya district. *Ph. D. Thesis (Unpub)*, Univ. of Agric. Sci., Bangalore.
- SHWETHA, N.V., SHARAD SACHAN AND SHIVALINGAIAH, Y.N., 2021, Comparative analysis of livelihood security of the farmers practicing different farming systems in Mandya district of Karnataka. *Plant Archives*, **21** (1): 457-462.