



Agricultural Development Programs for the 'Viksit Bharat' 2047

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Abstract:

Development concept should help attain broad-based economic growth to ensure balanced development across all regions and states and across sectors. This implies acceptance new technologies promotion innovation and up skilling. The strategy when implemented, will bridge the gap between public and private sector performance. The Prime Minister has determined on putting in place a 'development state' in place of the 'soft state' that this government had inherited. In this context, the government has focused on the efficient delivery of public services, rooting out corruption and black economy, formalizing the economy and expanding the tax base, improving the ease of doing business, nurture the stressed commercial banking sector back to a healthy state, and stopping leakages through direct benefit transfers and widespread use of the JAM trinity.

The government of India's determined vision to transform the nation into an urbanized entity by the centenary of its independence in 2047 encompassing diverse facets of development such as economic prosperity, social advancement, environmental sustainability, and effective governance. This vision underscores the critical juncture at which India currently stands. Realizing this vision demands staunch dedication, a firm belief in India's destiny and a profound recognition of the vast potential talent and capabilities of its people, particularly the youth. With the largest demographic share, the youth are positioned as the vanguard in leading India two words recessive Bharat by 2047. In this context this paper would enlighten about the practical suggestions for bringing in changes in India pertaining to various sectors i.e. economical, agricultural, urban housing development. It would lead to holistic well being of citizens in India and positively would help our Government of India to achieve the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047.

Agricultural development programmes play a crucial role in enhancing food security and promoting sustainable practices within the farming sector. By integrating innovative technologies and sustainable business models, such as agroecology and organic farming, these programmes not only improve productivity but also ensure environmental conservation. Furthermore, fostering partnerships between farmers, governments, and private sectors helps create resilient supply chains that support local economies and empower communities to thrive sustainably (Rathod et al., 2024).

Agricultural development programs play a crucial role in enhancing productivity and sustainability within India's farming sector, ensuring that farmers gain access to modern techniques, financial support, and resources. In alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat, these initiatives aim to transform rural landscapes by promoting economic growth, improving livelihoods, and fostering innovation in agriculture. By integrating technology and sustainable practices, these programs contribute significantly to achieving a developed and prosperous nation, where agricultural prosperity is a cornerstone of overall economic development (Harale & Pawar, 2024).

Keywords: Agriculture, Economy, Environment, Governance, Rural Development

Introduction:

Agriculture and "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) could focus on various dimensions of how agricultural development plays a crucial role in transforming India into a more developed nation. India's agricultural sector remains vital not only for economic growth but also for improving living standards, ensuring food security, and addressing climate change. The vision for "Viksit Bharat 2047," articulated by the current government and an inspirational slogan given by the Prime Minister in his on-going election campaign, is a comprehensive roadmap aimed at propelling India into the echelon of developed nations by the year 2047, marking a century since its independence. Central to this ambitious vision is the agricultural sector, recognized not merely as an economic activity but as a fundamental driver of holistic national development.

The difference between the contribution of agriculture to national income and share in employment has remained large and has widened. The manufacturing and service sectors have failed to absorb the excessive workforce in agriculture. Consequently, value addition per worker in agriculture grew slowly and income per farmer never crossed one-third of the income of a non-agriculture worker since the 1980s.

Objectives of the Research:

- 1) To study the Significant of Agriculture to the Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision.
- 2) To study the Challenges Facing Indian Agriculture.
- 3) To study the Government Policies and Programs for Agriculture Sector.

Research Methodology:

To conduct the research study descriptive research method has been used. The present research work is based on secondary data. For the purpose of the study secondary data is used. The secondary data collected from the published books, research papers in journals and annual reports, NITI Ayog. Data, survey reports, Central and state government reports, articles, books, and internet data materials.

Significance of Agriculture to the Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision:**Economic Contribution:**

Agriculture contributes around 18% to the country's GDP. The sector's growth impacts overall economic health significantly. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when other sectors suffered, agriculture showcased resilience and even growth, underlining its importance to the economy. Therefore, for "Viksit Bharat 2047," enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability is crucial for economic growth.

Employment:

Agriculture is critical for India's development as it still engages about 45.8% of the working population (2022–23, PLFS data). Transforming the sector with modern technologies and practices can improve livelihoods and reduce poverty, which are key objectives for a developed India.

Food Security:

Despite India reaching a record food grain production of 296.65 million tonnes in the 2019-2020 crop year, ensuring sustainable food security remains a critical challenge in the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in this endeavour, necessitating advancements in farming techniques and systemic improvements in post-harvest and distribution channels to sustainably nourish the world's largest population.

Export Potential:

Developing the agriculture sector can turn India into a global food basket, enhancing its export potential. This can lead to better trade balances, foreign exchange earnings, and a stronger position in international trade negotiations. For example, India is one of the largest exporters of spices, rice (particularly Basmati rice), and tea in the world.

Sustainability and Climate Change:

In aiming for Viksit Bharat, prioritizing sustainable agriculture is crucial for climate resilience. As agriculture heavily uses groundwater and impacts greenhouse gas emissions and land degradation, shifting to sustainable practices is vital. This approach can help India manage resources, reduce its carbon footprint, and enhance biodiversity for a sustainable future.

Rural Development:

Agriculture is central to rural development. Improving agricultural infrastructure, market access, and value chain efficiencies can drive rural prosperity, reducing the urban-rural divide and leading to a more equitable development model.

Innovation and Technology Adoption:

Leveraging technology and innovation in agriculture—such as precision farming, biotechnology, and digital agriculture—can boost productivity, reduce waste, and make farming more resilient and efficient.

Cultural and Social Significance:

Agriculture is deeply intertwined with the cultural and social fabric of India. Preserving this heritage while modernizing the sector is important for social cohesion and national identity.

Issues and Challenges in the Agriculture Sector:

Reduction in budgetary allocation: The allocation for agriculture in the union budget has been declining in recent years: from 3.78% of the total budget share in 2021-22 to 3.36% in 2022-23, and 2.78 % in 2023-24.

Declining size of landholding: Around 86% of agrarian landholdings in India are of size less than two hectares. They have diverse farming practices and many lack title deeds (patta). So, a one-size-fits-all approach is not suited for these farmers.

Land degradation: According to 'Desertification and Land Degradation of Selected Districts of India', an atlas published by the ISRO, about 29.32% of the Total Geographic Area (TGA) of the country is undergoing degradation.

Groundwater depletion: Monoculture of water intensive crops in the semi-arid Punjab plains has resulted in groundwater depletion and desertification.

Excessive use of chemicals: Indian farmers use fertilizers without taking into consideration the actual requirement of the crops and existing composition of soil nutrients. For instance, while the desirable ratio of N-P-K application is 4:2:1, it is 31.4:8:1 in Punjab.

Access to formal agricultural credit: As per the NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17, more than half the agricultural households in the country have outstanding debt. In this, a large share is indebted to informal sources such as moneylenders.

Uncertainties in agriculture: Indian agriculture is vulnerable to various factors like erratic monsoon, MSP regime, buffer stock levels and government policies on imports. This coupled with the rain fed and subsistence nature of farming makes agriculture less attractive for the youth.

Limited level of mechanization: Mechanization continues to be limited in the late stages of agriculture, such as harvesting and threshing.

Fragmented supply chain: Due to storage of storage facilities, cold storages and transportation system, the supply chain system in India remains highly fragmented. This has resulted in low price realization, poor quality and wastage of products

Conflicts in WTO: India's agricultural subsidy policies, particularly those falling under the WTO's restrictive "Amber Box" category, have been scrutinized, limiting the country's capacity to offer robust support to its farmers and traders within the global trade rules.

Political challenge: Following the success of green revolution, agrarian unions have emerged as a major vote bank and pressure group in India. In this situation, initiating agrarian reforms, like the three farm acts, have proved to be challenging.

Government Policies and Programs for Agriculture Sector”

Fostering Entrepreneurship in Agriculture: The role of the government in encouraging Aristech startups, food processing, and rural entrepreneurship as part of India's vision for a developed Bharat.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY): This scheme aims to extend the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet ko Pani' and improve water use efficiency 'Per Drop More Crop' in a focused manner.

Soil Health Card Scheme: Launched to assist farmers in improving productivity by using appropriate nutrients or fertilizers

Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY): A crop insurance scheme to mitigate the risk of crop loss due to natural calamities.

National Agriculture Market (e-NAM): An electronic trading portal linking agricultural produce market committees (APMCs) across India to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY): Promotes organic farming through cluster approach and PGS certification.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH): Aims at the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa, and bamboo.

Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF): A financing facility for building post-harvest infrastructure and community farming assets.

PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi): Provides financial support to farmers with a direct income support of 6,000 per year in three equal installments.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme: Designed to provide farmers with timely access to credit at reasonable interest rates, this scheme has been expanded to cover all farmers.

Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022: A strategy to improve the income of farmers by focusing on improving productivity, reducing costs, ensuring better crop prices, and creating non-farm income opportunities.

Digital Agriculture: Initiatives under the Digital India program aim to integrate technology into agriculture, including the use of artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and mobile applications for farm management.

Why forward Agriculture Sector for the Viksit Bharat 2047 ?

The agenda for agriculture in Viksit Bharat (Developed India) should encompass a comprehensive and forward-looking approach that targets the sustainable development of the agriculture sector. This involves a multi-faceted strategy aimed at enhancing productivity,

profitability, and sustainability, while ensuring the welfare of farmers and addressing the challenges of climate change.

Sustainable Farming Practices: Emphasize the adoption of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices that conserve natural resources, reduce carbon footprints, and ensure biodiversity

Technology and Innovation: Leverage technology and innovation to increase productivity, enhance crop yields, and minimize waste. This includes the use of precision agriculture, biotechnology, and digital tools for farm management.

Farmer Education and Training: Provide comprehensive education and training programs for farmers on modern farming techniques, financial literacy, and market dynamics to improve their livelihoods and adaptability to market changes.

Infrastructure Development: Invest in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation systems, storage facilities, and transportation networks to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access for farmers.

Financial Support and Insurance: Implement financial support mechanisms and insurance schemes to protect farmers against market volatility, natural disasters, and crop failures, ensuring their economic stability.

Market Access and Fair Trade: Facilitate better access to local, national, and international markets for farmers. Promote fair trade practices to ensure farmers receive fair compensation for their produce.

Research and Development: Support research and development in agriculture to develop drought-resistant crops, improve soil health, and create sustainable farming solutions that can meet the challenges of climate change.

Food Security and Nutrition: Aim to achieve food security by increasing the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food. Encourage the production of nutritious and diverse food items to combat malnutrition and health issues.

Community Engagement and Cooperative Models: Encourage community engagement and the development of cooperative models to enable resource sharing, collective bargaining, and mutual support among farmers.

Policy and Regulatory Framework: Establish a supportive policy and regulatory framework that encourages sustainable growth in the agricultural sector, protects farmer interests, and promotes agro-based industries.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Indian agriculture has the potential to be a model for other countries dealing with comparable issues by 2047, shining as a beacon of innovation, sustainability, and production. The decisions made on policy, infrastructure and technology investments, and community and individual empowerment in the agriculture sector will all play a major role in this change. But this converting this vision into reality is going to need a lot from stakeholders of improvement in agricultural sustainable productivity and rural development to step up their game to untapped boundaries.

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