

National Seminar on Overview and Prospects of Indian Agriculture sector on 9th December, 2022.

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National Seminar
on
Overview and Prospects of Indian Agriculture Sector
(9th December, 2022)
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Organised by
Department of Economics
University College of Arts and Social Sciences
Osmania University, Hyderabad-07, TS.

About the Seminar:
The Department of Economics, University College of Arts and Social Sciences, Osmania University is organising a *One Day National Seminar on 'Overview & Prospects of Indian Agriculture Sector'* on 9th Dec, 2022.

The agriculture sector is the backbone of the Indian economy as their livelihood. The sector is the world's largest producer of milk, (Dairy), as well as the largest area under wheat, rice and cotton crops. Further, it is the second largest producer of paddy, wheat, sugarcane, farmed fish, sheep, goat, meat, fruits, vegetables and tea. The country has a total of 195 million hectares (under cultivation of which 63 percent is rain-fed) roughly 125 million hectares) while 37 percent is irrigated (70 million hectares). Forests cover a total of 65 million hectares of India's land as per the Census. It may be recalled that India did an outstanding job of introducing the Green Revolution in the country in the sixties through well-conducted purpose-built institutions & self-sufficiency in food grain production, but also laid an institutional set up for the subsequent growth and development of agriculture by pulling millions of farmers out of poverty. In addition, the Government's procurement policy of food grains supported the scheme of public distribution of food, thereby taking care of the basic needs of the low-income consumers. Subsequently, agricultural intensification in the 1970s and 1980s saw an increased demand for rural labour that raised rural wages coupled with the declining food prices and reduced rural poverty. However agricultural growth in the 1990s and 2000s slowed down because of various reasons and as a result the share of agriculture in India's GDP drastically declined. The same trend has been continuing in the country. The slow-down in agricultural growth has become a major cause for concern. Presently, Indian agriculture is facing several challenges.

Major Challenges
Increasing agricultural productivity; Reducing rural poverty through a socially inclusive strategy that consists of both agriculture and non-farm employment; Ensuring that agricultural growth responds to food security needs; Improving water resources and irrigation facilities; Facilitating agricultural diversification to higher-value commodities; Promoting high growth commodities; Developing agricultural markets; Improving agricultural credit and public expenditure on agriculture; Sustaining the environment and future agricultural productivity; Dissemination of agricultural technology and many more.

In fact, India's food security depends on producing more food grains and other commodities such as fruits, vegetables and milk to meet the demands of a growing population with rising incomes. For this, a productive, competitive, diversified and sustainable agricultural sector will need to emerge at an accelerated pace.

Thus, policy makers have to initiate policy actions and public programs to shift the sector away from the existing policy and institutional regime that appears to be no longer viable and build a solid foundation for a much more productive, internationally competitive, and diversified agricultural sector.

Promoting new technologies and reforming agricultural research and extension:
Major reforms and strengthening of India's agricultural research and extension systems is one of the most important needs for improving agricultural growth and productivity. These services have received a setback over a period of time due to chronic under-funding of infrastructure and operations, lack of creative research and broad access to state-of-the-art technologies. Research now has little to provide beyond the time-worn packages of the past. The public extension services are struggling and offer little new knowledge to farmers. There is too little connection between research and extension, and also between these services and the private sector. Similarly, a suitable policy should be initiated to enhance the farm production and productivity of food grains along with an increase in other high valued crops to raise farmers' incomes by aligning with emerging consumer demand.

This needs to be done without spoiling the soil quality and water potentiality and in ways that are resilient to climate change. This is important because of the fact that although Green Revolution brought a revolutionary change in farm production and productivity and thereby in farmers' incomes, it led to some adverse effects such as depletion of soil nutrients due to high yielding varieties and repetition of the crop cycles; release of greenhouse gases due to burning of the agricultural residue to catch the planting time for the next crop - often polluting far-off places too; reduced soil organic matter with residues not getting returned to the soil; excessive usage of fertilisers and pesticides leading to an unacceptable level of heavy metals in the soil; irrigation support to water-intensive paddy and wheat crops affecting water availability and increased soil salinity etc. The corporates also need to develop value chains which are to be demand-responsive, otherwise post-harvest food losses will mount. The farming community should be provided with suitable market outlets for disposing of their agricultural produce so as to get them a fair share in consumer price.


In view of the above-mentioned factors, the present seminar is organised with the basic objective to gain a broad overview of the agricultural sector growth and development during the last seven decades of independent India and to discuss and deliberate on the problems and prospects of Indian agriculture sector particularly in the next coming 25 years which is termed as a period of Amrit Kaal for the country by the Government of India.

The following themes are identified for deliberations in the seminar:

1. **Rejuvenating the Indian agriculture sector**
2. **Public investments in agriculture sector**
3. **Impact of climate change on agriculture sector**
4. **Diversification of agriculture sector**
5. **Doubling farmers' income**
6. **Efficiency in agriculture sector**
7. **Agriculture Trade and Development**
8. **Problems and Prospects in Next 25 Years of Amrit Kaal: With special reference to Agriculture Sector.**

Submission of Abstract and Full Paper:
Contributors are requested to submit abstract and full papers on the above themes and also other relevant themes to osmaniaseminar2022@gmail.com.

1. Type of font name: Times New Roman.
2. Font Size: 12
3. Line Space between the lines: 1.5
4. The abstract should be less than 250 words including keywords. It should contain Author's name, designation, affiliation, contact number, Email ID.
5. Send your abstract and full paper on or before the last date.
6. After sending the paper, please join the WhatsApp for updates. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/G30u06t5DeINpVYAA0X>



Publication:
The abstract will be published in the Souvenir, and selected full papers will only be published in UGC-Care listed/recognised journal after review by the experts/reviewers.

Important Dates:

1. Last date for abstract submission : 15th Nov, 2022.
2. Last date for full paper submission : 25th Nov, 2022.
3. Acceptance of abstract/full papers : 1st Dec, 2022.
4. Seminar Date : 9th Dec, 2022.



Venue Auditorium

PGRR, Centre for Distance Education
Osmania University, Hyd-500 007.



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Prof. R. Limbadri
Chairman, TSCHE
Dept. of Public Administration, OU



Chief Co-Patron
Prof. D. Ravinder
Vice Chancellor, Osmania University
Dept. of Political Science, OU



Chief Guest for Valedictory
Prof. P. Laxminarayana
Registrar, Osmania University
Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, OU

Guest of Honours



Prof. V. Usha Kiran
Honorary Director, ICSSR/SARC,
Dean, Dept. of Commerce, OU



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