

Agriculture in India is livelihood for a majority of the population and can never be underestimated. Although its contribution in the gross domestic product (GDP) has reduced to less than 20 per cent and contribution of other sectors increased at a faster rate, agricultural production has grown. This has made us self-sufficient and taken us from being a begging bowl for food after independence to a net exporter of agriculture and allied products. He reforms towards privatization, liberalization and globalization affected inputs market at a faster pace. Agricultural marketing reforms after 2003 made changes in marketing of agricultural outputs by permitting private investment in developing markets, contract farming and futures trading, etc. Working conditions of agricultural workers, like industrial, are one of the burning issues in a developing region. It is related to agricultural activities of the workers and their socio-economic status. This book provides various information's on Agriculture and its various dimensions.

Problems and Prospects of Agriculture



FOR AUTHOR

G. Sheela Edward
P. Kumaran
Benet Rajadurai

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Edward , Kumaran , Rajadurai



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HEAD
Department of Humanities
St. Francis de Sales College
Bengaluru - 560 100.



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CHANGING TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE

Navya. S, Jansy. D, Kusuma.V

Department of Humanities,
St. Francis De Sales College,
Hebbagodi, Bangalore

Prof. Amrutha,

Assistant professor,
Department of Humanities,
St. Francis De Sales College,
Hebbagodi, Bangalore

Abstract

The Indian economy has undergone structural changes over time with the anticipated decline in the share of agriculture in the GDP. Despite a fall in its share from 55.1 per cent in 1950-51 to 17.0 per cent in 2008-09, the importance of agriculture has not diminished for two major reasons. First, the country achieved self-sufficiency in food production at the macro level, but still is a food deficit country facing massive challenges of high prevalence of malnourished children and high incidence of rural poverty. The pressure on agriculture to produce more and raise farmers' income is high. Second, the dependence of the rural workforce on agriculture for employment has not declined in proportion to the sectoral contribution to GDP. This has resulted in widening the income disparity between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors (Chand and Chauhan, 1999). The experiences of developed countries show that transfer of labour force from agriculture to non-agriculture, in particular the manufacturing sector took place. This had brought enhanced productivity growth in agriculture and hence higher income (Gollin et al., 2002). However, India's manufacturing sector witnessed volatile growth and its share in GDP has almost remained constant at 15 per cent for the last three decades. Further, given the fact that the current economic growth pattern is driven by the service sector, labour absorption outside agriculture will be slow until rural education improves