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GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TOWARDS AGRICULTURE

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Agriculture is the predominant sector holding vast majority of the rural population over it. It provides livelihood to the majority, supplies food and fodder to the cattle and supplies raw materials to various industries. Mechanization in agriculture is an ongoing syndrome which poses a lot of problems to the small and marginal farmers. Technology oriented agricultural practice, cost of inputs, marketing are the common problems faced by the farming community other than natural factors. Though there are wide scopes in agricultural sector like distributing planting materials, cattle management, poultry management and other activities globalization has created many problems to the field. Hence today, the agriculture sector in India is facing and undergoing various problems. However, strenuous efforts have been taken by the government of India in every five year plan. This paper portrays the various supports and services extended by the government of India for the welfare of the farming society based on the various secondary sources obtained from books and journals.

Introduction

"There is a dual picture in the agricultural economy of India viz prosperity and plenty (well being) on one side and poverty and penury (misery) on the other".

Mr. Joan Robinson-Economist

Indian agriculture was subsistence type during the British period. Subsistence agriculture was mainly carried out by the family members and the production was on small scale. There were no sales and no profit motive. On the contrary, commercial agriculture was carried out for sales, market & profit. As far as India is concerned, agriculture is neither fully commercialized nor fully subsistent. It is a mixture in nature.¹

There is an inequality in rural sector about the land ownership. The upper segment constituting 12 per cent of village households owns two-thirds of total agricultural land, nearby, while 50 per cent of village households possess only just 2 per cent of the land. It reflects that Indian agriculture consists of a large number of marginal and small farmers have no adequate financial support to invest in land for the development. It is not new to the Indian agriculture; it has been continuing from the day of agriculture started.

Keeping considerations of the above, the Government of India is extending its support to agricultural sector in many ways viz supplying inputs through co-operatives, producing and supplying certified seeds through State Seed Farms, ensuring the supply of fertilizer at subsidized price, extending irrigation support, giving subsidy for agricultural implements, power, construction of farm pond and electricity. State Governments have also been extending support towards agriculture under various schemes²

Support of the Government towards Agricultural Inputs

Sankaran has pointed out that the performance of agricultural production depends on the quality and effective use of inputs viz land, seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation. Land is the primary factor of production and the ownership of land is of an individual. The nature of ownership is of two types such as own and

leased. As far as own land is concerned the size of holding possessed by the farmers determines the type of farms such as large, medium, small and marginal. Indian agriculture is dominated by large farmer. They are highly benefitted through Government schemes. In order to create good atmosphere in agricultural sector, especially in the minds of marginal and small farmers, Government of India has passed a series of legislations under reform measures. They are abolition of the intermediaries, tenancy reforms, regulation of rents, provision of security to tenures, conferment of ownership on tenants and imposition of land ceiling and distribution of surplus land.

Seed

The production and productivity of any crop largely depends on the quality inputs such as quality seed, manure, irrigation, fertilizer and pesticides. The provision of inputs would enable the agricultural development. Pertaining to this, the Government of India has introduced the package program and tried to sustain the program. High yield varieties of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides were supplied under this program through co-operatives. This scheme was popularly known as new agricultural strategy. Mere input supply would not enhance the productivity of yield. Hence an attempt was made by the Government to ensure the quality of seed. As a result of it, the provision of Seeds Act 1966 was enforced in all States. Seed is one of the important inputs which enhance productivity. Since exotic and other qualified varieties are not produced by all types of farmers on their own, the Government of India has enacted the Seed Act 1966 in all States. It ensures the seed supply with the help of Agricultural Research Organizations and Institutions.

Mere producing quality seeds will not support the farmer. It is very important that all types of farmers have to be provided such type of seeds. In order to ascertain this, the

Government of India has established two public sectors undertaking seed corporations namely the National Seed Corporation (NSC) in the year 1963 and the State Seed Farm Corporation in 1969. A quality seed includes high yield variety seeds and exotic seeds. Exotic varieties of seeds cannot be produced by the farmers on their own farm. Different varieties of seeds also cannot be produced by them. Hence this project was under taken by the Agricultural Research Organizations and the Institutions. Different varieties of seeds were evolved through this organization from the beginning of 1900.

Seed Supply

Seed multiplication and quality enhancement was given much priority during the first three consecutive five year plans. In order to ensure the quality of seeds and increase the productivity of seeds, seed testing laboratories and seed multiplication farm at each block were set up. Above all, legislation was regulated to introduce quality control for seeds.

Establishment of Seed Bank

Though various efforts were made by the Government of India towards supplying quality seeds to all farmers, there was an urgency of contingent requirement. In order to meet such type of requirement, the "Seed Bank" was set up during 1999-2000. It is implemented through National Seed Corporation (NSC). The NSC has supplied 1.4 million quintals of quality seeds in 1979-80 and it was raised to 10 million quintals in 2002-2003³.

Fertilizer

Fertilizer is also an important input which determines the yield rate other than agro climatic zones. Usages of chemical fertilizer have been increased tremendously. Keeping consideration of the fertilizer requirement and price of the fertilizer, a large scale production of chemical fertilizer was started in 1947. The fertilizer factory was established at Sindh in India in 1951. It is believed to be the only biggest sector undertaking in India and also the largest

and most modern in Asia. The Fertilizer Corporation of India was set up by the Government of India in 1961. Farmers are given fertilizer at subsidized amount.

The primary function of the Government is to ensure the quality of fertilizer. Hence, the Central Government has made necessary arrangement to supply quality fertilizers through agricultural extension centers and co-operatives and monitored under the Essential Commodities Act under the scheme of Fertilizer Control Order. The scheme has given provision to the State Governments to change the provision of FCO according to the situations. Above all, the growing demand of fertilizer is met by the Government by imported fertilizers which is inspected and analyzed by the Government of India before they are supplied to the farmer. Indigenous fertilizer is also inspected and analyzed by the Government. For which the Government has established the Quality Control and Trading Institute at Faridabad. The Quality Control and Trading Institute is proposed to use user friendly fertilizers and reduce the ecological vulnerability⁴.

Pesticides

A pesticide is a substance or a mixture of substance which is used to destroy the pests or insects which create harm to the cultivated plants, other organisms and animals at different stages is called pesticide.

Purposes of using pesticides.

- Preventive treatment
- Intervention treatment.

The unscientific application of pesticides may create health hazards to the users and damage the nature. In order to reduce such problems, the Government has focused on scientific application of pesticides with ecological consideration and chemicals less chemical usage. The Integrated Pest Management has been working on these aspects. The focus of IPM are pest and disease control. The farmers are encouraged to use safer

pesticides through IPM technology which consists of neem based and bio pesticides. IPM gives training to the farmers emphasizing different aspects of IPM technology which has been popularized among the farmers⁵.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the base for any development and holds a key place in agricultural development. It is the important input for the development of agriculture. It is the most prominent challenge to be met by the Government. Therefore it is important that new scheme should be evolved and established according to the needs of the farmers and areas. Hence Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was created by the Central Government in NABARD during 1995-96. The main purpose of creating RIDF was to provide agricultural credit through net banking credit. Every year the Government continued RIDF I, RIDF II and RIDF III and the like. RIDF fund have been raised from ' 2000 crores in 1995-96 to 12,290 crores in 2002-2003. The union budget 2015-2016 has allotted ' 25,000 thousand crores to the corpus fund for RIDF fund. On the whole the RIDF fund has been raised from ' 2000 from the first corpus of RIDF to ' 86,000 crores in XIV RIDF. Rural infrastructure covers the following works.

1. Irrigation

Irrigation is the important requirement of the farmers which enables the farmers in stabilizing the output and yield. It plays a significant role in protecting the crops and farmers during drought. It has direct impact on the income and employment of the farming community. With this background the irrigation schemes were divided into three types viz major irrigation having the cultivable command area of more than 10,000 hectares, medium irrigation covering the cultivable command area between 2,000 to 1000 hectares and minor irrigation having the cultivable area less than 1000 hectares. The scheme has been practiced since 1951 onwards. Heavy investment was made on

irrigation during the plan periods. The first plan period has allotted

' 442 crores and it was raised to ' 2, 32, 31 crores in eighth plan and further rose to

' 1, 65.350 crores in twelfth plan⁶.

In order to increase the productivity and yield, irrigation coverage would be expanded and the water use efficiency will be improved through micro irrigation and watershed scheme. For which ' 5,300 crores has been allotted in the budget of 2014-2015. He (Jaitley – Finance Minister) quoted that "Per Drop More Crop" is the pet theme of the scheme said by Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India. It aimed to provide water efficiency and irrigation to every farm. The Union Government has reinforced its deep commitment towards agriculture especially farmers⁷.

Hence an attention was made by the Union Minister in the budget 2015-2016. With the approval of Prime Minister two more programs were introduced in the budget meeting for the welfare of the farmer.

Table 6.1

Agricultural Development Program

Name of the program	Aim of the program
Pradhan Mantri Gram Inchai Yojana	Ensuring minor irrigation
Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana	Promoting organic farming
Pradhan Mantri Pkasal Bima Yojana	Promoting weather based insurance program among farmers
Bharat Nirman Program	Rural Development program

Source: Agriculture Statistics at a Glance: 2014, retrived from <https://eandn.m>

2. Road Construction

India ranked second in facilitating road net work in the world and it has received a lot of investments so far and further the corporate investments in road will be encouraged. The Union Minister for Road and Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari, stated that ' 64,000 crores has been allotted in the Union Budget of 2016-2017.

3. Bridge Construction and

4. Watershed Development

Support towards Finance

Finance is the lifeblood of any business activity. There is no exemption for agriculture in this regard. Credit is also essential for any activity. Hence agriculture has no exemption from credit regime. Credit requirement is of many types and required for many objectives. Any how the sources are two types which are institutional and non-institutional sources. Non institutional credit was high in 1958 and declined to 38.9 per cent in 2002. Whereas the institutional credit has registered an increasing trend from 7.3 per cent in 1951 to 63.3 per cent in 2002 it shows that the extension of credit support has reduced the role of non-institutional credit among the farmer.

Institutional Credit to Agriculture Relative Share of Different Institutions

The role of institutional credit for agriculture is highly remarkable. Though there are many practical difficulties emerging while lending, it has reduced the dependence of farmers on non -institutional credits. The institutional sources are

- i. Co-operatives
- ii. Scheduled Commercial Banks
- iii. Regional Rural Bank

At the time of independence, money lenders accounted for 71.6 per cent in rural credit. Since farmers had no other sources they depend on them and were exploited. In order to protect the farmers against the exploitation, various legislations were enacted. Monitoring the money lenders and the term on which the farmers are given loan. Licensing and registration of money lenders were made on all compulsory.

The Co-operative Credit Society was formed in 1904. Even after the completion of 50 Years of service of co-operative banks it has registered only 3.1 per cent of agricultural credit in the total credits in 1951. However, later it shows an increasing growth in lending

operations towards agriculture. In 2008-2009, the co operative bank has provided '36.762 crores in total credits. Nationalized banks have reduced the dependence of money lenders after independence. In addition to co operative banks the followings banks were set up by the Government of India. RRB was setup in 1976 and the NABARD was set up in 1982. India now had a worldwide network of rural finance institutions more than 30,000 commercial bank branches. These efforts were undertaken by the Government to develop rural credit by the money lenders reduces⁸.

Crop Insurance

Crop insurance is a kind of financial need of the farmer. If crop failure is severe due to natural calamity, farmers demand such kind of support. With the aim of helping the farmers, a comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme has been in operation since the first April 1985. It is a voluntary scheme that covers all the farmers who have availed crop loan from co-operative, commercial and regional banks for raising crop such as paddy, wheat, millets, oilseeds and pulses. The premium payable for paddy, wheat and millets is two per cent against the sum insured by the farmers and for oil seeds and pulses is one per cent.

The marginal and small farmers are given 50 per cent subsidy of the premium which is shared by both Central and State Governments equally. The crop insurance scheme was implemented in 13 States and Union Territories in 1988-1989 and it was extended to four more states in 1989-90. 42 lakh farmers in kharif and 7 lakh farmers in rabi were benefitted by the scheme throughout the states. The claim is made based on the nature of crop failure. During good monsoon the claim has come down and it was temporarily suspended. But again it was reinforced in September 1988 with some modifications. In 2015, the New Crop Insurance was introduced by the Central

Government with a lot of modifications and it has good response among the farmer.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme 1999-2000

Agricultural activities are being carried out at high risk. Perhaps, the large farmers who are operating on large scale can manage the loss, due to crop failure. Crop failure may occur due to cumulative factor. This may lead to loss (or) low income in the farming community particularly among the marginal and small farmers. Many farmers are in pathetic situation. Such loss cannot be compensated or tackled by all farmers. In order to challenge the crisis, farmers either have to approach money lenders or sell their own property. In such condition the farmers have to be given both financial support and physiological support (counselling). Keeping this as an important issue the National Agricultural Insurance scheme otherwise known as "Rashtriya Krishi BimaYojana" was introduced by the Central Government. It covers all the food crops viz cereals, pulses, oil seeds, horticultural crops and cash crops. All the farmers are covered under this scheme and the premium rates vary from 1.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent of the sum assured for food crops. Marginal and small farmers are exempted from the premium. 50 per cent of the premium is given as subsidy and equally shared by both Central and State Governments. It covers animals also every year, 15 to 16 million animals are insured and they are insured up to 100 per cent of their market value.

Though the National Insurance Scheme is in practice for a long period, due to many reasons, it is not claimed by all the farmers. Only 20 to 25 per cent of the total farmers have touch with the policy. In order to help the farmers, while facing crop failure due to natural calamity, the national insurance scheme was modified by the Government of India after the discussion with the State Governments. Followed by this the Government of India has launched a program

called "Pradhan Mantri Phasal Bheema Yojana" in 2016 which will facilitate the framers to have access with crop insurance at low premium. The whole amount will be given by the insurance company when the claim is made by the farmers during crop failure. The insurance amount differs from crop to crop and marginal to small and large farmer. For the first time water logging has been included under this scheme⁹.

Table 6.2

National Crop Insurance – Plan Period

Plan Year	Fund Allotment in Crores
IX plan	811.49
X plan	2626.84
XI plan	7311.35
XII plan	1549.68
2013-2014	2551.52
2014-2015	2598.35
2015-2016	2980.39

Source: Final Annual Report 2015-2016- Page 93. retrieved from ww.agricoop.nic.in

It is very clear from the table 6.2 that the fund allotment has increased in every successive plan period.

Table 6.3

Beneficiaries of Tamil Nadu under National Crop Insurance Program 2015-2016

Name of the Scheme	Farmers covered in number	Farmers benefited in number
National Agricultural Insurance Scheme 1999-2000	7,34,9888	2,84,0476
Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme	4,76,483	2,31,448
Weather Based Insurance	1,33,8144	73,237

Source: Final Annual Report 2015-2016- Page 93. retrieved from ww.agricoop.nic.in

It is evident from the table 6.3 that the beneficiaries of all the schemes have considerable number.

KISAN CREDIT CARD

The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1995-96 to facilitate short term credit to farmers. Commercial banks, Co-operative banks and RRBs are implementing this

scheme. Each farmer is provided with a Kisan Credit Card and a pass book for providing revolving cash credit facilities. NABARD has accelerated the pace of issue of KCCs. Cumulatively up to November 30, 2009 about 878.30 lakh cards had been issued. However, the progress of the scheme is not uniform across the State and is dismissed in the North – East. This is attributed to low level loans issued to farmers availing crop loans from banks. More than 23 million KCCs have been involving in credit limits of '33,990 crores till the end of March 2002. Poor financial position of the Co-operative banks, RRBs and lack of infrastructure facilities in some regions seem to be the major hurdles in the way of augmenting credit facilities etc¹⁰.

Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Measures

One of the disturbing news against the suicide of the farmers is debts which has become common among the marginal and small farmer. Crop failure due to natural calamity and the size of operational holding are the main reasons.

Hence the Government of India announced Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme in the Union Budget of 2008-2009. All the scheduled commercial banks, RRB and co-operative credit institutions were brought under this scheme. The over dues up to December 2007 and loan up to March 2007 given by the above three banks were covered under this scheme. The small farmers and marginal farmers were completely waived from the unpaid over dues. Agricultural loans were restructured in 2004 and 2006 through special package¹¹.

Measures Taken to Remove Indebtedness

The well-known proverb says that the "farmer is born in debt, lives in debt, dies on debt and bequeaths debts is the only companion of farmers from cradle to grave." Though the proverb is somewhat exaggerated, the fact is true. It seems in all rural areas especially almost with marginal and rural farmer. The agriculture

of India seems to be biased and it is favorable for few sections of the farmer. It continued to be a non-paying proposition due to the pricing policy of the Government. There are other factors such as unscientific storage, lack of warehousing; inadequate cold storage facility and restriction on food grain movement have created a lot of social economic problems for the farmer.

The New Economic Policy of 1991 has not touched the weaker section as how it has touched the other sections. The untouched group in globalization is agricultural group. Poverty and debts are still continued among them. In order to reduce debts in rural areas the State Governments have enacted many laws and they have given relief fund to the indebted farmers to some extent. The Decan Agriculturalists Relief Act 1879 is one of such measures. This Act gives exemption to the agricultural tools and cattle from the attachment. Another measure taken by the Government is the usuries loan Act of 1918, amended in 1925 and in 1946. These Acts have given the provision that only fair rate of interest to be charged against the loans received by the famer. It also empowered the courts to reopen debt cases up to twelve years back and grant relief to the cultivators¹².

Government Appreciation and Rewards to the farmers



Poongothai- Received Krishi Karman Award with cash award for the sum of ' 2 lakhs for taking more yield in Maize production.



வினாயகர்...
பெரிய...
கிடைத்த...
பெரிய...
கிடைத்த...
பெரிய...
கிடைத்த...



Ms. Brundha Devi, Degree holder, received L.M. Patel award in 2015-2016 from the Agriculture Research and Development Institution for her integrated house farm at National Level. She also received a cash award of ' 1 Lakh.

Agricultural Subsidy

Subsidy is monetary support given by both Central and State Governments to ensure the production and establish safety net through PDS. Subsidies are of two types viz food subsidy and agricultural subsidy. Food subsidy enables the poor to get food grain at low price and help them access other food articles through fair price shop.

Whereas the agricultural subsidy supports the farmers especially marginal and small farmers to get fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, electricity and irrigation. Fertilizer subsidy is confined to the Central Government whereas the power and irrigation subsidy fall under the State domain. Hence water and electricity fall under the State Government. The main reason for the high level of power subsidy is the pricing policy of the State Electricity Boards.

Among all subsidies, the fertilizer subsidy was considered a burden for the Government. During 1980-81, the Union Government has given ' 505 crores for fertilizer which stood up to ' 5400 crores in 1995-1996. Hence the subsidy was very high; the Union Government raised the issue price of fertilizer by 30 per cent. The marginal and small farmers were excluded from this revised price of subsidy. According to WTO agreement, every country is expected not cross the subsidy beyond 10 per cent for the total agricultural produce by the end of 2017 at the current price in 1985-1986. Nirmala seetharaman (Defence Minister) said if the developing countries accepted the agreement framed by the WTO in the conference held at Paali, Indonesia, the food security, safety net and food hoarding and the subsidy given to food grains and agricultural inputs will be affected. Hence, India did not sign the treaty; she said that India is very firm in protecting the farming community and weaker section²³. It could be seen from the various data that, the subsidy given by the Government towards agriculture for various purposes has been increasing steadily. But still the growing pressure of agricultural population and cost of production seems to be low while compared with that of 1980's²⁴.

SUPPORT TOWARDS FARMERS

National Agricultural Policy for Farmers (2000)

The improvement of farm sector could be achieved through the farmer. Hence the National Commission on Farmers suggested Government to support the farmers considering their well-being along with production and productivity. The main focus of NAP (2000) are as follows.

i. Increasing the yield and income of the farmers through efficient use of water resource. Because, lack of irrigation is one of the major problems faced by the farmers today. Measures will be taken to facilitate the supply of water in an equitable manner.

ii. ICT enabled techniques, organic application and nano technology will be promoted as production enhancement techniques.

iii. Women participation in economic activity will support their family. In order to meet a subsistence level of life, their contribution is very important. Therefore assurance is given to take measures to support the needed women by establishing crèches and child care centres near the field under funded program.

iv. Credit and insurance are the essential support to be rendered by the Government to reduce the dependence of the farmers on money lender.

v. As a part of the Research and Extension Service of Agriculture, Gyanchaupdi called farm school, will be established with the help of State Government to help the farmers to learn the emerging issues of agriculture through farmers to farmer.²⁵

vi. An Ambitious Soil Health Card has been launched in order to improve the fertility of the soil. To make this scheme a success the Prime Minister of India proposed and instructed to support the Agriculture Ministry's Organic Farming scheme called Parambaragat Krishi Vikas Yojana

vii. Soil health is very important for agriculture. Because disease free seed, soil fertility and quality inputs would enhance the productivity of agriculture. With this view every farmer is given a soil health pass book containing the integrated information on farm soil and corresponding advisory bodies.²⁶

Support towards Price Fixation

The prices are fixed in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The price of agricultural produce is highly fluctuated and has no effective price techniques to fix price by the producers as done by the manufacturers of industrial goods. Hence the price of agricultural produce is fixed by the Government well in

advance before the sowing season. Based on the available data, it has been proved that the price of agricultural price has increased 32 times over the period from 1950-1951 to 2008-2009. One of the important obligations of the Government is protecting the welfare of the growers of the crops. The income of the farmers depends on production, sales and mainly on price. Rapid and violent fluctuations in agricultural prices can create many harmful consequences. If the price of a particular crop has declined deeply, it will affect the growers of the crop. Keeping these considerations in view, the Government of India has brought out the Agricultural Price Policy at the time of Independence which had a lot of practical difficulties. Later, it was renamed as Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, CACP. The CACP concentrates on minimum support price, procurement price, and issue price and buffer stock. In order to fetch the fair and reasonable price for the produce of the farmers the Government has established Food Corporation of India to procure it from the farmer. It insists on the State Government to procure it from the farmer.

In rural areas, the farmers largely depend on the traders for sales. The economic needs, ignorance and illiteracy of the farmers are misguided and misinterpreted. Hence the Government of India has made necessary arrangement to broadcast the price of important items daily by All India Radio. Nowadays, the price of the items is informed to the farmers through various sources like T.V and news paper. Currently the establishment of unified markets and online sales has become the vital source of the farmer. Market intelligence reports are displayed in the market all over the country. Intelligent report collects the vital information on stocks, market arrivals, sales and prices are published periodically¹⁷.

Support towards Marketing

Marketing the product is the major constraint of the farmers rather than production.

The size of holding, debts, lack of storage facility, dependence on single and local traders and above all low price for the produce are the cumulative factors that forced the farmers to sell at a low price even below the prevailed rate in the open market. The unscientific method of storing goods will lead to a considerable wastage. In order to avoid such wastage and making the farmers stay as powerful persons all over India, a three tier go down facility was established at National level, State level and Village level.

Establishment of National Institute of Agricultural Marketing

Agricultural marketing involves several risks. The producers of the produce are heterogeneous in nature, has no bargaining power as the industrialists have and has no other provisions to store the produce on their own. It is therefore that there is a need for the support of the Government in storing the produce and fixing the price. Hence Government is fixing the price on time and procuring the produce by FCI to get a reasonable price for the farmer. Marketing requires good infrastructure also. All these activities are monitored and implemented by the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing which was established in 1988. Earlier it was known as Center for Agricultural Marketing. It works with the following aims and objectives for the welfare of the farmer.

1. Undertaking a research work to demonstrate and replicate the management technique in the field of agricultural marketing.
2. Providing consultancy services for formulating investment projects and problem solving technique.
3. Offering educational program in agricultural marketing for supplementing the existing facility

4. Enhancing the agricultural marketing infrastructure through teaching, research and consultancy service.

5. Designing and conducting a training course appropriate to the specific needs of the farmers pertaining to the agricultural marketing.

Establishment of Regulated Markets

In order to enable the growers of the crops, it is better to facilitate a well-structured marketing system. Through the restrictions on sales, monopolistic practice and the role of market intermediaries can be monitored and eliminate the existing mal practices in marketing. Keeping this in view the Royal Commission on Agriculture recommended the establishment of Regulated Markets in India in 1922.

Table 6.4
Number of Regulated Markets in India

Period	Number of Markets
Before the commencement of the first five year plan	286
At the end of the first five year plan	479
At the end of March 1998	7069
As on March 2014	7114

Source: Indian Economy Misra and Puri (2010) upto 1998 and Census report 2011 for 2014, retrieved from www.agmarknet.nic.in

Mere establishing markets will not support the farmers at any cost. Hence necessary arrangement should be made by the Government to facilitate the services like providing market intelligence and storage facilities effectively. Such kind of services is provided by these markets with the help of financial support extended by the Central Government in the name of "Integrated Scheme of Regulated Markets" since 1988. The fund is provided based on the arrival of the produces¹⁸.

Establishment of Co-operative Markets

The most significant feature of marketing is to facilitate the farmers to fetch reasonable price for their produce and get fair returns for them. The following data reveal the different

types of co-operative marketing societies & numerical growth.

Table 6.5

Number of Co-operative Societies in India

Type of societies	Number
Central co-operatives	170
State level co-operatives	27
Typical community marketing federations	36
Agricultural processing societies	2908
Co-operative sugar mills	228

Source: Sankaran .S, 2015, Agricultural Economy of India: p 9-10.

Besides these markets, at the national level the following co -operative markets are functioning.

- National Co -operative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- National Co- operative Marketing Federations(NAFED)
- National Co -operative Tobacco Growers Federations Ltd (NCTGF)
- The National Consumers' Co-operative Federations (NCCF)
- The Tribal Co- operative Marketing Development Federation(TCMDf)¹⁹

Establishment of Unified Market

Recently the Government of India has created the National Agricultural Market. While the farmer is no longer in the clutches of the local traders, his produce still does not command the best national price. To increase the income of the farmers, it is imperative that we create a national agricultural market which will have the incidental benefit of moderating the price rise. I intend this year to work with states in NITI, for the creation of Unified National Market²⁰- Jaitely (Finance Minister)

Establishment of Warehouses

Lack of scientific storage of the produce is the prolonged problem in India. Even though

the role of warehousing in agricultural marketing has a vital role in keeping the produce to avoid loss, there are no sufficient warehouses in India. Facilities to store in warehouses are also not adequate and the farmers do not have much knowledge about the techniques of storing the produce. Generally farmers store produce on their own methods unscientifically.

However, special attention was made by the Government of India in providing warehousing facility after the recommendations made by All India Rural Survey Committee. Followed by the recommendations, the Government of India has set up the National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board in 1956 and the Central Warehousing Corporation in 1957. Followed by this, the State Warehousing Corporations were set up by the State Governments²¹. Even though there are no exact data on the provisions of warehousing, there are 460 scientific storages in India; through a chain it is growing 60 per cent.

Agriculture & Research Education

The vital needs of the farmers could be met by identifying their needs and fulfill them with the support of local people, traders and farmer. Rebuilding the structure of infrastructure in the areas like seed production, storage, and processing, production of other inputs such as bio fertilizer, bio pesticides, would develop the growth of agriculture and help the farmers to access with necessary inputs at reasonable price. Capacity building should also be promoted besides transfer of technology. Agricultural Research and Education form the foundation of the entire agricultural development polices.

To promote Agricultural Research and Education the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was set up in 1929. Now it is called Indian Council for Agriculture and Research and has been functioning as an apex body. It is functioning through a network of 31 well-equipped research institute such as Directorate of All India Soil and Land Use Survey, 21

Agricultural Universities, 51 All India Co-ordinated projects and a number of other institutions. All the above mentioned national institutions do the following basic functions which are holding the key place in Research and other Extension Services.

i. Undertaking, aiding, promoting and co-ordinating agricultural and animal husbandry education and research.

ii. Acting as a clearance house of information in all research matters

iii. Maintaining research and reference library

iv. Promoting other works pertaining to the needs and emergence of agriculture based on the objectives

Since ICAR is the Central Institute and an apex body of all Agricultural Research and other works it is supported by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education²².

Conclusion

It is very clear from the discussion that the role of Government plays an important role in developing the (agricultural sector) sector in terms of production, productivity and enabling the farmers to adopt the receptive changes brought by the Government according to the needs of the farmer.

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