

Agripreneurship Education and Development : Need of The Day

Abstract

Large population of India is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. But Indian agriculture is low productive with large number of disguised unemployed. Present paper highlights the various aspect of agripreneurship education and its development. The performance of the agriculture sector influences the growth of Indian economy. Agriculture and allied sectors are considered to be mainstay of the Indian economy. They are the important sources of raw materials and they demands for many industrial products particularly fertilizers, pesticides, agriculture implements and a variety of consumer goods.

Keywords: Agriculture, Fertilizers, Consumer Goods, Agripreneurship

Introduction

Indian economy is basically agrarian economy. On 2.4 percent of world land India is managing 75 percent of world population. At the time of independence, more than half of the national income was contributed by agriculture. At the same time more than 70 percent of total population was dependent on agriculture. The first five year plan has emphasis on agriculture development. Also the green revolution strategies adopted during 60s has contributed a lot in making India self sufficient in food production. With advent of new economic policy adopted since 1991, the picture has changed drastically. The contribution of agriculture in national income. Service sector is emerging as driver of economic growth. Service sector, though growing at faster rate in term of income generating, has contributed little in terms of employment generation. Employment opportunities in the service sector are basically for educated and skilled manpower and are centered in urban centers. Uneducated and unskilled mass of India population, living in rural areas are not fitting in to the employment market crated by service sector growth. They are therefore depends in agriculture for their livelihood. With employment of more than 50 percent of labour force agriculture sector is major employment provider even today. The seasonal agriculture and lack of irrigation facilities creates problem of seasonal and cyclical unemployment. Large numbers of persons employment in agriculture are of disguised nature. They seem to be employed but their marginal productivity is zero. Withdrawing of some of the persons from agricultural will not affect agriculture production at all. Disguised nature of agriculture forced the people to migrate from rural to urban areas creating pressure on cities in terms of additional facilities for housing, sanitation, water and also employment. This situation of uneducated, unskilled rural labour migrating from rural to urban areas is like second class citizens without their own identity. This situation can be changed by generating employment opportunity for them in rural areas itself.

Objectives

1. To focus on developing entrepreneurship in the areas of agriculture.
2. To throw light on various self-employment of opportunities which can be generated in agriculture through development of entrepreneurship skill.

Agro entrepreneurship can be used as best medicine for the solution of various problem. (a) Reduce the burden of agriculture. (b) Generate employment opportunities for rural youth. (c) Control migration form rural to urban areas. (d) Increase national income. (e) Support industries development in rural areas. Reduces the pressure on urban cities etc.

Scope for entrepreneurship development in agriculture

1. Technologies those reduce the cost of production and increase the benefits of the farmers will open new opportunities for agri-entrepreneurship.



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2. New technologies that are simple and time saving and keep away farming from drudgery of labour will also provide opportunities for entrepreneurship in agriculture.
3. Technologies that provide social and physiological benefits to farmers will also provide opportunity for entrepreneurship in agriculture.

Gross Capital Formation in Agricultural & Allied Sector 1999-2000 to 2008-09.

Year	GCF in Agricultural & Allied Sector			GCF of Economy (by industry of use)**			Share of Agricultural & Allied Sector in Total GCF (%)		
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1993-94	8,907	19,230	28,137	119,929	150,236	270,165	7.43	12.80	10.41
1994-95	9,706	17,183	26,890	136,636	185,095	321,731	7.10	9.28	8.36
1995-96	9,560	17,777	27,336	128,427	253,715	382,142	7.44	7.01	7.15
1996-97	9,225	20,589	29,814	123,117	221,677	344,795	7.49	9.29	8.65
1997-98	7,812	24,692	32,504	121,107	275,667	396,774	6.45	8.96	8.19
1998-99	7,949	24,956	32,905	131,392	276,419	407,811	6.05	9.03	8.07
1999-2000	8,668	41,483	50,151	144,608	349,391	493,999	5.99	11.87	10.15
2000-01	8,085	37,395	45,480	140,315	330,478	470,793	5.76	11.32	9.66
2001-02	9,712	47,266	56,978	144,540	344,087	488,627	6.72	13.74	11.66
2002-03	8,734	46,934	55,668	134,468	407,337	542,361	6.50	11.52	10.26
2003-04	10,805	42,737	53,542	145,577	465,503	611,080	7.42	9.18	8.76
2004-05	16,182	62,666	78,848	240,755	770,168	1,010,923	6.72	8.14	7.80
2005-06	19,909	73,212	93,121	278,703	894,368	1,173,071	7.14	8.19	7.94
2006-07	22,978	71,422	94,400	324,342	1,037,543	1,361,885	7.08	6.88	6.93
2007-08	23,040	86,966	110,006	379,495	1,189,514	1,569,009	6.07	7.31	7.01
2008-09	24,452	114,145	138,597	414,122	1,116,851	1,530,973	5.90	10.22	9.05

Source: Central Statistical Organization, National Accounts Statistics, 2009 and Ministry of Agriculture.

On farm activities

Depending upon the geographical situation and resources availability the possible areas of entrepreneurship in agriculture are:-

- 1- Agro produce processing units:- These units do not manufacture any new product. They merely process the agriculture produce e.g. Rice mills, Dal mills, Decorticating mills etc.
- 2- Agro Produce manufacturing units:- These units produce entirely new products based on the agricultural produce as the main raw material. E.g.-Sugar factories, Bakery, Straw board units etc.
- 3- Agro-inputs manufacturing units:- These units produce goods either for mechanization of agriculture or for increasing manufacturing plants, e.g.-Fertilizer production units food processing units, agricultural implements etc.
- 4- Agro service centres:- These include the workshops and service centre for repairing and serving the agricultural implement used in agriculture.

Off-Farm Vocations

Entrepreneurship development is also profitable in different Off-Farm activities like cloth starching, knitting, embroidery, cloth printing, (tie and dye) envelope and plastic bag making, candle making etc.

The possible areas of entrepreneurship in allied activities of agriculture.

This include the activities like, Dairying, Sericulture, Goat rearing, Rabbit rearing, Floriculture, Fisheries, Shrimp Farming, Sheep rearing, vegetable cultivation, nursery farming, farm forestry etc.

Suggestions

1. Although Indian Agriculture has come a long way, there are certain implication that have to be addressed for national security our population is expected to be 1.4 billion by 2020. The increasing population, coupled with growing income will generate increased demand for food grains and non-food grain crops. Therefore Indian agriculture has to achieve a higher growth rate targeted at 4 per cent per annum on a sustainable basis. Acceleration of growth of this sector will not only push the overall GDP growth upwards, it would also make the growth more inclusive.
2. Agriculture sector needs well functioning markets to drive growth, employment and economic prosperity in rural areas of the country. To provide dynamism and efficiency into the marketing system, large investment are required for the development of post-harvest and cold infrastructure nearer to the farmer's fields.
3. India agriculture also has to diversify into high-value crops, raise productivity, restore soil health and enhance the application of modern technologies including biotechnology.
4. Human resource development of the persons engaged in agriculture is necessary not only to

have greater penetration of better technology but also because new skill sets would be necessary to enable underemployed labour in this sector to get absorbed in other fast growing sectors.

5. New initiatives in the form of National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana have been taken to rejuvenate this sector. The sector will benefit immensely these policy interventions.
6. The long-term policy framework at broad sectoral level needs to be strengthened and focused on improving inter-and intra-sectoral linkages. In addition there is a need to build an outcome oriented perspective in the implementation of public programmes in the area of irrigation, fertilizer use of high yielding varieties of seeds extension support for facilitating adoption of improved practices and market access.

Conclusion

It is suggested that agro-based entrepreneurship mission and the agro-based entrepreneurship education should go hand in hand. Mass employment generation is possible with agro-based industrialization. With better industrial and entrepreneurship education discipline, entrepreneurs will naturally take advantage of the vast human resources availability.

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