

Problems and Challenges of Agricultural Workers in Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract- State of Uttar Pradesh has a large population dependent on the agriculture sector for their live hood. In the state agriculture sector, large population of agricultural workers (Landless and small-marginal formers) - target group of study- besides working as laborers in the agricultural fields of (big) formers, does forming as the former for improving their household income. This large population being dependent on agriculture in trapped in poverty. These farming communities (Landless and small farmers) had not adequately benefitted from agriculture sector and its dependents were facing several problems and challenges. In this situation with aims of reducing poverty by following the Economic reforms undertaken by the Government of India, the state of Uttar Pradesh had also undertaken the economic reforms. However continued policy negligence, could not improve the development of the agriculture sector. In this situation. The state Government had also formulated the Agriculture Policy 2005 with vision to Ensure the food and nutritional security bring about qualitative improvement by ensuring economic and prosperity. In this backup it was expected that the problems and challenges, faced by the agricultural workers in agriculture sector in the state. For bringing out the clear picture of the socio-economic status of the agricultural workers of the Uttar Pradesh.

Indexed Terms- Agricultural Workers, Uttar Pradesh, Income, Food grains, Production.

I. INTRODUCTION

Uttar Pradesh is the largest populated state in India. Agriculture is the main occupation in the state U.P. is the largest producer of agriculture products in India. About 17 percent of the total food grain production of the country comes from this state an U.P. about 59.3 percent of total workers in the state are engaged in agriculture. U.P. has vast rich fertile landmass and

water resources It plays a significant role in the country's food and nutritional security. Despite all these advantages the situation of agriculture workers U.P. is not very good. This is clearly reflected in the existing inter-state variation in income of agricultural household in states. The average monthly income of an agricultural household in U.P. was about Rs. 4900, as per the latest information. Average monthly income of Agricultural workers less than other state of the country. U.P. is the highest populated state in the country and each fourth farmer in the country came from this state. The state of Uttar Pradesh is one of the key agrarian Indian states.

Around 80% of its population is living in rural areas. More than 60% population in dependent on agriculture and allied sector for their livelihood in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh in recently total 685 million workers were distributed as follows : cultivators - 191 million (29.03%) Agricultural labours-199 million (30.24%) Household Industry Workers - 39 Million (5.93%) and other workers - 229 million (34.24%) total cultivators constituted of 76% of the marginal former 14% of the small farmers and 10% of the big farmers. In addition, small formers were. In the majority (78%) with land measuring less than 1 hectare 38.9% of the total agricultural area.

Objectives of the study:

- The study aims to examine the income level of the agriculture workers.
- To study the constraints, opportunities and support.
- To know the challenges of Agricultural workers.
- To make a suggestion on remedies to reduce problems.
- To how change socio-economic status agricultural workers.

Research Methodology - The present study is covered regarding the problems & challenges of Agricultural.

Workers in Uttar Pradesh. Study is based on literature, investigating the current issue, Journals survey reports, books, we also relied on secondary Data, authentic websites etc.

II. IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN UTTAR PRADESH

Agriculture is one of the prominent sectors in the Indian economy. About 43% of the country Geographical area is used for Agricultural activity. Agriculture sector of our state in a position to provide sufficient food grains to the population of the state. Agriculture is crstically important to Economic development. Increase in agricultural output not only provides food for the growing non-form sector, it also helps the industrial sector by providing raw-materials. Today we have attained self-sufficiency in agriculture self-sufficiency in agriculture, self-sufficiency of food production has been achieved, the population still lacks access to balanced food. Agriculture is the main occupation in the state about 59.3 percent of total workers in the state are engaged in agriculture. But the more important phenomenon is that the percentage share of cultivation to total workers has reduced from 41.1 percent in 2001 to 29.0 percent in 2011. On the other hand, the share of agriculture labour to total workers has increased from 24.8 percent in 2001 to 30.3 percent in 2011. Land fragmentation, as reflected from the temporal changes is land holding, was the major reason of the above rising trend of agriculture labour in the state.

Agriculture also occupies significant space in the gross state domestic product (GSDP). In the state agriculture is the leading sector in the state its output growth has been low and stagnant for the past three decades. Agriculture output growth in U.P. had always been lower than the all-India average since the 1980s. Even though it has strong agriculture base being the largest

producer of food grains, pulses, sugarcane and potato. The state ranks first in both wheat and sugarcane production and third in both rice and pulse. A very recent study (Chaudhry 2012) estimated total factor productivity growth rate for the period 2005-06 in U.P. which is far below the country average (3.43 percent). This study analysis productivity growth in terms of technological progress and technology uptake in the state the results indicated a low level of technological progress as the cause of poor total factor productivity growth in U.P. poor infrastructure, fragmentation of land holdings, etc. The average size of operational land holding in the state had also declining trend. Several infrastructural relevent facilities for agricultural development such as market road network, electricity storage capacity and irrigation are inadequate in the state as per 2011.

There were only three agricultural regulated markets per 1000 sq km area in U.P. The Low level of crop productivity observed in the state translated into poor crop profitability and rural poverty, profitability and poverty are closely linked with agriculture productivity. Three major crops in U.P. namely rice, wheat and sugarcane is compared with the profitability of these crops in two other state where these crops were the main stay of agriculture. The performance of agriculture in U.P. varies form region to region. The western region is agriculturally the most progressive region, the largest chunk of the state's progressive region, the largest chunk of the state's agriculture output come from this region around 50 percent. The eastern region contributes around 28 percent, next to western region in the total value of the state's agriculture output. The Bundelkhand region was rain-dependent.

Food grain Production (In thousand ton Major States in India)

State	(In thousand ton)	State	(In thousand ton)
All India	252677	Tamilnadu	9460
Uttar Pradesh	42472	Orissa	8970
Punjab	27461	Chhatisgarh	7076
Haryana	16748	Gujrat	6986
Madhya Pradesh	25489	Assam	5060
Rajasthan	19752	Jharkhand	4735

Andhra Pradesh+Telangana	17443	Others	3922
West Bengal	16508	Himachal Pradesh	1674
Bihar	13054	Uttrakhand	1638
Karnatka	12048	Jammu & Kashmir	1289
Maharashtra	10334	Kerla	560

Source: Data collected from Agriculture Statistics at a glance (2016).

III. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Investment required for increasing income of Agricultural workers.
- Need Reduction in cost of cultivation.
- Boost Productivity in Agriculture Sector.
- Need of adoption of hybrid and improved seeds.
- To reduce the post-harvest losses.
- Government of Uttar Pradesh also focus on ware housing reforms to promoting agricultural marketing.
- To increasing productivity growth in Agriculture sector in the state.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In the state of Uttar Pradesh, the agricultural workers of tall the four Economic regions 56% respondent had agricultural lands from different sources. In all Uttar Pradesh Majority of agricultural workers 74% had obtained the land from their land sharing system. The small area of the agricultural land found with the agricultural workers. Few agricultural workers had also possessed land obtained from other sources. The agricultural workers were not able to cultivate and undertake the crops in all the agricultural seasons because of inadequate irrigation facility (water crisis) and flood and drought occurrence, land in dispute, land were needed considering the limitation of small land, establishment of agro-based industries and cottage industries in the local area of agricultural development and economic well being of the farmers were the major required options state had needed own development model focusing on the de-centralized development and reducing the gap between rural-urban and rich-poor divide.

Thus there was a need of holistic approach for development of the agriculture and landless and small

land holding formers in the state. The development of Agriculture Sector need to always be self-reliant in the food and protecting life of the large chunk of the population. So policy and strategy required for improvement of agricultural growth and development as well as of the socio-economic development of the agricultural workers, etc.

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