



THE BONA FIDE ETHNICITY IN THE REAR AGRICULTURE

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Abstract

Agriculture is the largest sector of economic activity in India. Agriculture provides livelihood support to about two thirds of the country's population and continues to be the backbone of the economy. Due to the diverse agro-climatic conditions in the country, large numbers of agricultural items are produced. Broadly these can be classified as food grain crops and commercial crops. A variety of crops is grown in India. With the advent of New Agricultural Strategy and Green Revolution extensive cropping pattern is giving way to intensive cropping. The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain healthy and active life". Commonly the concept of food security is defined as including both physical and economic access to food that meets people's dietary needs as well as their food preferences. As defined by the 1996 World Food Summit, "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active life". The farmers of the paddy cultivation have been opposite a variety of problems, loads of farmers have compound Problems, in all, and nearly 70 per cent is allied with the labour shortage. This alone is the prime problem, and at times the farmers put their land as fallow due to this problem. The next vital problem is the lack of water storage. However, it was not at all a problem among the farmers. All other problems viz. higher wage, natural calamities, low price for paddy, and water ease of use are the trifling ones among the paddy cultivators. In short, everywhere labour scarcity as the key problem.

Key Words: *Food Security, Agriculture, Extensive Cropping and Intensive Cropping.*

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the largest sector of economic activity in India and it has been a way of life and livelihood of the masses. Agriculture provides livelihood support to about two thirds of the country's population and continues to be the backbone of the economy. Due to the diverse agro-climatic conditions in the country, large numbers of agricultural items are produced. Broadly these can be classified as food grain crops and commercial crops. A variety of crops is grown in India. With the advent of New Agricultural Strategy and Green Revolution extensive cropping pattern is giving way to intensive cropping. It has provided ample opportunities to the Indian farmers to raise manifold production. This is totally possible by making easy availability of chemical fertilizers, plant protection, and improved techniques of production assured irrigation with appropriate price policy. For achieving inclusive growth achieving minimum agricultural growth is a pre requisite.

POSING THE PROBLEM

The proportion of agriculture in Palakkad is higher, but there we can see the production of commercial crops is more than that of food crops. The area under production of rice shows a declining trend in Palakkad which is an evidence of lacking food security. High cost production, unavailability of farm laborers, uncertain climatic condition...etc result in decline in paddy cultivation in Palakkad district.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active life.(World Food Summit). So it is essential for the development of any of the society.

METHODOLOGY

The study is entirely based on secondary data. The data collected from various sources like Economic and Political Weekly, Front line, Yojana, Kurukshetra, agricultural department of Palakkad, Panchayati office and other materials including articles, periodicals, journals and internet.



OBJECTIVES

- To make a detailed explanation about food security.
- To analyze the trends in agricultural production.
- To identify the problems faced by the agricultural farmers.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

G.Balachandran Pillai, on constraints on diffusion and adoption of agro-mechanical technology for rice cultivation in Kerala, attempts to find out the extent to which improved farm implements and machinery have been adopted by the rice cultivators of the state. Bobby Issac on production and marketing of vegetables in Kerala: Constraints and policy implications examines the economics of vegetable cultivation. This study suggests improvements to the infrastructure facilities such as cold storage to reduce the post-harvest losses and to increase the self life of vegetables. John and Sidhu analysed the change in cropping pattern in different states and in the country as a whole during triennium ending 1984-1985. They reported a 3.5% decrease in area under coarse cereals and replacement of coarse cereals by fine cereals like wheat and rice. C.T. Kurien while comparing the agricultural change in Kerala with that of Tamilnadu, point out the predominance of cash crops as their feature of cropping pattern in Kerala. World Bank found that price support to agriculture, particularly to rice and wheat is considered to be one of the important implements to diversification towards High Yielding Variety Seeds (HYVS) which do not receive such support.

Features of agriculture sector in Kerala (Jisha.K.K 2015)

- Shift in cropping pattern from food crops to commercial crops.
- Highly scrappy and small size of land holdings.
- Production of export slanting crops like spices, cashew, rubber, coffee and tea.
- Declining the share of agriculture in state GDP.
- Declining capital formation in agriculture.
- Lesser irrigation facility in some areas.
- Bazaar leaning crops cultivation.
- Mechanization and exercise of advanced technology.
- Higher cost pushes the producers away from agriculture to new profitable ventures.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR PERFORMANCE DURING THE 11TH FIVE YEAR PLAN

The middling annual growth in agriculture and allied sectors realized during the first four years of the Eleventh Plan Period, i.e., 2007-08 to 2010-11, is 3.5 percent adjacent to the targeted growth rate of 4 percent. Agriculture and allied sectors recorded considerably lower average growth than the targeted in the Eleventh Plan Period owing to harsh dearth experienced in a good number parts of the country during 2009-10 and drought/deficient precipitation in some states, namely Bihar, Jharkhand, eastern UP and West Bengal in 2010-11. However, opportune and remedial measures taken by the government helped to boost up the agricultural production and growth in agriculture and allied sectors reached 7.0 per cent in 2010-11, the uppermost growth rate achieved during the last six years. In 2011-12 agriculture and allied sectors are estimated to pull off growth rate of 2.5 per cent. However a matter of great concern is the fact that agricultural growth is tranquil, to an extent, characterized by fluctuations due to the vagaries of nature.(Economic Survey 2011-12)

DATA ANALYSIS

The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain healthy and active life”. Commonly the concept of food security is defined as including both physical and economic access to food that meets people’s dietary needs as well as their food preferences. In many countries, health problems related to dietary excess are an ever increasing threat. In fact, malnutrition and food borne diarrhea are become double burden. Food security refers to the availability of food and one’s access to it. A household is considered food secure when its occupants do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. Worldwide around 852 million people are chronically hungry due to extreme poverty, while up



to 2 billion people lack food security intermittently due to varying degrees of poverty (source: FAO, 2003). As defined by the 1996 World Food Summit, “*Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active life*”.

Food security is built on three pillars

- Food availability: sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis.
- Food access: having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
- Food use: appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation.

Rice is the staple food of the people of Kerala. Rice is cultivated throughout the country. The important rice producing areas in the state are Kuttanad and Palakkad. Rice production has been stagnating around 10 to 11 lakh tones during the past decade. Paddy cultivators have been facing various problems like paddy did not fetch the reasonable price all over the country. The fall in the price will leads to increase in the cost of cultivation, this leads to farmers to commit suicide. The number of farmers commit suicide has been increasing because of the unfavorable climate condition, low price, and high cost of cultivation. Paddy cultivators of Palakkad are falling down as in time going.

This paper shows the major causative factor identified by the social scientist is shortage of labour and low price for paddy. Rice is cultivated throughout the country; the important rice producing areas in the state are Kuttanad, Palghat and Trichur. Despite substantial improvement in productivity, rice production has been stagnating around 10 to 11 lakhs tones during the past decade. The state had gross cropped area of 8.75 lakh hectares under paddy cultivation in the mid- seventies contributing to an annual production of around 13 to 14 lakh tons of rice and 25 lakh tones of straw. The area under rice at least at the present level and making rice production more attractive the state government came out with several important production programmes for rice.

Group farming was the major tactic adopted under the Eighth Five Year Plan for the encouragement of rice production. Under this programme special stress was given to group administration for improving the economies of paddy cultivation through better management based on low cost technology, improvement in productivity, selective mechanization and cost reduction. State Paddy Mission under Agriculture Department attained the best growth rate in paddy production in a decade. The state had a production increase of 56000 tonnes in the last financial year. Alapuzha district comes first in farming 1952 hectares of fallow land with paddy. Palakkad district comes second by farming the crop in 1597 hectares of fallow land.

PRODUCTION

The total rice production during the year 2004-2005 was estimated at 6.67 lakh tonnes as against 13.39 lakh tonnes during 1981-1982. This shows a diminishing trend in the production of rice over the years. Palakkad is the boss rice producing district and accounts for 39 per cent of the total rice production in the state. Thrissur and Alapuzha are the other major rice producing districts of the state. In the case of rice production (autumn), Palakkad district has increased its contribution from 41 per cent to 52 per cent in 2004-2005 when compared to the year 1995-1996. But the share of production (autumn) trend of other districts is off-putting. State government or local self-government has to make out areas where the paddy cultivation can be carried out profitably and to state publicly these areas for elite paddy production areas and to egg on the farmers by giving necessary helps so that paddy production can be increased to a very good extent. Implement various Programs aim to reduce cost of cultivation, increase production; productivity and marketing facilities for making paddy cultivation profitable have to be chalked out sincerely by all concerned.

Paddy Price and Subsidy: The price is fixed by Civil Supply Corporation. It fixes the price according to the quality of paddy and it ranges between Rs 11 and Rs 12. In the present study, generally the farmers get Rs 12 per Kg as their paddy has good quality while they were able to get only Rs 11.6 per Kg for their paddy as it is a low



quality paddy. In all, more than 50 per cent of the farmers have availed subsidy. But none of them benefited waiving off the loan provided to them.

Table No – 1, Trends in Agricultural Production 1950-51-2010-11 in Million Units.

*FYP-Five Year Plan. The data are in average

*Annual Plans (1966-69)

Crop	1950-51	1FYP	2FYP	3FYP	Annual plans	4FYP	5FYP	6FYP	7FYP	8FYP	9FYP	10FYP	2009-10	2010-11
Rice	20.6	25.0	30.3	35.1	35.9	41.8	47.3	54.5	65.1	78.7	87.3	85.6	89.1	94.1
Wheat	6.4	7.9	9.7	11.1	15.5	25.4	29.8	41.2	48.3	62.9	71.3	70.2	80.7	84.3
Jowar	5.5	7.5	8.7	8.8	9.7	8.3	10.8	11.3	10.9	10.7	7.9	7.2	7.0	-
Bajra	2.6	3.4	3.4	3.9	4.5	6.0	5.0	6.0	5.2	6.7	7.1	8.2	6.5	-
Maize	1.7	2.7	3.6	4.6	5.6	6.1	6.3	7.3	7.6	9.8	11.6	14.0	16.7	20.2
Other cereals	6.1	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.4	7.1	6.0	5.4	4.9	4.5	3.6	3.6	-
Pulses	8.4	10.1	11.7	11.1	10.3	10.9	11.7	11.8	12.5	13.3	13.1	13.3	14.6	17.3
Total Food grains	50.8	63.2	74.0	81.0	87.8	103.0	118.1	138.1	155.0	189.0	202.9	202.2	218.2	235.9
Oilseeds	6.2	5.5	6.7	7.3	7.2	8.3	8.9	11.4	13.9	21.9	21.2	23.2	24.9	30.3
Sugarcane	57.1	55.3	80.3	109.2	104.3	128.1	153.3	174.9	196.4	258.4	292.4	277.0	277.7	340.5
Cotton	3.0	3.9	4.8	5.4	5.5	5.9	6.8	7.5	8.4	12.2	10.8	16.0	23.9	33.9
Jute	3.3	3.9	4.4	5.7	4.9	5.5	5.2	6.4	8.9	8.1	9.6	10.1	10.7	10.4

Source: Indian Economy Misra and Puri 2011

The table shows the trends in production of various crops. A manifold increase in the production can be seen in the case of Rice, wheat and sugarcane. All other crops have shown the same tendency by year goes. In the first Five Year Plan, the production of rice is 25 million units, but in tenth five year plan, it became 85.6 million units, on an average of four times better. In the case of wheat and sugarcane, the same has happened. In the first five year plan, the wheat comes about 7.9 million units, in tenth, it is 70.2 million units: tenfold improvement. Sugarcane jumped from 55.3 million units to 277.0 million units. It is a good symbol of improvement.

Table No-2, Area, Production and Productivity of Important Crops

SL No	Crops	Area (Ha)		Production (MT)		Productivity (Kg/ha)	
		2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012
1	Rice	213187	208160	522738	568993	2452	2733
2	Pulses	3824	3668	2908	3128	760	853
3	Pepper	172182	85335	45267	37989	263	445
4	Ginger	6088	6908	33197	37130	5453	5375
5	Turmeric	2391	2970	6198	7946	2592	2675
6	Cardamom	41242	41600	7935	10222	192	246
7	Areca nut	99834	104548	99909	121623	1001	1163
8	Banana	58671	59069	483667	514054	8244	8703
9	Other Plantains	49129	48747	353772	330634	7201	6783
10	Cashew nut	43848	54052	34752	36743	793	680



11	Tapioca	72284	74498	2408962	2567953	33326	34470
12	Coconut	770473	820867	5287	5941	6862	7237
13	Coffee	84931	84413	65650	68175	773	808
14	Tea	36965	37028	57291	57903	1550	1564
15	Rubber	534230	539565	770580	788940	1442	1462

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics

During 2011-2012 the area under rice declined by 5027 ha. In case of pepper, the area declined from 1.7 lakh ha in 2010-11 to 0.9 lakh ha in 2011-12. Area under coconut was 7.7 lakh ha in 2010-11. But it augmented to 8.2 lakh ha during 2011-12. All the chief crops apart from rice and pepper showed increase in area in 2011-12. Likewise production of all foremost crops increased in 2011-12 except pepper. Significant increase in production of rice is reported to the tune of 9 per cent in 2011-12. In the case of coconut 12 percent increase in productivity is also reported.

Table No -3, Food Grain Production

Year	Quantity in million tonnes
2001-02	212.85
2002-03	174.77
2003-04	213.19
2004-05	198.36
2005-06	208.60
2006-07	217.28
2007-08	230.78
2008-09	234.47
2009-10	218.11
2010-11	244.49
2011-12	259.32
2012-13	250.14

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

The figures show the trends in food grain production from 2001-02 to 2012-13. The data moves in a zig-zag direction. By the beginning that is in the year 2001-02, the food grain production stood at 212.85 million tonnes, by the end, in 2012-13 it shows 250.14 million tonnes. It is somewhat stable for that period.

Table No – 4, Decadal Wise Area under Paddy Crops in Hectare

SI No	Decade	Area
1	1970-71	182621
2	1980-81	183634
3	1990-91	145687
4	2000-01	118701
5	2010-11	87000

Source: THE HINDU SEPTEMBER 23 2014

The table shows the production of paddy covering area. It shows a considerable deterioration. In the first decade, we were enjoyed 182621 hectares of paddy cultivation, in the next decade it increased to 183634 hectare. But in later it falls to 145687, 118701 and 87000 hectares successively. It is not a good symbol, because it adversely affects the food security.



PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FARMERS

The farmers of the paddy cultivation have been opposite a variety of problems, loads of farmers have compound Problems, in all, and nearly 70 per cent is allied with the labour shortage. This alone is the prime problem, and at times the farmers put their land as fallow due to this problem. The next vital problem is the lack of water storage. However, it was not at all a problem among the farmers. All other problems viz. higher wage, natural calamities, low price for paddy, and water ease of use are the trifling ones among the paddy cultivators. In short, every where labour scarcity as the key problem.

Problems Faced by Paddy Cultivators in general are Labour , Wage, Lack of Water Storage, Natural Calamities, Low Price and Lack of Water. Even though the problems were severe, there were certain solution also existed. They are If we provide better subsidies for paddy cultivation, it will leads to an increase in the production to a greater extent. Some of High Yielding Varieties of seeds will increase the paddy production by multiple. And proper automation will reduce the labour paucity which in turn leads to higher production.

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