

Economic condition of farmers in India

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Abstract

The average Indian farm family works 80 hours per week, and earns about \$3000.00 in a year. His wife and children work with him in the field, whereas an American farmer earns \$60000.00 in a year working 80 hours per week. He has a very comfortable life. Farming methods are very modern which make farming for an American farmer easier and more convenient. After green revolution doubtless economic condition of farmers improved to some extent but the same economic did not last longer. Agricultural productivity started falling as well as their income also gradually gone down. There are several reasons behind their low economic status the one among is the extravagance nature of farmers. The condition of the farmers in India has not so good. They are still dependent on the rain god for water and politicians for fixing remunerative prices. But, nothing is going smoothly. Most of the farmers have burden of loans from Banks and private money lenders.

Keywords: Economic condition, farmers, India.

1. Introduction

It has been rightly said that farmer lives under debt and dies under debt farmers that produces wage goods for the whole community lives in miserable situation. After green revolution doubtless economic condition of farmers improved to some extent but the same economic did not last longer. Agricultural productivity started falling as well as their income also gradually gone down. There are several reasons behind their low economic status the one among is the extravagance nature of farmers.

Very often Indian agriculture depends on nature because irrigation facilities don't cover the entire land. Some regions are affected by floods for half of the year, and completely dry for the rest of the agricultural cycle. There are canals and storage facilities (lakes, dams...) under construction by the government, but it is not sufficient to solve the current situation. In Maharashtra there is the 40 % of dams built by the government in India. But from some interviews to local community, it emerged that this 40 % has not been not built in the right locations: often they are situated where there is no necessity.

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It has observed in the year 2004-2005 the actual requirement of tractors was around one lakh where as number of tractors were 2.5 lakhs. This shows the extravagance nature of the farmers. The another cause is the snobbish attitude of the farmers that they spend more money on social occasions to satisfy themselves. It is estimated that more than a quarter of a million Indian farmers have committed suicide in the last 16 years—the largest wave of recorded suicides in human history. A great number of those affected are cash crop farmers, and cotton farmers in particular. In 2009 alone, the most recent year

for which official figures are available, 17,638 farmers committed suicide—that's one farmer every 30 minutes.

In a country like India socio-cultural factors are relevant. Families have to face high expenses mainly related to health care, in particular farmers lack good healthcare services and have to bear huge costs for hospitalisation. Other sources of debts include the expenses for children education and the costs for daughter's marriage. The expenses incurred to host the ceremony and mainly the dowry that they need to pay to the groom's family. These issues represent a relevant burden on the family's resources, as farmers have no other income but agriculture products. Generally, farmers take loan from private money lenders ("Saukar") for this activities and the interest rate is very high, so high that it normally cannot be paid on time by the farmer.

The condition of the farmers in India has not so good. They are still dependent on the rain god for water and politicians for fixing remunerative prices. But, nothing is going smoothly. Most of the farmers have burden of loans from Banks and private money lenders, which they are not able to return and hence, have to take extreme step like suicide etc. The government is also not very worried about their condition. That is why, they are depending upon the God.

Farmers were/are getting loans from money lenders(who used to and use to charge high rate of inters and from banks to please themselves in spending in ritual ceremonies and on social occasions. this had has increased the amount of economic burden. since the repayment of the farmers is very poor due small pieces of land and low productivity. As far as the size of farms is concerned farmers are having small pieces of land but cost of production is high. Finding themselves into a difficult situation for not repaying their loans farmers are committing suicides.

Farmer suicides in Punjab expose the extreme rural plight that is otherwise shadowed by the

Relevant narrative of "India Rising"—the billion- strong nation of India as one of the world's fastest growing economies. The state of Punjab has been showcased as an Indian agricultural success story since the Green Revolution,

which was the parcel of development initiatives undertaken by developed countries in the late 1960s and 1970s to aid developing countries in increasing their crop yield. Yet, since this time there has been a steady increase in the number of economically-related suicides by Punjabi farmers

During the Green Revolution, production was improved with the use of modified seeds that increased yield only when combined with expensive chemical Fertilizers and irrigation. Unable to afford sufficient amounts of these expensive Inputs, small farmers found their holdings becoming progressively less profitable.

Meanwhile, grain prices remained comparatively low even as input costs increased.

Now, three decades later, the small and marginal farmers of Punjab, in trying to pursue environmentally and economically unsustainable agrarian practices, are accumulating High debt while lacking alternative sources of income. As a result, farmers, their unions, Concerned NGOs, and several academics conclude that agriculture has become a losing Proposition in Indian Punjab, the farming heartland of South Asia for generations.

Farmer suicides raise issues of security, development, and human rights, which ultimately need the concerted attention of the Indian government? India is a Republic of more than one billion diverse peoples, administered by a strong Central Government runs on a parliamentary model under its post-independence Constitution of 1950. States are relatively weak units in the Indian federal structure. Further with Regard to Punjab, the Center-State relationship has been tumultuous—a separatist Movement in the 1980s was suppressed mostly through extrajudicial police practices.

The Central Indian government is not addressing the relationship between Punjabi Farmers' suicides and the Central Government's agrarian policies. In fact, the Center does not even recognize the suicide statistics from Punjab, though it has acknowledged Other Indian states as "suicide affected." This neglect exacerbates social inequalities, Structural marginalization and desperation in Punjab. While the suicide victims are over whelmingly men, the women, children, and elderly become particularly vulnerable.

The Punjab suicides case illustrates how measures towards security must be developed with a long-term vision, or risk further perpetuating insecurity. The Intensive Green Revolution practices that were developed in Punjab by the Central Government (with the involvement of the U.S. government and affiliated agencies Such as the World Bank) as corrective measures to ensure food security for India have Now placed the security of those very food providers at risk. Lessons learned from the Green Revolution is particularly important in light of the recent calls for a "Second Green Revolution" by the Indian President in her January 2010 address to the nation.

Immediate policy changes are necessary to combat the distress seen in Punjab in the Wake of the first Green Revolution. As elaborated in this article, truly holistic solutions will have to take into account recent history, patterns of marginalization, and unequal Power relations.

If the strong and sincere efforts are not made in this direction and in the right time, a time will come where we will hardly find any farmer who is satisfied and prosperous in this agro-based profession and non-agriculturalists will be the owner of the lands of small and marginal farmers.

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