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## Youth in Indian Agriculture

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India is an agrarian economy and the agriculture sector is one of the major contributor to the GDP of the country, contributing about 14% and has total export share of 10%. Even though growth of other sectors have decreased the contribution of agriculture in GDP it still continues to play an important role in overall economic scenario of the country. On the other hand India is a young country where youth constitute about 51.8% of the total population in India. Once Dr. APJ, "Youth below the age of 25 are the most powerful resource on earth, under earth and above the earth, we have to empower them with value based education and leadership". Development of youth determines the development and prosperity of rural area depending upon youth of the county. They are the precious human assets who can play an important role in nation building activities. If a country can harness creative and pervasive forces like youth which can substantially and quickly advance towards modernization. As they possess zeal and vigor necessary to create opportunities for nation development

### Problems and their solution by youth

Indian agriculture is subsistent in nature as majority of the farmers grow the crops only for the family consumption. Only in some river belts and command areas agriculture is considered as market oriented. This condition is mainly due to highly fragmented land holdings. According to 2020 economic survey, more than 87% of the farmers are having land <2 hectare which hinders them to accept the mechanisms other irrigation facilities for small land holdings and about 56% of the gross sown area falls under rainfed condition thereby reducing the farm output by 40%. In order to overcome all these constraints the young farmers should go for conservative agricultural practices to increase farm productivity and income along with this farmers can go for various agro forest based system to conserve moisture and to remediate the various biotic stress, farmers can also adopt different rainwater harvesting system to harness the rain water as it can be useful in providing life saving irrigation to the crops, so youths can go for community rain harvesting practice like panipanchayat in order to increase the farm output.

From ancient days, Indian farmers are following the non scientific and traditional practice, as about 70% of the population directly or indirectly depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Despite of lots of research being conducted in labs only about 2.5% of the farmers are adopting the modern agriculture innovation in their field. Even though the scientific techniques provide higher productivity and high farm income, they are not ready to accept the technologies as most of the farmers are traditional and they are not ready to give up their traditionalism, since Indian youths have become more advanced in their lifestyle, they can take advantage of this mature to abolish the leggarism. Youth should maintain good social contact with various resourceful person so that they can be updated with new technologies timely.

As most of the youth have become modernized, they are considering agriculture as non dignified jobs and they are leaving their tradition as agriculture. One side farm productivity is decreasing due to traditional practices on the other hand Indian youths are leaving the agricultural fields which has created the vulnerable situation and has become major threat to food security of India. But to be frank it is the noble profession which provides social status dignity and livelihood to millions of people and even there are thousands of people earning crores together in agriculture by



various start-ups. Hence now yours time to change the mindset of the people towards agriculture from low grade job to noble profession.

Since Indian population is increasing in geometric manner and the demand for land has also raise up. Due to urbanization and industrialization, the farm lands are converting into non productive lands. Even though we are self sustainable in the food production in current situation it will not be the same in the future as the population us increasing drastically and at the same time labs available for agriculture is also decreasing. As land is a statutory body, we can't increase the land and the only thing we can do now is to use the available land more effectively through intensive agriculture and precision farming techniques.

In our country agriculture is labor based enterprise where most of the operations are carried out by humans only, making agriculture more drudgerious, which discourages the youth to take agriculture and force them to leave rural area in search of jobs. As per survey of ILO only about 40-45% of the agricultural operations are carried out with machineries. In spite of lots of development on field of mechanization it is only confined to large farmers, they are creating economic imbalance between the population and it is also creating unemployment in urban areas and lack of an power in rural areas due to migration. As government has setup different Custom Hiring Centers(CHC) in order to improve the farm mechanization, if youth can't afford the heavy machineries that can hire them through CHC and convert agriculture more renemurative and less drudgerious.

In our country plenty of researches on agriculture is going on but they are confined to labs only. Even if they are effective at field levels they have not reached the fields yet. So now it's the responsibility of the youth to acquire the proper knowledge about various improved agricultural practice through various government initiatives like Gyan Choupal, village knowledge centre and also by personal contacts. If all the youths adopt all these emerging technologies of lab, then surely there will be second green revolution ahead.

Agriculture is an art, which requires some special skills to achieve more, but in our country there is no proper training programmes for youths. Most of the agriculturists are still following traditional agriculture which are centuries old, but to compete with the current world these technologies stood ineffective, so government has taken several initiatives like Skill India, ARYA, WYTEP etc.. to attract and train rural youth. And youths should take advantage of these programmes to compete with the current world.

In India about 192 Mha of land is cultivated around the year, where most of the land is under mono-cropping which are cultivated without any future plan or prediction leading to distress sale and over debttness in future. Although cultivars indebttness is universal in subsistent farming it's impact is perhaps nowhere as crushing as in India. Unfortunately over 85% of all the cultivating families are under debt. The small and marginal farmers are still dependent on money lenders who charge exorbitant interest in loans of about 25- 40% per anymore. Here government is also lending loans to entrepreneurs, agriclincs, agribusiness centre at affordable interest rate for youths and along with these the youths should know about market information which helps to predict the future demand and prices in the market to adopt the cropping patterns to avoid distress sale in future with the help of modern technological tools like ICT, Social medias and etc..

Nowadays government is framing several regulations related to markets in order to provide appropriate market information to predict the future demands but these are not effective at gross root level. Now ICT tools are gaining more importance in providing market information but all youths are not having required facilities and proper knowledge about ICT to acquaintised with the modern tools and also youths are having negative attitude towards ICT tools in agriculture. As there are about 137 million smart phone users in India but they are busy with their own social work and ghetto are not using ICT for increasing the crop production. So there is an urgent need for using the ICT in effective manner in order to minimize the fundamentals production.

Not only in case of ICT but also in case of social behavior of Indian youth, they are attracting more towards practice, gatherings functions and all. And are not ready to take up the farm activities.



They just ignore the works and keep hanging on to the social medias and wasting the time. Being a responsible citizen there is a need to create awareness among Indian youth about role of agriculture on feeding Indian sub continent.

According to 2011 census about 51.8% of Indian population falls below of 35 years. Among them only about <20% of youth take up farm activities and rest don't show any interest towards agriculture and moderate towards urban. According to WHO, by 2030 there are about 6 in 10 people living in urban areas. To attract the youth towards agriculture both government as well as NGOs provide various incentives to encourage self employment like dairy farming, Bee keeping mushroom cultivation etc.. in order to increase farm income.

Because of their role, youth are very important components of population who need to be taught the dynamics of food, population, environment and socio-economic development. According to a survey average age of Indian population is 29 years but the average age of farmers is 55 years, this shows the lesser participation of youths in agriculture. Hence government needs to explore the strategies to bring the every concerned communities and institutions into a policy for attaining food security so that the citizens especially youths would understand its relationship to resource scarcity, distribution and utilization thus understanding the relation between food security, land use and environmental degradation.

