



M. P. Institute of Social Science Research

(Autonomous Institute of ICSSR, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)
6 Professor Ram Sakha Gautam Marg, Bharatpuri Administrative Zone, UJJAIN - 456010
Phone: 0734-2510978 Fax: 0734- 2512450 E-mail: mpissr@yahoo.co.in, Web: www.mpissr.org

National Seminar on Agrarian Crisis in Rural India: Issues and Challenges (February 14-15, 2017)

Background of the Seminar

Agriculture has been the main source of livelihood for millions of Indians. Agriculture sector includes agriculture (agriculture proper & livestock), forestry & logging, fishing and related activities. Most of the Indians have been employed in various fields of these activities. Indian GDP composition in 2014 in agriculture sectors was 17.9 per cent in comparison to Industry (24.2%) and Services (57.9%). India is 2nd largest producer of agriculture product. India accounts for 7.68 percent of total global agricultural output. Contribution of agriculture sector in Indian economy is much higher than world's average (6.1%). Despite these significant figures; the status of agriculture in India has been not so encouraging in recent two-three decades. Shifting of agricultural lands due to urbanization, start of commercial cropping ventures by business houses and the recent phenomenon of drastic climatic changes have raised many questions. These factors along with reduced benefits to farmers have resulted in changing the agricultural fabric of the country to some extent. The small and medium agriculturists have been affected mostly due to these factors and as a result they are not willing to continue agriculture as their primary profession. The primary concern lying in front of us is to resuscitate dwindling agriculture and to bring back its glorified past. Farmers being the backbone of country's food security, it is imperative to give them back a sense of income security and all related benefits for their 'agricultural connect' again.

The crisis and challenges being faced by the agriculture sector is mainly focusing on how to enhance the multiplier effect of agriculture. Since the sector is a mix of various allied activities, it is essential to significantly improve the growth in all these allied activities. Marginalization of stakeholders in this sector has been catching at a faster pace. It would be ideal to empower them who sustain the diversity of agriculture and food systems. The linking of outputs from marginalized and rain fed lands into local, national and global market will definitely given an impetus to this sector.

The government in its budget of 2016-17 targeted to double the income of farmers by 2022 and made multiple financial provisions to achieve this goal through making substantial hike in its allocation to the agriculture and allied sector. The budget aims long term reforms in productivity through infrastructure development mainly through irrigation, balanced use of fertilizers through soil health cards and diversification in non-irrigated areas. Special focus has been given in 2016-17 budget by allocating substantial amount to agriculture and its allied activities. The sector was allocated Rs 47,912 crore in the budget for the year 2016-17, which is 84% more than it had received during 2015-16. Despite the Government proposing ventures to overcome the hurdles of agriculture, the sector has been marred by a plethora of issues. Absences of technological upgradations, inadequate knowledge regarding soil behaviour are some of the issues which need scientific approach to deal with.

The Indian agricultural scenario is embedded with issues of topical importance wanting in-depth analysis and participative approach among citizens, professionals and government machineries. Some of these issues are - Farm population per hectare has increased and per capita income has declined. Due to high input costs the burden on farmers becomes voluminous at the time of crop failure. Rain-fed agriculture impacts the produce adversely due to bad monsoon. Lack of integrated irrigation facilities add to the woes during these times. Failure in banking regulation and policies to ensure financial inclusion of the farmers is one the significant problems in providing smooth credit facilities. They have to depend on money-lenders who charge exorbitant rates of interests. Another field which requires attention is Crop Insurance. Lack of knowledge among the peasants and banking infrastructure has resulted in only less than two per cent of the farming community being covered under insurance.

Indian agriculture is facing the crisis of its existence like never before. Un-sustainability of agriculture characterized with falling productivity and worsening conditions of soil fertility has become severe. The issues of poor irrigation network, labour problems and heterogeneity in pricing have also added the burden. These factors have made the easier availability of food grains for the poor people a herculean task. Against this backdrop, the proposed seminar will threadbare discuss these current issues and will make an effort to prepare a blue print for future course of action.

Themes of the Seminar

- **Situational analysis of agriculture in India and Governmental Initiatives.**
- **Issues of labour, wages, MSP and sustainable employment in agriculture.**
- **Status of irrigation, Ground water and other technological advancement for agriculture.**
- **Issues related with agricultural banking, loans, crop insurance and its impact on sustainable agriculture.**
- **Issues related with agricultural situation and peasants in the state of Madhya Pradesh.**

MPISSR invites you to participate in the National Seminar. We propose to bring out an edited volume of the selected papers presented in the Seminar. MPISSR will reimburse travel cost and will arrange local hospitality for the invited delegates.

Submission of ABSTRACT: **January 13, 2017**

Submission of FULL PAPER: **January 20, 2017**

All communications may please be sent to:

Dr. Manu Gautam

Associate Professor & Seminar Convener

E-mail: gautam.ujjain@gmail.com

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