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AGRICULTURAL GROWTH AND FOOD SECURITY: PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

KUMARI MARY MATHE
RESEARCH SCHOLAR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
KAKATIYA UNIVERSITY
WARANGAL

ABSTRACT

Accruing benefits to every section of the society is the major objective of 11th five year plan. Inclusive growth in agriculture is one of the main goals of 11th five year plan. Food security is one of the main targets to be achieved for the achievement of inclusive growth in agriculture. The recent economic growth rates have failed to improve the food security in India, leaving the country facing a crisis in its rural distribution of food supply. Nation's production is not able to meet the supply to the needy rural people who are suffering from undernourishment, depth of hunger and malnutrition. Removing weaknesses at different levels of governance, improving public delivery mechanisms are the major concerns to be achieved in order to secure inclusive growth and food security. Giving the benefits to "aam aadami" and to focus on "inclusive growth and insuring food security" are the major goals for the government and the people of the nation to be achieved in the 11th five year plan period. So, the present paper focuses on food security issues in India, problems in achieving food security, challenges and governments interventions in ensuring food security in India.

KEYWORDS

Agriculture, Food Security, Growth, Productivity.

1). INTRODUCTION

India's economy has been treading an exceptional growth path in the recent past. Its growth has passed through for major phases over the past 60 years and is headed in new direction - striving to touch double digit annual growth rates and a sustainable, equitable and inclusive growth, taking into account the needs of all sections of society. India is emerging to a new phase with a broad objective of "Inclusive Growth".

The 11th Plan defines inclusive growth to be "a growth process which yields broad-based benefits and ensures equality of opportunity for all". The Inclusive growth implies an equitable allocation of resources with benefits accruing to every section of society, which is a Utopian concept. Inclusive growth is broad-based. It is concerned with the Pro-poor growth, growth with equity. The inclusiveness involves four attributes. They are opportunity, capability, access and security. The Opportunity attribute focuses on generating more and more opportunities to the people and focuses on increasing their income. The Capability attribute concentrates on providing the means for people to create or enhance their capabilities in order to exploit available opportunities. The Access attributes focuses on providing the means to bring opportunities and capabilities together. The Security attribute provides the means for people to protect themselves against a temporary or permanent loss of livelihood. Together Inclusive growth is a process in which economic growth measured by a sustained expansion in GDP, contributes to an enlargement of the scale and scope of all four dimensions. In brief, the achievement of inclusive growth in India is based on five inter related elements of development. They are:

1. Poverty Reduction and increase in quantity and quality of employment
2. Agricultural Development
3. Social Sector Development
4. Reduction in regional disparities
5. Protecting the environment.

Each element has its own importance and these elements are closely inter related. The progress in one element encourages the success of the other elements. All these elements are aimed to ensure that India achieves the progress in over all development, i.e., the ultimate objective of inclusive growth.

2). CONCEPT OF FOOD SECURITY

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. According to United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". According to United States Department of Agriculture, Food security includes at a minimum (1) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and (2) an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (that is, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies).

3). IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

Traditionally, India is considered as the agricultural based country. As the majority of Indians are engaged in agriculture for employment. Agriculture in India has a long history dating back to ten thousand years. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry and logging accounted for 16.6% of the GDP in 2007, employed 52% of the total workforce and despite a steady decline of its share in the GDP, it plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic development of the nation. The agricultural output, however, depends on monsoon as nearly 60 per cent of area sown is dependent on rainfall. Today, India ranks second worldwide in farm output. India is the largest producer in the world of milk, cashew nuts, coconuts, tea, ginger, turmeric and black pepper. It also has the world's largest cattle population (281 million). It is the second largest producer of wheat, rice, sugar, groundnut and inland fish. It is the third largest producer of tobacco. India accounts for 10% of the world fruit production with first rank in the production of banana and sapota. The recent developments in the other sectors minified this major sector's growth. India's population is growing faster than its ability to produce rice and wheat. Increasing population resulted in the limited scope for expansion of arable land, as the lands became hot cakes for the realtors. All these resulted in growing concern for food security in India.

4). NEED OF THE STUDY

Food Security is one of the main objectives in inclusive growth in agriculture in India. Traditionally, India was built with strong agrarian economy; the majority of the people derive their livelihood directly or indirectly from agriculture, even as the share of economic output generated by agriculture has sharply diminished. It is important to observe that agriculture, unique among sectors of production, plays the dual role of providing an enormously important source of livelihood and of producing the means of life. India's largest contribution to the fulfillment of the right to food outside its borders may be that it has succeeded in doing so and thus avoided competing with food-importing countries. Its largest contribution to the fulfillment of the right to food within its borders will be its embarking on a path of development which reaches the mass of its people, thus making the Right to Food Act an essential means but an ultimate irrelevance. In spite of the significant progress that India has made in food production and sufficiency over the last 50 years, most rural population/communities have had to deal with uncertainties of food security on a daily basis year after year, most often generation after generation. In 2006, MSNBC (Microsoft & National Broadcasting Corporation) channel broadcasted that in the world more than one billion people who were overweight, and an estimated 800 million who were

undernourished. In India, the second-most populous country in the world, 30 million people have been added to the ranks of the hungry since the mid 1990s and 46% of children are underweight. In aggregate, over one fifth of India's population suffers from chronic hunger. Food security has been the rising concern for the country in the recent past with the growing fluctuation in agricultural output. Increasing chronic hungers and decreasing output became the major concern.

So, the present study focuses on the various issues relating to food security in India, the problems and challenges in achieving the food security.

5). OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In the light of above background, the paper on "Inclusive growth and insuring food security – problems and challenges" is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To study the agricultural production scenario in India.
2. To study the various problems concerning to food security in India.
3. To study the statistics on food security
4. To study the initiatives taken by the government to ensure food security in India.
5. To study the challenges in achieving inclusive growth and insuring food security.
6. Finally, to provide conclusions on the basis of the analysis.

6). METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This study is based on secondary data resources. The main resources of information are journals, annual reports and sources of FAO. Reports from Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, online database on Indian Economy, research articles and magazines are also used for collection of data.

7). AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SCENARIO IN INDIA

Increasing profitability in agriculture through higher productivity has been an important goal in developing countries like India. It has become more relevant in recent years due to limited scope for expansion of arable land.

The latest statistics specifies the over all scenario of Agricultural production in the last five year plan period (Xth Five Year Plan).

TABLE NO.1 TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRODUCTION OF MAJOR CROPS DURING TENTH (XTH) FIVE YEAR PLAN (2002-03 TO 2006-07) AND 2007-08

Crop	Achievements	Targets	Growth/decline
Rice	428.62	460.10	-31.48
Wheat	351.71	386.56	-34.85
Coarse Cereals	165.11	176.84	-11.74
Pulses	66.76	76.60	-9.84
Food grains	1012.20	1100.10	-87.9
Oilseeds	116.75	133.88	-17.13
Sugarcane	1398.47	1417.50	-19.03
Cotton	80.05	80.00	+0.05
Jute	54.89	58.36	-3.47

Source: Report of FAO, as on 9-07-2008

The above table shows the Xth Five-Year Plan period's production of major crops in India. From the above statistics it is to be concluded that the achievements in all crops' production in the 5 years period showed low performance compared to the targets except in the production of Cotton with a very slight margin.

8). WORK FORCE IN AGRICULTURE

The following table shows the percentage of work force engaged in agricultural activities in India from 1961 -2007.

TABLE NO.2

Year	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2007
% of Work force	69.5	69.7	66.5	64.8	59.8	52

Source: FAO report and Wikipedia.org

From the table, it is clear that the number of people engaged in agriculture is decreasing at a slow rate because of the development and opportunities in the industrial and service sectors. From this we conclude that, the declining work force has definite impact on the agricultural production.

9). PROBLEMS IN ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

Agricultural production has direct impact on food security. Increasing agricultural production stabilizes food security and therefore decreases the problem of insecurity. But the trends in the recent past are not encouraging for the nation. Declining agricultural production is the major concern for the nation in the recent past. The proportion of people dependent on agriculture are decreasing at a rapid speed and as a result, the impact is heavy on the agricultural yield. Some of the problems emerging in the recent past are:

1. News of starvation deaths & farmers' suicides from many states (from 2002-06, there are more than 17, 500 farmer suicides happened in India).
2. Stagnant agricultural production, and falling food availability
3. Unemployment has increased from 4 to 8% in ten years.
4. Regional disparities are increasing
5. Infant Mortality Rate(IMR) stagnating around 60 per 1000, it is 46 in Bangladesh
6. Immunisation coverage fell from 60 to 40% in 5 years.
7. More than 50% women are anemic.
8. 46% children are malnourished.
9. Declining child sex ratio during 1991-2001.

Some other factors which caused the problem of food insecurity in India are:

1. Perpetual food shortages and distribution problems are the major concern in India. The agricultural output's contribution is not reaching to the people due to the distribution inefficiency. As a result, stunting and chronic nutritional deficiencies rose in the recent past.
2. Water deficits are the second major problem. The water levels are falling in India due to widespread over pumping by using powerful diesel and electric pumps. This will lead to water scarcity and cutbacks in grain harvest.
3. Intensive farming is the other concern that leads to soil fertility and decline of agricultural yields.
4. Increasing cultivation of biofuel crops and cash crops making the production down fall in subsistence crops. The cash crop production (spices, rubber, tea etc.) became the important concern for the states. As a result, a small amount of arable land being used for food-grain cultivation.

5. The impact of global warming is heavy on agriculture. The global warming made the climatic conditions abnormal; as a result, the temperature is increasing. By 2035, Asia's biggest rivers – Ganges, Indus, Brahmaputra, Yangtze, Mekong, Salween and Yellow will disappear (Based on UN Climate report).
6. The implications of Climate change for the country's children are of major problem because of the problem of accessing clean water and food supplies.
7. The Green Revolution replaced much of the land used for pulses that fed Indian peasants for wheat, which did not make up a large portion of the peasant diet.
8. The Green Revolution also caused the shift of subsistence-oriented cropland to cropland oriented towards production of grain for export or animal feed.

10). STATISTICS ON FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

The recent statistics on food security in India are not encouraging. Sharp cuts in investment on farm land development, irrigation and extension services vital for growth of agriculture in the last two decades have brought down the rate of growth of agricultural production, including food grains to less than the rate of growth of population in India. As a result, the agrarian crisis is deepening. To study the recent trends, statistical reports of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are used.

A). DEPTH OF HUNGER

The following table shows the depth of hunger (Food deficit of undernourished population (kcal/person/day) of the select nine countries.

TABLE NO.3

Country name	1990-92	1995-97	2000-02	2004-06
Central African Republic	320	330	310	280
Cambodia	270	280	250	250
Canada	130	120	110	20
Japan	140	130	140	210
USA	110	110	100	100
Pakistan	270	260	270	280
India	290	270	260	260
China	260	260	250	250
Zimbabwe	330	350	340	310

Source: FAO Statistics Division (1990-92 to 2004-06)

DEPTH OF HUNGER (intensity of food deprivation)

- The intensity of food deprivation indicates how much food-deprived people falls short of minimum food needs in terms of dietary energy.
- It is measured as the difference between the minimum dietary energy and the average dietary energy intake of the undernourished population (food-deprived).
- The intensity of food deprivation is low when it is less than 200 kilocalories per person per day and high when it is higher than 300 kilocalories per person per day.
- The greater the food deficit, the greater the susceptibility for health risks related to under nutrition.

From the above statistics, India's depth of hunger has been steady despite the government's measures and steady production output in the recent past. India has been the second largest producer of wheat, rice, sugar, groundnut and inland fish in the world, but yet, India is one among the countries which its people are suffering from hunger and anemia. Japan, having the less agricultural resources depended heavily on imports managed a low intensity of food deprivation than India.

B). STATISTICAL REPORT OF FAO ON FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

The following table shows the Food security indicators of India reported by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, as on 12-10-2009.

TABLE NO. 4

INDICATORS	Units	1990-92	1995-97	2000-02	2004-06
1. Food Deprivation					
Proportion of undernourishment	percent	24	20	21	22
Number of Undernourished	millions	210.2	193.5	223	251.5
Food deficit of undernourished population	kcal/person/day	290	270	260	260
Food Needs					
Minimum dietary energy requirement(MDER)	kcal/person/day	1740	1750	1750	1770
Average dietary energy requirement(ADER)	kcal/person/day	2180	2200	2220	2240
Food Supply for Human Consumption					
Dietary energy supply(DES)	kcal/person/day	2310	2400	2360	2330
Total protein consumption	g/person/day	56.3	57.5	55.3	54.6
Animal protein consumption	g/person/day	8.9	9.8	10	10.3
Fat consumption	g/person/day	40.6	45.7	50	54.7
Diet Composition (Share in DES):					
Carbohydrate	Percent	74.5	73.3	71.5	69.4
total protein consumption	Percent	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.4
Animal protein consumption	percent	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8
Fat	percent	15.8	17.2	19.1	21.2
II. Macro and Socio Economic Indicators					
Total population	1000	878861	972921	1064097	1134380
Density	Inh/sq/Km	296	327	358	382
Share of urban in total population	percent	25.8	26.8	27.9	28.7
Age dependency ratio	ratio	70.4	68.4	64.6	61.2
Macro economic aggregates					
GDP at market prices	MLN US\$	277407	369091	482266	647096
Cash surplus/deficit(in total GDP)	percent		-2.4	-4.3	-3.1
Share of agriculture value added in total GDP	percent	29.3	26.7	22.5	18.8
III. Poverty					
National (poverty headcount)-2000	percent				28.6
Rural (poverty headcount)-2000	percent				30.2
Urban(Poverty headcount)-2000	percent				24.7
IV.AGRICULTURE INDICATORS					
Total labour force	1000	368923	413935	459758	499339
Share of agricultural labour force (2) in total labour force	percent	63.6	61.4	59.2	57.3
Share of female in agricultural labour force	percent	36.1	36.6	37.1	37.4
V. HEALTH NUTRITIONAL AND SANITATION INDICATORS					
Child Nutritional Status	percent				48
Stunting, less than -2 s.d-2005	percent				1.9
Overweight, more than +2 s.d-5-06					
Life expectancy at birth	years	60	62	63	64
Under-five mortality rate-2007	per 1000 live births				72
Infant mortality rate(0-1 year)-2007	per 1000 live births				54
Access to safe water-2007	Percent				54.3
Access to adequate sanitation -2006	Percent				28
Maternal mortality ratio-2005	Per lakh				450

Source: FAO report on Food Security Indicators, Country: India

ANALYSIS

- The food deprivation and consumption indicators show that the proportion of under nourishment in India is steady from the period 1990-92. The number of undernourished is increasing at a slow rate. The major concern is the food deficit of undernourished population. At an average 270 kilo calorie per person per day is the food deficit of undernourished population. In the same period, total protein consumption showed slight downfall but the animal and fat consumption has been increasing with the increasing production and consumption of livestock in India in the recent past.
- Macro and Socio economic indicators show the increase in the population, GDP at market prices are increased. The share of agriculture value added in total GDP is decreasing in the above mentioned period.
- The poverty indicators show that the nation had overall 28.6% of poverty where as the rural share of poverty is higher than the urban poverty.
- The agriculture indicators show that the share of agricultural labour force in total labour force in India is decreasing rapidly. And the share of female in agricultural labour force is steady in the period.
- The health nutritional and sanitation indicators show that child nutritional status reached to 48%. Life expectancy at birth is increasing at a slow rate. Access to safe water reached only 54.3% which is a major concern. Access to adequate sanitation is 28% and the maternal mortality ratio reached 450 per one lakh live births. According to FAO, the major cause for this is due to lack of nutritious food.

C). REPORT OF MSSRF

The report of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) on Food insecurity in rural India showed that the government should take necessary steps as the insecurity is rising at a great speed in all over the country. The Food Insecurity Map – Rural India pointed out that majority of the states in India are facing the problem of food insecurity.

TABLE NO.5

Type of Situation	Name of the State
Extremely insecure	Bihar, Jharkhand
Severely insecure	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chattisgarh, Orissa
Moderately insecure	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam
Moderately Secure	Tamilnadu and Kerala
Secure	Punjab, Himachal Pradesh

Source: MSSRF's Food Insecurity Map- Rural India

11). INITIATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY

The government has initiated several direct and indirect measures to ensure food security to its population. Some of the important measures are:

1. Food Subsidy Measures through Public Distribution system
2. Entitlement Feeding Programme through ICDS and other schemes
3. National Food Security Mission
4. Employment Programme

A). FOOD SUBSIDY MEASURES

The Public Distribution System (PDS) has been evolved as a system of management of scarcity and for distribution of food grains at affordable prices. Over the years, PDS has become an important part of Government's policy for management of food economy in the country. PDS is supplemental in nature and is not intended to make available the entire requirement of any of the commodities distributed under it to a household or a section of the society. PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The central government, through FCI, has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of food grains to the State Governments. The operational responsibility including allocation with in State, identification of families below the poverty line (BPL), issue of Ration Cards and supervision of the functioning of FPS, rests with the State Governments. The PDS was changed to Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in 2000 to fulfill the food grain requirement of the poorest of the poor. With its two important programmes, i.e., Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapoorna Yojana, is serving 4 crore of BPL people with highly subsidized rate of Rs.4.15 per Kg of rice and Rs.5.65 per Kg of wheat. Annapoorna Yojana is serving 25 kg of food grains to BPL house hold per month.

The following table shows the stock position of food grains in the central pool.

TABLE NO.6

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Stock (In lakh tones)	250.16	216.97	192.60	174.92	191.87	361.89

Source: Annual Report: 2008-09, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India

The recent statistics shows that India will build a strategic food grains reserve of five million tonne to meet emergency situations. Ware housing and storage capacity currently available with the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the State Warehousing Corporation (SWC) apart from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the state agencies are likely to be used to store the strategic reserve. All these efforts are made to ensure food security in the country.

B). ENTITLED FEEDING PROGRAMME

The two important programmes covered under the entitlement feeding programme are free meal under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid Day meal Scheme. The ICDS and Mid Day meal scheme are introduced with a target to improve the nutritional and health status for children, pregnant and lactating women. Launched on 2nd October 1975, today, ICDS Scheme represents one of the world's largest and most unique programmes for early childhood development. The objectives include:

- a. To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- b. To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- c. To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- d. To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- e. To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

The above objectives are sought to be achieved through a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education.

C). NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY MISSION

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Food Security Mission has been launched in the country to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of the 11th Plan. The Mission covers 311 districts in 17 States and has become operational from Rabi 2007-08. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been envisaged as a comprehensive intervention based on local agro-climatic conditions to enhance investment to achieve 4% agricultural growth rate in the 11th Five Year Plan. RKVY is a quantum jump in evolution from the variegated schematic approach followed so far through diverse but strait-jacketed schemes, to a completely new approach in agriculture planning by allowing the States to first plan a strategy and then designs the schemes to meet that strategy by providing variety and flexibility in scheme design. Under Stream-I of RKVY States have undertaken projects in the field of Micro/Minor Irrigation, Watershed Development, Horticulture, Marketing Infrastructure etc. in 2007-08. An amount of Rs. 1247.59 crore has been released to States under RKVY during 2007-08. National Rainfed Area Authority has finalized and circulated common guidelines for watershed development programmes being implemented by different Ministries. Agricultural Extension has been strengthened and Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) have been set up in 565 districts by the end of 2007-08.

D). EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES

The Government of India has launched four key employment programmes. The aim of these programmes is to ensure that rural people get sufficient economic growth and to supply food grains to the needy people through various schemes. They are:

1. Food for Work Programme(FWP)
2. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana(JRY)
3. Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana(SGRY)
4. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS)

Under the FWP and SGRY food grain was supplied along with the wage to the labourers engaged in these two programmes, while under the NREGS hundred days wage employment is provided to one member of the family in a calendar year. All these collective programmes and schemes are introduced by the government to ensure that the agriculture yield to meet the demands of the people in India and to ensure that India achieved food security and sustainability in agriculture.

12). CHALLENGES FOR ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

Achieving inclusive growth and insuring food security is the major goal for nation in achieving inclusive growth in agriculture. But, various problems are creating obstacles to achieve the food security in India. Apart from this, there are so many challenges that are creating hurdles to the development of food security in India. Some of the important challenges for the nation to achieve food security are:

1. High economic growth rates have failed to improve food security in India leaving the country facing a crisis in its rural economy, warns the latest report released by the World Food Programme and the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
2. India's malnutrition figures are not coming down despite a number of government programmes, says a new report released by World Food Programme. The research points out the need for a revamped public distribution system and greater public investment to address the wants of rural population.
3. The report of WFP shows that slowing growth in food production, rising unemployment and declining power of the poor in India re combining to weaken the rural economy. Hence, it is a big challenge to rise employment and to contribute to the growth of food production.
4. Rising economic fluctuations made the agriculture sector to face the impact.
5. Declining water reserves made the agricultural sector tough. Government's irrigation projects and schemes should reach to the farming lands in order to face the problem.
6. Achievement of 4% growth in the fiscal year is a big aim for the government in 2010.
7. Implementing land reforms, finance and marketing services for farm produce is a tough task for the nation being faced with high illiteracy in rural areas.

8. Adaptation of modern agricultural practices and use of technology is inadequate.
9. Irrigation facilities are inadequate, hence made the farmers to depend heavily on rain fall.
10. For years, agricultural sector depended on Monsoon seasons. A good monsoon results in a robust growth for the economy and a poor monsoon leads to a sluggish growth.
11. The increase in severity of food insecurity in the various states are showing alarming signals that the nation should adopt strict policies and programmes to overcome the danger ahead in a short period.
12. Public distribution systems contribution to be further increased for both procurement and distribution.
13. With food inflation affecting the nation, it's a great challenge for the government of India to bring National Food Security Act that will assist the agriculture sector and contribute to the food security.
14. The PDS's contribution to the needy people who are of BPL is been under criticism. The latest reports from the state of Andhra Pradesh shows that the White ration cards (BPL families) are increasingly mis used. Such incident creates obstacles for the government to fulfill its goals.
15. Recently concluded World Food Summit's promise to eradicate hunger from the face of the earth sustainably and at the earliest date is the development agenda for the nations.
16. Bringing National Food Security Act to be implemented in India is a big challenge to the present government. Government's promise to give 25 kg or rice or wheat per month at Rs.3 a kg is a tough task with the growing economic fluctuations all over the world. The proposed law is expected to ease the woes of the common man, who is battling near 20 per cent food inflation.
17. Nation's production is not able to meet the supply to the needy rural people who are suffering from undernourishment. Removing weaknesses at different levels of governance improving public delivery mechanisms are the chief concerns to achieve inclusive growth and insuring food security.
18. Achieving double digit growth in GDP is highly depended on the agricultural production as its contribution is very important to the GDP growth. Giving the benefits to "aam aadami" and to focus on inclusive growth and insuring food security are the major goals for the government to be achieved in the 11th plan period.

13). CONCLUSIONS

Based on the study on "Inclusive growth and insuring food security – problems and challenges", the following conclusions are emerged.

1. Agriculture gave strong foundation to the Indian economy. The growing development in the industrial and service sectors made the agricultural sector to be less significant in the last 3 decades.
2. The 11th five year plan aimed on inclusive growth gave life to the agricultural sector and the inclusive growth in agriculture depended on growth in agricultural yield, reduction in poverty, income inequalities, health education and most importantly on food security in the country.
3. The Xth five year plan period showed decline in agricultural yield and the past records also showed the indicators of declining proportion of people depended on agriculture as main profession. The food, water, investment, technology deficits, excessive water usage, global warming, some of the negative impacts of green revolution caused the downfall in food grains production.
4. Being 2nd top producer of rice, wheat, yet India suffered from Food deprivation and depth of hunger which are rising very fast. The reports from MSSRF and FAO clearly indicated that rural people in India are the major sufferers of food insecurity. Rising Anemia and under nourished people are rapidly increased in the last 20 years.
5. The Government's focus on PDS brought a good contribution as the BPL people are benefited from the system. National Food Security Mission is aimed in achieving the growth in agricultural production which leads to more food security for the nation. Apart from this, several programmes and missions like ICDS, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Agricultural Technology Management Agencies are contributing to strengthen the agricultural sector and rural development to overcome the food insecurity problem.
6. Slowing growth in food production, migrating to other sectors for employment, decreasing fertile lands, water reserves made the agricultural production decline.

Rising expectations and targets made the government to be pro-active to achieve food security. India's achievement of high growth in GDP consequently depended on agriculture hence from the study it is clear that achieving growth in food production and effective supply through public distribution system to the needy people in the nation is must to achieve food security. Achievement of food security will contribute a lot in achieving inclusive growth in agriculture. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the government and the people to effectively co-operate to achieve the inclusive growth in agriculture through insuring food security.

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