Chapter-8

AGRICULTURE

8.1 Significance of Agriculture Sector: Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy. 54.6% of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities (census 2011) and it contributes 17.4% to the country's Gross Value Added (current price 2014-15, 2011-12 series). The Agriculture Sector occupies centre stage in Indian economy embodying three thrust areas as (1) to promote inclusive growth, (2) to enhance rural income, and (3) to sustain food security.

8.2 Increasing pressure on agricultural land : Increasing demand for industrialization, urbanization, housing and infrastructure is forcing conversion of agricultural land to non – agricultural uses; the scope for expansion of the area available for cultivation is limited. This is reflected in decrease in net sown area departing from the traditional subsistence nature of agriculture, the farmers, in the post green revolution scenario, are increasingly growing crops with an eye on the market. Non remunerative or low yield crops are being replaced by non-food crops that fetch higher remunerative prices and the farmers are increasingly resorting to horticulture, floriculture, sericulture, viniculture, apiculture and other similar activities. As a result of which, area under food crops is declining in some areas, especially in case of coarse grains. **Organic farming** is also picking up due to increase in demands for healthy products.

8.3 Land Use Pattern: Increasing fragmentation of land holdings is a continuing cause for concern. Around 85 percent of the operational holdings in the country are small and marginal, i.e., holdings of less than 2 hectares each. This is indicative of the significant fragmentation of operational holdings in India. Medium holdings are getting converted frequently into small and marginal holdings, and no signs of reversal can be seen in the foreseeable future.

8.4 National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A): The Government is implementing a state sector plan scheme (erstwhile centrally sponsored) Mission Mode Project (MMP) **National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A)** which was initially launched in seven selected States in the last quarter of 2010-11 has been extended to cover all the States and UTs in the countries from 2014-15. This scheme has now been subsumed in the National Mission on Agriculture and Information Technology (NMAET) as one of the sub components under the title-Sub Mission on Agriculture Extension. This scheme has since been subsumed under the Krishonnati Yojana (state plan) from 2015-16 with funds sharing pattern between Centre and State in the ratio of 90:10 for N.E. & Himalayan States, 60:40 for rest of the States & 100 % centre share for Union Territories.

In order to promote balanced regional development of the agriculture sector, the government is focused on **"Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India".** The scheme addresses the constraints that cause low productivity in the rice-based cropping systems in seven states of eastern India. Simultaneously, the Government is taking steps to encourage much-needed crop diversification in the original **"Green Revolution"** states of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, to prevent further decline in soil fertility and water table level in these states.

8.5 Source of Information : : Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) in the **Department of Agriculture & Cooperation**, **Ministry of Agriculture** brings out various publications like State of Indian Agriculture, Agriculture Statistics at a Glance, Agricultural Prices in India, Land Use Statistics at a Glance, The State of Indian Agriculture 2015-16 and Annual Report 2015-16. Information pertaining to individual plan is also available in the website of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare i.e. www.**agriculture**.gov.in, and http://www.agricoop.nic.in etc.

Name of Chapter : Agriculture		
List of Tables		
Sr. No.	No. of Table	Name of Table
1	8.1	Pattern of Land Utilisation
2	8.2	Area under Principal Crops
3	8.3	Production of Principal Crops
4	8.4	Average Yield of Principal Crops
5	8.5	All India Index Numbers of Yield of Principal Crops
6	8.6	Cost Estimate of some principal crops in five Major Producing States

Reference :

1. Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
2. Tea Board, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
3. Coffee Board, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
4. Rubber Board, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
5. Horticulture Division, DAC&FW