## An Analysis of Agriculture Sector of **Inclusive Growth in India**

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#### Abstract

Agriculture remains the dominant supporter of the Indian populace. The thriving industry and service sectors depend on the agricultural sector for their development. The inter-linkage among the three sectors could not be undermined at any cost. It is the massive absorbent of the labor force even though the disguised unemployment exists in varied magnitude. The share of agriculture to the GDP has come down from 57.7% in 1950-51 to 32.2% in 1990-91 at the time of liberalization, 24.6% in 2000-2001, 15.7% in 2009-2010 then 17%. In the post-independence era, stagnant production, low productivity, traditional technology, and poor rural infrastructure were the major challenges for the Government. India is principally an agricultural country. The agriculture sector estimates 18.0% of the GDP and employs 52% of the total workforce. There is a continuous steady decay in its presence towards the GDP, and the agriculture sector is losing its shine and anchor position in the Indian economy. The problems with which the Indian agricultural scenario is charged in present times are many. Still, this in no way undermines the interest of the sector and the role it can play in the holistic and inclusive growth of the country. Agriculture is fundamental for the sustenance of an economy, as is food for a human being.

Keywords: Agriculture, Economy, Empowerment, GDP, Growth, Industry

# Introduction

Agriculture plays an indispensable role in the process of industrial development of less developed countries like India. The Indian Agricultural development plays a very significant role in the inclusive growth approach. The vision of Inclusive growth is an all surrounding conception, which includes aspects such as agriculture development, employment generation, poverty reduction and reduced area discrimination. Agriculture development may be deemed as the critical aspect of inclusive growth and proves to be a smooth path for achieving social and economic inclusion.

Indian economy is growing at an extraordinary rate. It is far from ending its true potential. The country remains shackled in degradation, red tape, ageold social barriers and a puzzling lack of transparency. Growth is not uniform across sectors, and a large cross-segment of the populace resides outside its purview. Several social, political and economic determinants need to be stopped for sustaining a high rate of growth, as well as to make this growth inclusive.

Elimination of child labor, women empowerment, removal of caste boundaries and an advance in work culture are just a few things the Indian society needs to introspect on. Tackling degradation in high places, removing the ills of the electoral system, shunning politics of agitations and keeping national engagement above petty politics may not be too much to ask of the country's policymakers. Rapid growth in the rural administration, well planned and

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targeted urban growth, infrastructure development, improvements in education, ensuring future energy needs, a healthy public-private organization, intent to secure inclusivity, making all divisions of society equal stakeholders in growth, and above all good governance will ensure that India achieves what it deserves.

Of the eight most productive people in the world, four are Indian. However, the irony remains that there's a marginal farmer in the depths of Maharashtra, who is struggling to feed his five children, the youngest of whom is a son, illiterate and unemployed, with four sisters, all of nubile age, whose marriage the farmer cannot afford. Try telling the farmer that the administration is growing at an extensive 9% per annum, hardly encouraging the empty stomachs his children go to bed including every night.

Indian economy is expanding, salaries are going through the roof for the instructed but the fact remains that the poor are still poor even though the rich have become super-rich. The growth is far from including.

Economic liberalization, which began in the early 1990s, has stimulated India's completion rate to an average of 7% per year since 1997, up from 3.5% in the 1970s. During this period, India converted itself from agricultural economics to a service economy. Services now form 55% of the Indian marketplace. The growth and development of Information Technology and Information Technology enabled Services have had a significant role in changing the economy's face.

#### **Inclusive Growth**

Inclusive growth means "broad-based growth, shared growth, and pro-poor growth." As an approach in financial policy, it is believed to decrease the rapid growth rate of poverty in a country and increase the preoccupation of people in the growth process of that country.

Inclusive growth by its very description implies an equitable allocation of resources with benefits incurred by every society section. But such allocation of sources must be concentrated on the intended short- and long-term benefits of that society, such as availability of consumer goods, people access, employment, the standard of living, etc. It also sets a primary relationship between macro and micro determinants of the economy and economical completion.

The micro dimension comprises the structural transmutation of the society, while the macro dimension includes the country's gross (GNP) and gross domestic product (GDP). Maintaining rapid and sustainable comprehensive growth is sometimes very difficult because resources vaporize during the allocation and may give rise to negative externality, such as a rise in corruption, a major problem in developing nations. Nonetheless, it has created an environment of equality in opportunity in all dimensions of livelihood, such as employment, market, consumption, and production. It has created a platform for poor people to access a good standard of living. The comprehensive growth approach assumes that if we focus on the inequality between poor and rich households in a country, we can reach an optimal solution to minimize the difference.

#### **Study Problem**

Agricultural development is an integral part of overall industrial development. In India, agriculture was the main source of political income and ownership at the time of Independence. Horticulture and allied activities contributed nearly 50 percent to India's national income. Around 72 percent of the total working population was engaged in agriculture. These confirm that the Indian economy was a backward and farming-based administration at the time of Independence. After 61 years of Independence, the share of cultivation in total national income dwindled from 50 percent in 1950 to 18 percent in 2007-08. But despite today, more than 60 percent of the workforce is engaged in agriculture. Despite this, it is also an important feature of agriculture that is to be noted that the growth of other sectors and the overall economy depends on the condition of agriculture to a considerable extent. Because of these reasons, agriculture proceeds to be the predominant sector in the Indian Economy.

Since independence, India has made much development in farming. Indian agriculture, which grew at the rate of about 1 percent per annum throughout the fifty years before Independence, has grown at the rate of about 2.6 percent per annum in the post-Independence era. Extension of distance was the main source of growth in the period of fifties and sixties. The supplement of increased land area under agricultural product has declined over time and increase in productivity became the main source of growth in agricultural production. Another important facet of progress in horticulture is its success in eradicating its dependence on imported food grains. Indian agriculture has advanced not only in output and yield terms but the structural changes have also presented. All these advancements in Indian agriculture are contributed by a series of steps initiated by the Indian Government. Land reforms, the inauguration of the Agricultural Price Commission to ensure remunerative prices to producers, new agricultural strategy1, investment in research and extension services, provision of credit facilities, and improving rural infrastructure are some of these steps.

#### **Review of Literature**

Hasan and Quibria (2003) explained that agriculture growth and rural development have significant potential to achieve inclusive growth among Asian countries.

Richard (2014) also argued that rural poverty generally dominates in most countries where agriculture is the main source of livelihood. Thus the growth of the agriculture sector is the key to poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Agriculture growth will enhance economic growth and reduce the rural poor by increasing their productivity and incomes. So, agriculture connects economic growth and the rural poor.

Birthal (2012) examines that inclusive growth is essential to develop agriculture sustainably by reducing disguised unemployment in the farm sector to shift labor to the non-farm sector and increase the average size of landholding resulting in the marginal productivity labor and land increases.

Sharma (2010) examined that diversification of agriculture through livestock production will accelerate agriculture growth, and it provides livelihood support to the small and marginal landholders. Agriculture growth and rising farmers' income is an important aspect for inclusive growth in the agriculture sector. This can be addressed to reduce supply-side constraints in the agriculture sector. Economic growth scenarios of India and the major growing states have not been successful in combining growth with equity and making growth inclusive. The trickle-down process of growth has bypassed sectors like agriculture, where labor is concentrated.

Shah et al., and Gulati et al., (2007) observed that regional disparity, rising income inequality, inequality of land holdings and high dependency of the workforce are important obstacles for inclusive growth in agriculture or equitable development in all sectors of the economy.

Rao (2008) explains that agriculture plays a major role in Gujarat's high growth story during the last decade. The economic growth and its performance depend on the positive correlation between three sectors such as primary, secondary and tertiary.

Dixit (2009) represents that Gujarat has high and steady growth since 2000 and this growth has been driven by endogenous factors and the role of government.

#### **Objectives**

Agricultural policy witnessed tremendous agrarian reforms, institutional changes, community of major irrigation projects and strengthened of a cooperative credit institution.

- To study the major and minor crops grown across major states in India
- To analyze the Changes in Cropping Pattern in
- To understand the performance of South West Monsoon in India

#### **Data Sources**

The study relies on secondary data compiled from various published sources. Data on area, production and yield were collected from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

Data were compiled for 44 crops for 17 major states of India from 2008-2016 to 2017. Data on the value of crop output were compiled from the Central Statistical Organization, Government of India. Since the study covers all major and minor crops grown

across major states, a method was devised to identify their relative importance in the cropping pattern. For this purpose, the Crop Concentration Ratio (CCR) is defined as the ratio of the area's share under a crop in a state to the area's share under a crop in the country.

#### **Changes in Cropping Pattern in India**

The cropping pattern in India has supported meaningful changes over time. As the cultivated area remains more or less permanent, the augmented demand for food because of the increase in community and urbanization puts agricultural land under stress resulting in crop intensification and replacement of food crops with commercial crops.

Table 1: Change in Percentage Share of Area Under Major Crops

Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse	Pulses	Food Grains	Oil seeds	Sugarcane	Cotton	Others	All Crops
2007-08	23.31	14.88	15.12	12.53	65.85	14.17	2.68	5.00	12.30	100.00
2008-09	24.17	14.73	14.57	11.72	65.19	14.63	2.34	4.99	12.85	100.00
2009-10	22.59	15.34	14.91	12.53	65.37	13.99	2.25	5.46	12.93	100.00
2010-11	21.85	14.82	14.45	13.45	64.56	13.88	2.49	5.73	13.35	100.00
2011-12	22.49	15.26	13.50	12.49	63.74	13.44	2.57	6.22	14.03	100.00
2012-13	22.137	15.53	12.82	12.02	62.50	13.71	2.59	6.20	15.01	100.00
2013-14	22.07	15.24	12.61	12.61	62.54	14.03	2.50	5.98	14.95	100.00
2014-15	22.22	15.85	12.68	11.86	62.61	12.89	2.55	6.46	15.49	100.00
2015-16	22.90	15.96	12.55	13.33	64.75	13.80	2.61	6.27	12.57	100.00

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics

Table 1 vividly portrays the change in percentage share of Area under major crops from 2007-08 to 2015-16. There have not been many variations in the share of major crops raised during the study period.

But there has been a marginal increase in cotton production, signifying the importance accorded to cotton production.

**Table 2: India GDP Composition Sector Wise** 

Industry	2010-11	2011-12	Growth	Weigh	ntage
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	709103	728667	2.76%	14.01%	14%
Mining and Quarrying	109421	108469	-0.87%	2.08%	
Manufacturing	774162	793468	2.49%	15.25%	19%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	90944	98105	7.87%	1.89%	
Construction	384199	404617	5.31%	7.78%	
Trade, Hotels, Transport & Communication	1330455	1462772	9.95%	28.12%	67%
Financial, Insurance, Real Estate and Business	849995	931714	9.61%	17.91%	0/70
Community, Social & Personal Services	637675	674703	5.81%	12.97%	
Total	4885954	5202515	6.48%	100%	100%

Table 2 provides the India GDP composition sector-wise from 2010-11 to 2011-12. The growth rate is more during this period. A negative growth rate of 0.87% has been witnessed in Mining and

Quarrying. The service sector is contributing more to the nation in the form of 67% GDP. It signifies the fact that there is ample scope for service sector growth.

I ab	Table 3: Number and Area of Operational Holdings by Size Group										
Catagomy of	Number of Holdings				Area		Average size of Holdings				
Category of Holdings	2000- 01	2005- 06	2010- 11	2000- 01	2005-06	2010-11	2000- 01	2005- 06	2010- 11		
Marginal	75408	83694	92826	29814	32026	35908	0.40	0.38	0.39		
(Less than 1 hectare)	(62.9)	(64.8)	(67.1)	(18.7)	(20.2)	(22.5)					
Small	22695	23930	24779	32139	33101	352441.42	1.38	1.42			
(1.0 to 2.0 hectares)	(18.9)	(18.5)	17.9)	(20.9)	(22.1)						
Semi Medium	14021	14127	13896	38193	37898	37705	2.72	2.68	2.71		
(2.0 to 4.0 hectares)	(11.7)	(10.9)	(10.0)	(24.0)	(23.9)	(23.6)					
Medium	6577	6375	5875	38217	36583	33828	5.81	5.74	5.76		
(4.0 to 10.0 hectare)	(5.5)	(4.9)	(4.2)	(24.0)	(23.1)	(21.2)					
Large (10.0 hectares	1230	1096	973	21072	18715	16907	17.12	17.08	17.38		
and above)	(1.0)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(13.2)	(11.8)	(10.6)					
A 11 TT = 1 Jim = =	119931	129222	138348	159436	158323	159592	1.33	1.23	1.15		
All Holdings	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)						

Sources: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (Agriculture census 2010-11 HASE-2)

Women play a meaningful and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields, including in the main crop product, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries, etc. is long taken for granted (NCW, 2001). For sustainable development of the agriculture and rural economy, the contribution of women to agriculture and food production cannot be ignored. As per Census 2011, out of the total female main workers, 55 percent were agricultural laborers and 24 percent were cultivators. However, only 12.8 percent of the operational holdings were owned by women, reflecting the gender disparity in ownership of landholdings in agriculture (Table 1). Moreover, there is a concentration of operational holdings (25.7 percent) by women in the marginal and smallholdings categories.

Table 4: Performance of South West Monsoon (1 June-30 September)

*7	Meteor	ber of ological division	% of District with	Actual Rainfall as % of	
Year	Excess Normal Rainfall	Deficient Scanty Rainfall	Normal Excess Rainfall	Normal Rainfall (All India)	
1990	32	3	88	119	
1991	27	8	68	91	

2001	30	2	68	92
2010	31	5	69	102
2011	33	3	76	101
2012	23	13	58	92
2013	30	6	72	106
2014	24	12	55	88
2015	19	17	51	86
2016	27	9	68	97

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics

Table 5: Area Under Rabi Crops on 19.01.2018

Crop	Area sown 2017-18 (lakh hectares)	Area sown 2016-17 (lakh hectares)	% change over 2016-17	
Wheat	298.7	311.2	-4.0	
Rice	22.3	16.0	39.6	
Pulses	163.1	155.8	4.7	
Coarse Cereals	54.6	56.0	-2.5	
Oilseeds	79.1	82.1	-3.6	
Total	617.8	621.0	-0.5	

**Source**: Crops Division, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare

The sowing of rabi crops is in progress. As per the latest information available on the sowing of crops from the States, 617.8 lakh hectares of the area has been covered under Rabi crops for 2017-18 as

of 19th January 2018. The area coverage under rabi crops is above 98 percent of the normal area. Details of area coverage under Rabi crops are in table 5.

Table 6: Percentage of Operational Holdings
Owned by Women

Size Group	2000-01	2005-06	2010-11
Marginal (Below 1.00 hectare)	11.8	12.6	13.6
Small (1 to 2 hectare)	10.3	11.1	12.2
Semi medium (2 to 4 Medium hectare)	8.7	9.6	10.5
Medium (4 to 10 hectare)	6.9	7.8	8.5
Large (Above 10 Medium hectare)	5.2	6.0	6.8
All size groups	10.8	11.7	12.8

Source: of Agriculture Census reports 2010-11

Women play a significant and critical role in agricultural development and allied fields, including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries, etc is long taken for granted (NCW, 2001). For sustainable development of the agriculture and rural economy, the contribution of women to agriculture and food production cannot be ignored. As per Census 2011, out of the total female main workers, 55 percent were agricultural laborers and 24 percent were cultivators. However, only 12.8 percent of the operational holdings were owned by women, reflecting the gender disparity in ownership of landholdings in agriculture (Table 1). Moreover, there is a concentration of operational holdings (25.7 percent) by women in the marginal and smallholdings categories.

**Table 7: Index Numbers of Agricultural Production in Food Grains** 

Crop	Weight	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Food grain	50.7	114.3	119.5	119.4	123.3	115.9	115.7	131.0
Cereals	41.7	111.1	119.1	117.3	120.7	114.6	115.5	124.0
Rice	16.9	102.2	112.1	112.0	113.5	112.3	111.1	117.2
Wheat	18.0	116.5	127.2	125.4	128.5	116.0	123.7	131.9
Coarse Cereals	6.9	118.9	114.8	109.2	118.0	116.7	104.6	120.0
Maize	2.9	133.7	133.9	136.9	149.3	148.7	138.8	161.6
Pulses	8.9	129.4	121.6	129.4	135.6	122.0	116.7	163.9
Gram	3.5	139.5	130.7	149.9	161.6	124.4	119.7	158.2
Tur	1.7	105.6	98.0	111.6	117.2	103.6	94.5	176.3
	Ag	riculture I	Production	in Non-Fo	od grains			
Non-food grains	49.3	128.0	196.6	129.0	136.4	132.2	126.1	130.2
Oilseeds	13.2	116.8	106.5	107.4	119.0	99.7	92.5	113.8
Groundnut	4.1	112.5	94.8	63.9	132.2	100.8	91.7	103.0
Rapeseed and Mustard	3.6	114.6	92.6	112.5	110.4	88.1	95.3	111.8
Cotton	4.4	147.7	157.6	153.2	160.7	155.8	134.3	148.1
Jute	0.7	98.4	105.6	101.7	109.0	104.4	97.8	99.2
Mesta	0.0	65.1	7.6	62.8	64.6	54.1	62.1	54.5
Tea	0.3	101.0	101.0	101.0	124.4	123.2	126.9	NA
Coffee	0.6	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.9	119.1	126.7	NA
Rubber	1.9	104.1	109.2	110.4	93.6	78.0	68.0	83.6
Sugarcane	9.9	104.3	110.0	103.9	107.3	110.4	106.1	93.4
Tobacco	0.4	170.6	160.0	139.8	156.4	182.0	170.8	NA
Potato	3.6	170.4	187.4	182.5	167.2	193.2	174.7	194.1
All commodities	100.0	121.1	124.5	124.2	129.8	124.0	120.8	130.6

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare



**Table 8: Productions of Major Crops** 

Crop	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Food grain	218.1	244.5	259.3	257.1	265.0	252.0	251.5	275.7
Kharif	104.0	120.9	131.3	128.1	128.7	128.1	125.1	138.5
Rabi	114.1	123.6	128.0	129.1	136.4	124.0	126.5	137.2
Cereals	203.4	226.3	240.8	238.8	245.8	234.8	235.2	252.7
Wheat	80.8	86.9	93.5	93.5	95.8	86.5	92.3	98.4
Jowar	6.7	7.0	6.0	5.3	5.5	5.5	4.2	4.6
Maize	16.7	21.7	21.8	22.3	24.3	24.2	22.6	26.3
Bajra	6.5	10.4	10.3	8.7	9.3	9.2	8.1	9.8
Gram	7.5	8.2	7.7	8.8	9.5	7.3	7.1	9.3
Oilseeds	24.9	32.5	29.8	30.9	32.7	27.5	25.3	32.1
Groundnut	5.4	8.3	7.0	4.7	9.7	7.4	6.7	7.6
Rapeseed and Mustard	6.6	8.2	6.6	8.0	7.9	6.3	6.8	8
Sugarcane	292.3	342.4	361.0	341.2	352.1	362.3	348.4	306.7
Cotton	24.0	33.0	35.2	34.2	35.9	34.8	30.0	33.1
Jute and Mesta	11.8	10.6	11.4	10.9	11.7	11.1	10.5	10.6
Tea	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	NA
Coffee	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	NA
Rubber	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Potato	36.6	42.3	46.6	45.3	41.6	48.0	43.4	48.2

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare

#### Conclusion

Trace out the principle management policies for promoting agricultural development. For the overall development of Indian agriculture, many institutional and infrastructural changes have been entered since Independence. Agricultural policy witnessed tremendous agrarian reforms, institutional changes, development of major spraying projects and strengthens of the participating credit institution. The most important contribution of land reforms was abolishing intermediaries and giving land titles to the actual cultivators. This released fertile forces and the owner cultivators put in their best to augment production on their holdings. Land reforms were important in developing agricultural production during this phase. The new agricultural strategy relies on high-yielding varieties of crops, multiple cropping, the grouping procedure, modern farm practices and the spread of irrigation facilities. The biggest achievement of this strategy has been the attainment of self-sufficiency in foodgrains. Agrarian reforms during this period took a back seat during research, extension, input supply, credit, marketing, price support and the spread of technology.

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