ISSN 0970-7247

THIRD CONCEPT

English Monthly
Annual Subscription Rs. 200

Vol. 30 | No. 350 | APRIL 2016 | Rs. 20.00

- India-Russia Relations
- Relevance of Gandhi
- Nehru's Contribution
- Unemployment
- Environmental Jurisprudence
- Religion, Politics & Indian Parliament

THIRD CONCEPT

An International Journal of Ideas

Vol. 30 No. 350 APRIL 2016 Rs. 20. 00

Third Concept aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

While the Editor accepts responsibility for the selection of materials to be published, individual authors are responsible for the facts, figures, and views in their articles. However, the Editor reserves the right to edit the articles for reasons of space and clarity.

Published, Printed and Owned by
Babuddin Khan
Third Concept
LB - 39, Prakash Deep Building,
7, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110 001.
Phones : 23711092, 23712249
Fax No: 23711092.
E-mail : third.concept@rediffmail.com
Website: www.thirdconceptjournal.co.in

Designed by: Pt. Tejpal

INSIDE

Editorial
National Interest! 5
B.K
India-Russia Relations in Regional Context 7
Dr. Sachinkumar M. Kattimani
Recognising Nehru's Contribution 12
Dr. Neeru Sharma
Religion, Politics and Indian Parliament 15
Mrs. Meetu
Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi Today 19
Dr. Monica Chutani
Unemployment – A Social Problem 22
C. R. Prasad Swain
Article 48A & Environmental Jurisprudence 24
Ketki T. Kumaiyan
MNREGA and Empowerment of Women 30
Channanarasimhappa & Dr G Sreeramulu
Role of Assamese Women in India's Freedom Struggle 34
Raja Doley
Interface between Agriculture & Globalization in Theni (Tamil Nadu) 37
Mrs. S.Velanganni Dr.D.J Selvi Anitha & Mrs M. Akins Barween
Dairy and Livestock Growth in Theni (Tamil Nadu) 42
A.Kalaivani
Representation of Dalit Women in Local Rural Bodies 48
Dr. Jayanta Kumar Dab
Assam-Nagaland Border Dispute: Need for a New Framework 53
Ms. N. Nyejat Konyak
Malnutrition among children in Kerala 55
Dr. Haseena V.A

Interface between Agriculture & Globalization in Theni (Tamil Nadu)

Mrs. S. Velanganni* Dr.D.J Selvi Anitha** & Mrs M. Akins Barween***

[As Mahatma Gandhi stated, Indian agriculture is carried out by rural farming communities. Farming community includes owner cultivator, based-land cultivator and workers. Their role in agriculture is not merely meeting their requirements or carrying out agricultural activities for their livelihood, they provide food for ever growing population and support the government through supplying raw materials to the industries. Thus, agriculture-based industries have increased manifold. Agriculture sector contributes to the nation in the form of GDP. It provides employment opportunity to the rural poor.]

India is one of the major agricultural countries with more than 67 per cent of the population depending on it. Indian agriculture is depended on monsoon which is not uniform throughout the years. Nearly three-fourth of the cultivable land in India is dependent on monsoon, which contributes nearly 42 per cent of the total production of agriculture.

The production of agriculture is determined by number of variables like fertility of the soil, quality of the seed, size of level holding, amount of fertilizers and pesticides used and proper irrigation. Indian agriculture sector has its own historical background. Green revolution has changed the pattern of cropping and method of cultivation through modern applications and introducing HYV seeds and chemicals fertilizers. It has a land mark in the history of Indian agriculture.

Here comes difference of opinions about Green Revolution that it is highly capital-oriented and has eroded many agriculturalists from the field. It is also mentioned by many experts that it has been the favor for few states and few crops in India. Small and marginal farmers have also been affected severely.

* Asst Prof. of Economics,
&*Asst Professors of Commerce, J.A.Collge for Women, Periya Kulam.

The liberalized economic policy of India promoted global and capital farming system through economic integration popularly known as globalization. As a process of it, WTO has brought agriculture sector into WTO agreement in 1995. This liberalized trade policy promoted agriculture trade than production. It reflected in the growth of agriculture sector of all areas, especially the rural farming community. In no way agriculture in Theni district of Tamil Nadu could escape from the impact of globalization.

Agriculture in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is the southernmost state in the Indian sub-continent. The nearest states of Tamil Nadu are Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on the North and Kerala on the West. Tamil Nadu with an estimated area of 1,20,058 sq.km ranks eleventh among the states of India in size and constitutes 4 percent of the land area of the country. The state can be divided into two broad natural regions- the coastal plains and hilly western area. The major rivers flowing through Tamil Nadu are the Cauvery, Vaigai and the Tamaraparani.

Density of population in Tamil Nadu and in India1991-2001(in Sq.km)

State	Year 1991	Year 2001
Tamil Nadu	429	478
India	267	324

Source : Census of India 2001(paper 1 of 201)

Cropping Pattern

Paddy is the dominant crop accounting for 33 percent gross cropped area. Groundnut, sugarcane and cotton are important commercial crops. Jowar, Bajra and Pulses are important food grain crops. These seven crops account for about 73 per cent of gross cropped area, while 42% other crops are each cultivated in small areas. Rice being the staple food of the people of Tamil Nadu and its dominant share in the crop mix had remained steady when supply of water in Cauvery was delayed.

Area of Jowar (cholam) cultivation has come down from 7.74 lakh hectares in 1960-61 to less than 4 lakh hectares in 1999-2000. Area under Bajra (cumbu) has fallen from 4.89 lakh hectare to 1.58 lakh hectare during the same period. Area under pulses expanded from 4.27 lakh hectares to 6.93 lakh hectares between 1960-61 and 1999-2000. Area under sugarcane increased from just 0.82 lakh before in 1960-61 to 3.116 lakh hectare in 1999-2000.

Gross cropped area has been reduced to 10 percent (73.20 lakh hectare to 65.17 lakh hectare). This has to be paid more attention because the population, depending upon agriculture, has increased from 95 lakh in 1971 to 144 lakh in 1991.

Agriculture and women labor force in India

The following table shows that globalization has created migration among rural communities, including farming groups. Rural to rural migration and feminization in agriculture is high in India. According to 2001 census, the women agriculture laborers in India were 46.9 of the total workforce. The same is given for four states which are having high women labor rate even today.

States	Percentage
Andhra Pradesh	53.5
Karnataka	58.2
Maharashtra	56.3
Tamil Nadu	50.1

The important reasons for feminization in agriculture are: responsibility of household provision, general attitude towards them, they are low paid workers and gender inequality. Today, most of the plantation works are carried out with the help of machines. Large farmers have been using agriculture machineries and implements in production activities which eroded laborers to some extent.

Since the traditional crops like paddy, wheat are water intensive, they changed their cropping pattern from traditional crop to cash crops. Marketing cash crops becomes much easier than traditional crops. So the cropping pattern has also been changed in Theni district.

Profile of the study area- Theni district

Theni is one of the southern districts in Tamil Nadu. It was separated from its parent district Madurai in July 1996. There were three taluks namely Uthamapalayam, Periyakulam and Andipatti in Madurai before the bifurcation of Theni district. Theni municipal town was upgraded as new taluk and one more taluk was created called Bodinayakannur after bifurcation. Now there are five taluks, eight blocks and two revenue divisions in Theni.

Theni district is situated in between latitude 9030 and 10030 and longitude 77000 and 78000 with an area of 3242.30 Sq. Km. It is an inland district. It is encompassed on the west by Kerala state, on the east by Madurai District, on the north by Dindugal District, and on the South partly by Kerala and Viruthunagar.

Theni is an agrarian area and accounts for 67 per cent of its population depending on it. Vaigaidam, Manjalarudam, sothuparai dam, kumbakkarai falls and Suruli falls are all important tourist places in the district. It is a commercial town. There is a famous Hindu temple called Gowmariamman, which is situated in Veerapandi, a village of Theni District. This

district celebrates interstate festival on chithra pournami day every year. Saneeswara Bhagavanb temple at kuchanur is also another famous Hindu temple of this district.

Demographic profile of Theni district

Period	Region	Population	Percentage variation with the Pre -vious census
1981-1991	Total	1049323	
	Rural	703748	
	Urban	345575	
1991-2001	Total	1093950	+4.25
	Rural	502109	-28.66
	Urban	591841	+71.76
2001-2011	Total	1245899	
	Rural	575418	
	Urban	670481	

Source: *Statistical handbook of Theni district* (2008-2009)

Agriculture Population of Theni District

Year	Cultivators	Agriculture laborers
2001	50,436	245989
2011	36,371	2,75,585

This table shows that, there was a movement from the cultivators between 2001 census to 2011 census. Cultivators' number has started declining from 50,436 to 36,371. At the same time, the number of agriculture laborers has increased from 2,45989 to 2,75,585. High capital intensive farming system has made the small and marginal farmers to shift their work from agriculture and sell their land too.

Rank of Theni, Distinct in terms of agriculture development of Tamil Nadu during 1990-1991 to 2006-2007

Component of composite index	Crop area variables	irrigation	Live stock	fisheries	fertilizer	Cultivators laborers	Over all rank
1990-1991	2	9	28	-	-	17	6
1995-1996	10	14	20	17	2	18	8
2000-2001	13	19	17	17	3	5	15
2005-2006	18	18	27	15	5	15	17

Source: *State Agricultural Plan* (2005-2006)

It has been observed from the above table that, except livestock and fisheries. all other variables have shown negative development and the overall development also mixed from 6th to 17th rank over the 15 years.

Consumption of chemical fertilizers & pesticides

One of the important yield determinants is fertilizer. Since from the mid-1967, the usage of chemical fertilizers has increased in India which helped the farmers to take more yield. It reduced the consumption of organic manure. Fertilizers are subsidized and supplied through regulated markets, dealers and private traders (agriculture traders).

Year	Nitro gen (N)	Phosphate (p2 65)	Pottasic K2O)	Total (NPK)	Dust (tonsmt)	Liquid (lt	Area in tonns
2006-2007	9982.0	5928.4	591108	218232	1206.0	56997.0	13770.0
2008-2009	10477	6767	5943	23187	215	18190	1496
2012-2013	6230	2696	1652	10578	13	23500	

Source: *Statistical handbook of Theni* (2006-2007), (2008-2009), (2012-2013)

Production In Million Tonns

Year	Total food crops	Total Non food crops
1996-1997	84999	42610
1997-1998	89335	42020
1998-1999	87022	40205
1999-2000	85797	39164
2000-2001	85672	37590
2001-2002	81807	37253
2002-2003	83658	32734
2003-2004	82589	32225
2004-2005	86614	34244
2005-2006	87570	32501
2006-2007	87553	27159
2007-2008	87491	32436

Source: *Compendium Agricultural Statistics 1950-51 to 2007-2008*

Farm Mechanization/Farm Equipments

Particulars	1994 census (Nos.)
1) Plough	
a) Woodenb)	79750
b) Iron	75835
Total	1,55,585

2) Water Pumps for Irrigation purpose 48732

3) Tractors

a) Government	131
b) Private	2001
Total	2132

4) Sugarcane Crushers

a) Worked by Power	23
b) Worked by Bullocks	30
Total	53

5) Oil Ghanis

a) 5 Kg and above	65
b) Less than 5Kg	135
Total	200

Source: *Statistical Hand Book* (2005-2006)

Farm Mechanization/Farm Equipments

Particulars	2004 census (Nos.)
1) Plough	
a) Wooden	2378
b) Iron	1811
Total	4189

2) Water Pumps for Irrigation purpose

a) Worked by Oil Engine	1403
b) Worked by Electric Power	6244
Total	7647

3) Tractors

a) Government	
b) Private	980
Total	980

4) Sugarcane Crushers

a) Worked by Power	27
b) Worked by Bullocks	197
Total	224

5) Oil Ghanis

a) 5 Kg and above	
b) Less than 5Kg	64
Total	64

As far as an agriculture implement is concerned, there is a shift from traditional wooden equipments to modern equipments. Number of sugarcane crushes increased. Farmers are aware of agricultural implements and they are given subsidy for the implements. Demonstration classes are also conducted by the agriculture department. During the informal discussion with the farmers toward the agriculture activities, it has been observed that for the past ten years applications of agriculture technology and implements have been popularized among the farmers and even small and marginal farmers are jointly hiring machine for their operations and the amount has been shared by them.

Land Utilization Pattern (in hectares)

Year	Total Geogra -phical	Net Areas Sown
1996-97	2,88,923	1,17,276
1997-98	2,88,923	1,19,946
1998-99	2,88,923	1,17,194
1999-2000	5,88,923	1,13,238
2000-01	2,88,923	1,12,142
2001-02	2,88,923	1,08,626
2002-03	2,88,923	1,07,613
2003-04	3,24,230	1,08,142
2004-05	3,24,230	1,12,053
2005-06	3,24,230	1,11,599
2006-07	3,24,230	1,12,895
2007-08	3,24,230	1,12,405
2008-09	3,24,230	1,15,403
2012-13	3,24,230	1,06,77,500

Source: *Compendium Agricultural Statistics*, 1950-51 to 2007-2008

Conclusion

Though agriculture is the primary sector in India, globalization has changed its method of cultivation, production and sales. The foundation of agriculture has totally changed today. Foundation includes seed saving on their own, self-sowing and autonomy in planting. At the same time, it depends on the government for crop loan, insurance, seeds, fertilizers, power, irrigation and marketing. State support to agriculture has been reduced.

Arun Jaitley, Union Finance Minister has said recently that agriculture sector needs higher investments in rural infrastructure and agriculture. He said that this sector was plagued by a series of handicaps like inadequate irrigation, high indebtedness and climate change.

Natural calamities, climate change and inevitable mechanization and globalization are closely associated with the farmer community. Large farmers can save themselves in the process of globalization. But small and marginal farmers and agricultural laborers cannot survive unless government extends its support to them and labor-centric approach on all farming activities is not adopted soon.

Reference

1. *State agricultural Plan* (Tamil Nadu) (2005-2006)
2. *Statistical Handbook of Theni district* (2005-2006)
3. *Statistical Handbook of Theni district* (2008-2009)
4. *Statistical Handbook of Theni district* (2012-2013)

◆◆