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# Impact of Globalisation on Indian Agriculture

Dr. N. Kala\* & S.Velanganni\*\*

*[Undoubtedly, on the one hand, globalization has brought spectacular changes in Indian economy in the form of easy access to foreign trade, availability of technology, free trade etc; nevertheless, on the other hand, it has created negative impact on agricultural sector among laborers, farmers, production and productivity. The big farmers are availing all concessions largely at the expense of small and marginal farmers, many of whom have committed suicides for various reasons. Gunnar Myrdal assertion – if a country's agriculture is backward, the economy is also likely to remain backward – needs serious thinking.]*

As Gandhi said, the village economy has to be paid more attention in all socio-economic aspects. The livelihood of the village people is agriculture. According to 1951 census the percentage of rural population was 82.7 percent and it declined to 68.8 percent in 2011. From 1951 to 1981 there was nearly 14 percent reduction on rural population whereas

from 1991 to 2011 there was only 8 percent reduction. This period is denoted as post-reform period. As far as cultivator is concerned the percentage shows reverse order, as per Table-1. Post-reform period shows around 14 percent reduction when compared with pre reform period.

**Table-1: Population and Agriculture workers in India (in millions)**

| Year | Total population | Rural population | Cultivator  | Agriculture labor | Total |
|------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1951 | 361.1            | 298.6(82.7)      | 69.9(71.9)  | 27.3(28.1)        | 97.2  |
| 1961 | 439.2            | 360.3(82.0)      | 99.6(76.0)  | 31.5(24.0)        | 131.1 |
| 1971 | 542.2            | 439.0(80.1)      | 78.2(62.2)  | 47.5(37.8)        | 125.7 |
| 1981 | 683.3            | 525.6(76.9)      | 92.5(62.5)  | 55.5(37.5)        | 148.0 |
| 1991 | 846.4            | 630.6(74.5)      | 110.7(59.7) | 74.6(40.3)        | 185.3 |
| 2001 | 1028.7           | 742.6(72.2)      | 127.3(54.4) | 106.8(45.6)       | 234.1 |
| 2011 | 1210.6           | 833.5(68.8)      | 118.7(45.1) | 144.3(54.9)       | 263.0 |

Source: *Pocket Book on Agricultural Statistics 2013*, Gol.

There is an increasing trend in agriculture labor except in 1961. It could be observed from the above table that there is a reduction in

agricultural cultivators and the number of laborers has increased.

## Historical perspective

The history of Indian agriculture was started by a primitive man and it has a strong relation with the civilization. In olden days, people formed groups among themselves and started growing required food grains in nearby places where they lived. This was the way of starting agricultural

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activities almost all over the world. India had also started agricultural activities in the same way. Rapid growth of population and other historical events like partition of country in 1947, food crisis and correcting the disequilibrium in the economy caused by the Second World War and more import of food grains laid foundation for taking measures to increase agricultural production and productivity.

As the outcome of it, modernized agriculture was introduced in India during 1968-1969 in the name of New Agricultural Policy. Thereafter, Indian agriculture has been carried out with the support of science and technology. At the same time, the basic human values are still survived towards agriculture. Hence, this sector, being the way for

life of three-fourth of India's population, has played a crucial role in internal and international trade. The features of Indian agriculture are identified by the size of holding, method of cultivation, cropping pattern, monsoon, employment opportunity, wage structure and the socio-economic status of farmers.

### Size of Operational Holding

Agriculture holding is defined as the land directly cultivated by a single person or agency, managing and conducting agricultural operations either by his own labor or with the assistance of members of his family or hired employees. In simple terms, it means the operation unit of a cultivation not the total area possessed by a cultivator. It is the important feature of Indian agriculture.

**Size distribution of operational holdings- Number of holding in million (Table-1)**

| Size Group              | 1970-71      | 1976-77      | 1980-81     |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Less than one hectare   | 36.20(51.0)  | 44.52(54.4)  | 50.52(56.5) |
| 1-2 hectares            | 13.43(18.9)  | 14.73(18.10) | 16.10(18.0) |
| 2-4 hectares            | 10.68(11.67) | 11.67(14.3)  | 12.50(14.0) |
| 4-10 hectares           | 7.93(11.2)   | 8.21(10.2)   | 8.09(9.1)   |
| 10 and above hectares   | 2.77(3.2)    | 2.44(3.0)    | 2.15(2.4)   |
| Average size (Hectares) | 2.3          | 2            | 1.8         |

Figures in brackets show percentage to the total  
Source: *Indian Economy* by Dr.S. Sankaran

**Size distribution of operational holdings- Number of holding (in millions) (Table-2)**

| Size Group            | 2000-2001 | 2005-2006 | 2010-2011 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Less than one hectare | 0.40      | 0.38      | 0.38      |
| 1-2 hectares          | 1.42      | 1.38      | 1.42      |
| 2-4 hectares          | 2.72      | 2.68      | 2.71      |
| 4-10 hectares         | 5.81      | 5.74      | 5.76      |
| 0 and above hectares  | 17.12     | 17.08     | 17.37     |

Source: Pocket book on Agriculture Statistics 2013: Government of India, New Delhi

It is clearly shown in the table 2 that the marginal farmers have constituted more than 50 percent for all the three periods from 1971-1980-81. The

average size of operational holding was 2.3 million and it declined to 1.8 million. There is no big change in the size of large holders from 2001-2011. They have constituted more in number when compared with other categories of holding.



### **Agriculture during green revolution period**

The introduction of New Agricultural Strategy during third Five-Year Plan had made a significant change in the sector. It was considered as the milestone in the agriculture development process and was also debated in two aspects. It led to near disaster on the one side and many achievements were made on the other side. Though there was difference of opinion towards NAP, farmers had started to change cultivation methods and responded to high-yield variety seeds.

There was a considerable change in the cropping pattern and that most of the farmers had shifted from traditional crops to cash crops. Measures were taken to increase production and productivity by using chemical fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural implements and proper irrigation. Indian agriculture is largely constituted by small and marginal holders.

### **Agriculture during post-Reform Period**

Economic growth has improved significantly during the post-reform period (Mahendra dev 2009). The experience of the economic reforms for the past over two decades has brought significant growth in foreign exchange earnings, IT industry and export sector. But the major problems have not been addressed anywhere. Reform period changes have created unequal income distribution among people and benefited only few groups, both economically and socially.

The marginalized groups like dalits, marginal and small farmers including agricultural laborers etc have been affected severely. Many studies have shown that the liberalized policy had supported agriculture trade rather agriculture production. Agriculture accounts for about 25 percent of India's national income. The primary sector accounted for about 56.45 percent of the GDP in 1950-1951 and declined to 24.1 percent in 2002-2003. (Somasekar 2013)

### **Globalization – Meaning**

Globalization refers to the increase of trade and economic activities aiming at the integration of

domestic economy with world economy. Domestic economy has to undergo various problems while changing its activity towards global economy. It is not an easy task. It has to face lot of obstacles almost in all sectors. As far as India is concerned, many barriers have been identified and noticed by many economists, social scientists and academicians about the process of globalization and the major dual problems behind it.

The most important barriers identified are poverty and malnutrition. India tried to achieve the millennium development goal of reducing half of the poverty by the end of 2015 by initiating necessary reforms and structural adjustments, especially in agriculture. Several studies have been made by many researchers on globalization in different aspects like wage structure, impact of globalization on migration, socio-economic status of agricultural laborers in the globalised era etc. In this paper, an attempt has been made by the researcher to present the impact of globalization on agriculture sector based on secondary sources taken from various sources of government publications and previous researches.

### **Factors behind Globalization**

The first seed of liberalization was sown in India in the early 1980 and was reinforced in 1985, but these efforts were not successful. Balance of payment difficulties, the decline in foreign exchange reserves, and the overall stagnation in the economic situation etc were the factors, which led to the reserved drive for liberalization. Apart from this, the economic crisis, foreign exchange reserve deficits, failure of public sector and political instability of two governments had also created way for liberalization in India. The main objective behind 1991 economic policy was crisis driven. So it was called as "First Generation Reforms".

Later, it was named as "Second Generation Reforms" that means transforming the crisis-driven to development-driven. The real development should not neglect any people, any



sector, any way and anywhere. But agriculture sector was not given priority in economic reforms. At the same time, the village agriculturists enjoy the agricultural technologies in the form of mechanization. Though, different perceptions have been pointed out by the experts regarding globalization.

### Impact on agriculture production

Agriculture is not a mere technological phenomenon, it is biological industry and there

is a strong correlation between agriculture growth and the population dependent on this sector. 65 percent of population is working in this sector for their livelihood. Introduction of SAP does not concentrate on agriculture and other sectors initially. In 1995, draft farm policy envisaging some structural changes in agriculture was announced and it is also first time that GATT agreement brought agriculture sector and international trade of agriculture goods within the purview of WTO thus integrating economic agriculture fully with global market.

**Table-4: Year-wise Production in Million tons**

| Crop               | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Rice               | 93.3      | 71.8      | 88.5      | 83.1      | 91.8      |
| Wheat              | 72.8      | 65.8      | 72.2      | 68.6      | 69.4      |
| Coars cereals      | 33.4      | 26.1      | 37.6      | 33.5      | 34.1      |
| Pulses             | 13.4      | 11.1      | 14.9      | 13.1      | 13.4      |
| <b>Food grains</b> |           |           |           |           |           |
| Kharif(i)          | 112.1     | 87.2      | 117.0     | 130.3     | 109.9     |
| Rabi(ii)           | 100.8     | 87.6      | 96.2      | 95.1      | 98.7      |
| Total(i)+(ii)      | 212.9     | 174.8     | 213.2     | 225.4     | 208.6     |

Source: Government of India, Statistical Abstract of India

The table-4 shows that the year 2002 – 2003 had registered low level of production in all crops. At the same time, the overall production rate also declined from 212.9 million tons to 208.6 million tons. Agriculture plays a very important role in India's economic development. It is the means of livelihood for nearly 65% of the labor force. The primary sector accounted for about 56.46% of the GDP in 1950-51 and it declined to 24.1% in 2003-04.

### Agriculture Growth during pre and post-Globalization period

Globalization has created impressive results in Indian economy in banking and financial sector, IT sector and Industrial sector. According to the study of Anil Kumar Thakur on "Globalization and its implications for Indian Agriculture"(2010) the overall growth rate of 4

percent in agriculture sector during 1980's fell down to 3.50 percent in the second half of the 1990's and further declined to less than 2 percent in the first half of the 2000's. The following table represents growth rate of agriculture and different allied sectors during post and pre reform period.

**Table-5: Agriculture Growth during pre and post-Globalization period (in percentage)**

|             | Pre-reform period (1980-1990) | Post-reform (1996-2006) |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Agriculture | 3.6                           | 2.6                     |
| Forestry    | 4.2                           | 2.5                     |
| Fishing     | 0.1                           | 0.5                     |
| Food grains | 2.9                           | 1.5                     |
| Cereals     | 3.1                           | 1.8                     |
| Rice        | 3.7                           | 2.0                     |
| Wheat       | 3.6                           | 3.6                     |



|                |     |     |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Coarse cereals | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| Non food grain | 4.3 | 2.0 |

Source: Economic Survey 2005-2006, GoI

The table-5 reveals that the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors has come down during post-reform period. The overall production of various crops including rice has also declined in post-reform period. Agricultural growth is not only dependent on the natural factors like

monsoon, climate and fertility of the soil, it also determined by the investment made by the farmers, government support in the form of agricultural loan and subsidy etc. It has been observed from the Bhattacharya committee that the share of capital formation in agriculture as percentage of total gross capital formation declined from 16.3 percent in 1981 to 5.8 percent in 2000. This is also one of the causes for reduction of agricultural growth.

Table-6: Performance of agriculture during pre and post reform period

| S.NO | Details                         | Pre-Reform period<br>1981-90 | Post-Reform period<br>1991-2000 |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1    | Food grain P/N index(% p.a)     | 3.13                         | 2.24                            |
| 2    | Non Food grain P/N index(% p.a) | 4.10                         | 2.63                            |
| 3    | Agriculture P/N index(% p.a)    | 3.49                         | 1.38                            |

It can be observed from table-6 that the production of food grains, non-food grains and overall production index was low during post-reform period.

### Impact on Migration

Migration is taking place throughout the world in order to find better life style, social status and for other reasons. Migration is continuing in India because it has been considered as the development process of one's life. In 2004-05 Indian labor force consisted of about 413 million, growing annually about 2%. In the total migration, about 3/5th worked in agriculture in rural area and produced a little over 1/5th of domestic products. Cultivators were 2/3rd of the rural work force and remaining were agricultural workers. There are many types of migrations such as in - migration, out-migration, employment-oriented migration, seasonal migration, interstate and intra-state migration.

The following table depicts the migration level of India based on certain data

| State                 | Persons(in millions) |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Maharashtra           | 8                    |
| Delhi                 | 6                    |
| West Bengal           | 5.5                  |
| Net Migration Details |                      |
| Maharashtra           | 2.3                  |
| Delhi                 | 1.7                  |
| Gujarat               | 0.68                 |
| Haryana               | 0.67                 |
| UP                    | -2.6                 |
| Bihar                 | -1.7                 |

Source: 2001 Census (GoI)

Women migration was the highest in the period from 1991 -2000 due to agricultural crisis. Among them 73% are from rural areas. Among all the migrations, seasonal migration is the main livelihood source for rural people.

### Impact on small and marginal farmers

Many studies have stated that globalization has promoted agriculture trade rather agricultural activities. The vagaries of natural factors like monsoon, climate change, over and deficit rainfall and environmental degradation have



killed the farmers both economically and physiologically. The situational (globalization) factors such as high input cost, low productivity due to fake seeds and lack of pest management, low price for the agricultural produce in the domestic market due to high import, low quality goods through dumping by developed countries into developing countries, shifting traditional crops to cash crops with the intension of more profit due to export, neglecting marginal and small farmers by the bankers, dominance of large farmers, interference of commission agent and brokers in sales activities, lack of storage facilities in rural areas, poor irrigation and high debt trap have made the farmers to carry out their activities on risk.

### Impact on agricultural exports

Globalization has brought many opportunities to developing countries in terms of greater access

to developed countries for marketing, employment, technology, improved productivity and the standard of living of the people etc. It has increased migrant remittances of the nation and IT field has also flourished. Agricultural export also increased and agricultural commodities stood at £3266 million (18% of the total exports in 1990-91). In 1996-97 it had more than doubled to £6756 million (20.41% of the total exports).

The following data indicates the export quantity of various products. The post liberalization period is marked by an increase in the exports of agricultural commodities in general and horticultural products in particular. Faster growth of industrial & IT sectors, development of service sector and other reasons have made agriculturalists to shift their operations from agriculture to other sectors. Finally primary sector GDP has come down. Even now the major

| Year      | Export in Rs crore | Import in Rs crore |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1950-1951 | 606                | 608                |
| 1980-1981 | 6711               | 12549              |
| 2010-2011 | 1142922            | 1683467            |
| 2011-2012 | 1465959            | 2345463            |
| 2011-2011 | 1635261            | 267311             |

Source: Source: Pocket book on Agriculture Statistics 2013, Government of India, New Delhi

As for as international trade is concerned, both pre as well as post liberalization periods have shown that import is higher than export. Trade liberalization and removal of quantitative restrictions on import have played its role very correctly in international trade of India.

Cashew nuts, basmati rice, spices, sugar and molasses and tea together represented 25% of the total Indian exports. The traditional Indian dominance in the International tea market is fast eroding; both Sri Lanka and Kenya have overtaken India. Export of marine products, coffee, spices, rice – basmati and non-basmati, and oil seeds has recorded considerable progress in recent years.

### Impact on agriculture employment

| Year | Share of workers in total workforce | Share of private sector in GDP | Gross capital formation as percentage of GDP in Agriculture | Gross CI formation as % of total GCF in the economy |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1971 | 69.6                                | 44.5                           | 7.8                                                         | 14.7                                                |
| 1981 | 66.5                                | 39.7                           | 10.9                                                        | 16.3                                                |
| 1991 | 64.8                                | 32.0                           | 7.5                                                         | 8.1                                                 |



|      |      |      |     |     |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| 1995 | 64.7 | 27.9 | 6.8 | 7.4 |
| 1998 | 64.6 | 29.2 | 6.5 | 6.7 |
| 2000 | 64.5 | 25.7 | 6.2 | 5.8 |

Source: GoI, Agriculture statistics at glance 2000

It is observed from the table that the share of agriculture workers in total work force constituted 69.6 percent in 1971, which further declined to 66.5 percent in 1981 and 64.8 percent in 1991. From 1995 onwards there is no significant change in total workforce. It could also be seen from the table that during the period from 1971 to 1991, the share of private sector in GDP had registered declining rate and again declined to 25.7 percent in 2000. Gross capital formation in agriculture and total GFC was increasing for 1981. Thereafter, it started declining. Government and private investment are very essential to carry out agricultural activities efficiently. Many studies have shown that government expenditure on capital formation should be raised.

Agriculture laborers are working in informal sector. As we know, informal workers have no proper working hours, not governed by any labor law and no provisions like formal sector workers. At the same time the share of informal workers in total workers in India is 90.68%, 95.93% for men and women respectively. It has been mentioned in the following table about the growth of agriculture employment in post and pre reform period. Employment growth during post reform period in rural and urban areas has declined (Somasekar 2013).

| Period             | Area  | Growth of employment |
|--------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Pre-reform period  | Rural | 1.38                 |
|                    | Urban | 1.54                 |
| Post-reform period | Rural | 0.12                 |
|                    | Urban | -3.74                |

Source: Economic situation of India 2007

The employment growth was 1.38 percent in rural area and 1.54 percent in urban areas before reform period. But in post-reform period, it was negative in urban area and declined from 1.38 percent to 0.12 percent in rural area. So, reform period did not create adequate employment opportunity to all.

### Conclusion

Globalization has brought spectacular changes in Indian economy in the form of easy access to foreign trade, availability of technology, free trade etc. The other side of globalization has created negative impact on agricultural sector among laborers, farmers, production and productivity. Agricultural production declined by 12.6 in 2003. Agricultural growth slowed from 4.69 in 1991 to 2.6 in 1991-1998 and 1.1 in 2002-2003. Small and marginal farmers became laborers and they were not able to get seed as how they got before the implementation of NEP.

Overall productivity and growth of agricultural sector was affected. Marginal and small farmers committed suicide in most of the states in India. Agricultural cultivatable land areas are also destroyed due to many reasons. Climate changes had created an adverse effect on farmers. Agricultural crisis cannot be solved by single solution and overnight. The size of holding is differs from farmers to farmers, cropping pattern is varied, farmers are heterogeneous in nature, adopting modern technology may not be feasible for all farmers.

Hence single solution cannot be the remedy for all types of farmers throughout the country. Identification of location based problems is very important to frame policy towards agriculture crisis. He mentioned that 3 lakh farmers have committed suicides over the past 18 years. India is losing 2000 farmers every day. (Lakshmi Narayanan 2015) Government of India has implemented lot of programs. like 100 percent



tax holiday, crop insurance policy, farmers insurance and sanctioning agricultural implement loan does not help all farmers.

The large farmers are availing all concessions largely. So government should extend their support still towards small and marginal farmers. As Gunnar Mirdal says if a country's agriculture is backward, the economy is also likely to remain backward.

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## Significance of Environmental Sustainable Development

Dr.Prakash S.Kattimani\*

*[Environmental issues are fast becoming major global issues. Humans depend on a sustainable and healthy environment, and yet we have damaged the environment in numerous ways. This article introduces other issues including biodiversity, climate change, animal and nature conservation, population, genetically modified food and sustainable development. The idea of sustainable development grew from numerous environmental movements in earlier decades. Summits such as the Earth Summit in Rio, Brazil, 1992, were major international meetings to bring sustainable development to the mainstream. The concept of sustainability means many different things to different people, and a large part of humanity around the world still lives without access to basic necessities.]*

**E**nvironmental sustainability involves making decisions and taking actions that are in the interests of protecting the natural world, with particular emphasis on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life. It is an important topic at the present time, as people are realizing the full impact that businesses and individuals can have on the environment.

Environmental sustainability is about making responsible decisions that will reduce your

business' negative impact on the environment. It is not simply about reducing the amount of waste you produce or using less energy, but is concerned with developing processes that will lead to businesses becoming completely sustainable in the future.

### Environment sustainability

Understanding and use of the word "environmental" quite often tends to be associated with some kind of human impact on natural systems. This context distinguishes it from the word "ecological," which can be characterized as a concept of interdependence

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