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RESEARCH ARTICLE

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS OF INDIA: BEDROCK OF DYNAMIC AGRICULTURE

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ABSTRACT

India is a global agricultural powerhouse. It is the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices, and has the world's largest cattle herd (buffaloes), as well as the largest area under wheat, rice and cotton. It is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, cotton, sugarcane, farmed fish, sheep & goat meat, fruit, vegetables and tea. The country has some 195 m ha under cultivation of which some 63 percent are rainfed (roughly 125m ha) while 37 percent are irrigated (70m ha). In addition, forests cover some 65m ha of India's land. While agriculture's share in India's economy has progressively declined to less than 15% due to the high growth rates of the industrial and services sectors, the sector's importance in India's economic and social fabric goes well beyond this indicator. First, nearly three-quarters of India's families depend on rural incomes. Second, the majority of India's poor (some 770 million people or about 70 percent) are found in rural areas. And third, India's food security depends on producing cereal crops, as well as increasing its production of fruits, vegetables and milk to meet the demands of a growing population with rising incomes. To do so, a productive, competitive, diversified and sustainable agricultural sector will need to emerge at an accelerated pace. Labour is the most important input in increasing production in traditional agriculture. In the early stage of development, since land was available in plenty increase in labour supply led to the clearing of more land for bringing it under cultivation. Agricultural labourers are socially and economically poorest section of the society. Agricultural labourers households constitute the historically deprived social groups, displaced handicraftsmen and dispossessed peasantry. They are the poorest of the poor in rural India. Their growth reflects the colonial legacy of under development and the inadequacies of planning intervention in the past. The poverty syndrome among agricultural labourers needs to be read against such a background of prolonged rural under development, assetlessness, unemployment, low wages, under-nutrition, illiteracy and social backwardness constitute the poverty syndrome among agricultural labourers. These reinforce each other so as to constitute a vicious circle of poverty. The agricultural labourers are one of the most exploited and oppressed classes in rural hierarchy. It is one of the primary objects of the Five Year Plan to ensure fuller opportunities for work and better living to all the sections of the rural community and, in particular, to assist agricultural labourers and backward classes to come to the level of the rest.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most distinguishing features of the rural economy of India has been the growth in the number of agricultural workers, cultivators and agricultural labours engaged in crop production. The phenomena of underemployment, under-development and surplus population are simultaneously manifested in the daily lives and living of the agricultural workers. Agricultural workers constitute the most neglected class in Indian rural structure. Their income is low and employment irregular. Since, they possess no skill or training, they have no alternative employment opportunities either. As we are aware that near about 53% population of India is engaged in agricultural activities. But agriculture in India is still at mercy of monsoon. Here, the condition of the farmers and agricultural labourers depend on the intensity of monsoon.

If monsoon is good then crop is good and vice-versa. Agriculture labour is counted in the category of unorganized sector, so their income is not fixed. Hence they are living an insecure and underprivileged life and earning just Rs. 150/day along with full uncertainty. Agriculture plays a significant role in overall socio-economic development. Therefore, fostering rapid, sustained and broad-based growth in agriculture remains key priority for the country. With the decreasing labour force in agriculture, increasing yield or productivity is the key to growth, which has to be accelerated. Shortage of labour and finding solutions thereof should become a major focus.

Magnitude of Agricultural Labourers:-During the pre-British period, the number of agricultural labourers was very much insignificant.

The census of 1881 showed that the total numbers of landless labourers were 7.5 million and in 1921 their number increased to 21 million which constituted nearly 17.4 per cent of the total working population of the country. The number of agricultural labourers has again increased to 27.5 million in 1951, 31.5 million in 1961 and 47.5 million in 1971. In 1981, the total number of agricultural workers has increased to 55.4 million which was only 22.4 per cent of the total working population. Again as per 1991 census total number of agricultural workers has increased to 74.6 million which constituted nearly 23.5 per cent of the total working population of the country. Moreover, the percentage of landless labourers as a proportion of rural labour force has increased from 18 per cent in 1964-65 to 25 per cent in 1981. Official data further shows that about 61 per cent of the rural households either have no land or hold uneconomic holding of less than 1 hectare. These 61 per cent of households in India own just 8 per cent of total cultivable area of the country. The increase in the number of agricultural labour has resulted from increase in the size of population, decline of cottage and village industries, eviction of small farmers, uneconomic holdings, growing indebtedness and growth of capitalist farming.

DEFINITION: Agricultural labourers are those persons who work on the land of others on wages for the major part of the year and earn a major portion of their income as a payment in the form of wages for works performed on the agricultural farms owned by others.

What Is Landless Labour? Landless labourers are the people who don't own any land. They earn money by working on other people's farms as temporary workers. These landless rural labourers are present in the agricultural sector in India's rural areas.

Characteristics of Agricultural Labourers in India:- The major characteristics of Agricultural Labourers in India are the followings:-

- **Agricultural Labourers are Scattered:-** Agricultural labour in India is being widely scattered over 5.6 lakh villages, of which half have population of less than 500 each. And therefore, any question of building an effective organization, like that of industrial workers, poses insurmountable difficulties. Thus as the vast number of agricultural labour lies scattered all over India, there has been no successful attempt for long, to build their effective organization even at the state level not to speak of the national level.
- **Agricultural Labourers are Unskilled and Lack Training:-** Agricultural labourers, especially in smaller villages away from towns and cities, are generally unskilled workers carrying on agricultural operation in the centuries old traditional wages. Most of them, especially those in small isolated villages with around 500 population, may not have even heard of modernization of agriculture. Majority of them are generally conservative, tradition bound, totalistic and resigned to the insufferable lot to which according to them fate has condemned them. There is hardly any motivation for change or improvement. Since, there is direct supervision by the landlord, there is hardly any escape from hard work and since there is no alternative employment. The agricultural labourer has to do all types of work-farm and domestic at the bidding of the landlord.
- **Unorganised Sector:-** Agricultural labourers are not organized like industrial labourers. They are illiterate and ignorant. They live in scattered villages. Hence they could not organize in unions. In urban areas workers could generally organize themselves in unions and it is convenient for political parties to take interest in trade union activities. This is almost difficult in case of farm labour. Accordingly, it is difficult for them to bargain with the land owners and secure good wages.
- **Low Social Status:-** Most agricultural workers belong to the depressed classes, which have been neglected for ages. The low caste and depressed classes have been socially handicapped and they had never the courage to assert themselves. They have been like dump- driven cattle. In some parts of India, agricultural labourers are migratory, moving in search of jobs at the time of

harvesting. Government measures to improve their lot by legislation have proved ineffective so far due to powerful hold of the rural elite classes in the rural economy.

- **Demand and Supply of Labour:-** The number of agricultural labourers being very large and skills they possess being meager, there are generally more than abundant supply of agricultural labourer in relation to demand for them. It is only during the sowing and harvesting seasons that there appears to be near full employment in the case of agricultural labourers. But, once the harvesting season is over, majority of agricultural workers will be jobless especially in areas, where there is single cropping pattern.
- **Less Bargaining Power:-** Due to all the above mentioned factors, the bargaining power and position of agricultural labourers in India is very weak. In fact, quite a large number of them are in the grip of village money lenders, landlords and commission agents, often the same person functioning in all the three capacities. No wonder, the agricultural labour is the most exploited class of people of India.
- **At the Bidding of the Landlord:-** There is generally direct and day to day 'contact between agricultural labourers and the landlords' on whose farm they are working. Unlike industrial workers, this direct contact between the employer and employees is a distinct feature of agriculture labourer. The above mentioned few important characteristics distinguish agricultural labourers in India from industrial workers. Thus partly because of factors beyond their control and partly because of their inherent bargaining weakness, the farm labourers have been getting very low wages and have therefore to live in a miserable sub-human life. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was made in 2005. The aim of the scheme is to enhance livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed employment in every financial year of every household whose adult members volunteer to do the unskilled workers. It aimed at providing livelihood security by guaranteeing 100 days in a year.

TYPE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR:- The major types of agricultural labourers in India are the followings:-

Bonded or Semi-Free Labourers:- This group, called "Agrarian Serfs" was made up of people who continued to work under almost all conditions., those who were bound were bound by a need to get money. The borrower is a life-long bondslave of the person who lent him the money. He is treated like a medieval serf since he is paid so little and given so little to eat. Enslavers could buy or sell these enslaved people, or they might even pawn them. Even worse, the bond was never repaid, and in certain cases, subsequent generations were also chained as a result. Also, if the master was unable to provide work for the labourer, he could not permit him to travel far from his home.

- **Dwarf-Holding Labourers:-** Small-scale landowners, tenants, farm workers, and part-time farmers all fell into this category. The fact that they weren't like the other farm workers made them stand out from the crowd. They were motivated to work on a farm by the meagre wages from their primary employment.
- **Under-Employed Landless Labourers:** The dwarf-holding labourers were attached to the land, whereas bonded labourers became bound to their employers. In all cases, the primary cause was a lack of alternative employment opportunities. Landless farm labourers were pushed into this form of agricultural work after the landowners or landowners broke their links to them.
- **Full-Time Landless Labourers:** The group was made up of people who worked on plantations and for wealthy and well-off farmers.
- Because most farms are located in remote places with low populations, it was hard to find enough workers at first.
- Because of the slave trade, planters were forced to come up with a new strategy to get workers. The Plantation workers were almost like bonded or semi-free labourers because they didn't

have a powerful labour union, there was no strong labour union, and owners of plantations knew each other well.

CATEGORIES OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

- Attached labourers are those workers who are attached to some other farmer households on the basis of a written or oral agreement. These attached workers are working as per the wishes of their masters and are not free to work at any other place. They are working both in the house and farms of their masters. Thus, these attached labourers are working as serfs or servants and they are also known as bonded labourers.
- On the other hand, casual labourers are those workers who are free to work in any farm on the payment of daily wages.

In India these casual labourers include

- Small farmers having a very small size of holdings who devote most of their time working on the farm of others;
- Landless labourers who exclusively work for others;
- Tenants who work on leased land but work most of the time on the land of others;
- sharecroppers who also work as agricultural labourers

Classification of agricultural labourers 1. Landless agricultural labourers 2. Very small cultivators whose main source of earnings due to their small and sub-marginal holdings is wage employment. Landless labourers in turn can be classified into two broad categories (1) Permanent Labourers attached to cultivating households. (2) Casual Labourers. The second group can again be divided into three subgroups: (i) Cultivators (ii) Share croppers (iii) Lease holders. Permanent or attached labourers generally work on annual or seasonal basis and they work on some sort of contract. Their wages are determined by custom or tradition. On the other hand temporary or casual labourers are engaged only during peak period for work. Their employment is temporary and they are paid at the market rate. They are not attached to any landlords. Under second group comes small farmers, who process very little land and therefore, has to devote most of their time working on the lands of others as labourers. Share croppers are those who, while sharing the produce of the land for their work, also work as labourers. Tenants are those who not only work on the leased land but also work as labourers.

Agriculture is the primary sector for the landless labourers. Most people without land work on the farms of others. These agricultural labourers are often hired during the harvest or sowing time.

- The landless labourers are called seasonal workers as well. It means that they're called for work when necessary. Their income is not steady.
- Landless labour earns a low wage. Their earnings are not enough for sustenance. It further pushes such workers into poverty.
- Landless labour is primarily associated with the loss of land. Many workers lose their lands due to natural causes or finances. It forces such people to work as landless labour.

Thus, landless labour is prevalent in India. It is a major concern. Most of the people are under the poverty line levels in this category. It puts added pressure on them while working on low wages and long hours. Landless labour in India faces several serious problems. These issues lead to the unemployment of many in the sector. Also, these people are unable to make a good living.

CONDITION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURS:-Agricultural labourers are the most exploited unorganised class of the rural population of the country. From the very beginning landlords and zamindars exploited these labourers for their benefit and converted some of them as slaves or bonded labourers and forced to continue the system generation after generation. It led to wretched condition and total deprivation of the rural masses. After many years of independence, the situation has improved. But they remain largely unorganised, and as a result their

economic exploitation continues. Their level of income, standard of living and the rate of wages have remained abnormally low.

Factors Responsible for the Poor Conditions of Farm Workers

- **Agricultural Wages and Income:** In India, the agricultural wages are very low. Thus, the level of agricultural wages prevailing in India is very poor and thus the living conditions of agricultural labourers in India are indeed pathetic.
- **Unorganised:** Agricultural labourers in India are totally unorganised as they are ignorant, illiterate and widely scattered.
- **Low Social Status:** Farm workers mostly belong to depressed classes and thus they are lacking the courage to assert their basic rights.
- **Seasonal Unemployment:** As the agricultural operations are seasonal thus the farm workers are often facing the problem of seasonal unemployment and under-employment.
- **Absence of Alternative Occupations:** In the absence of alternative occupation in the rural areas the farm workers are not getting alternative jobs .
- **Growing Indebtedness:-** Agricultural labourers in India are highly indebted. As the level of wages is very poor thus the farm workers have been borrowing from landlords and become bonded labourers ultimately.
- **Working Conditions:** Workers will have to work from dawn to dusk as there are no fixed hours of work and there is no provision for leave and other benefits.

CAUSES FOR THE GROWTH OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS: - There are a number of factors responsible for the continuous and enormous increase in the number of agricultural labourers in India. The more important among them are:-

- Increase in population
- Decline of cottage industries and handicrafts
- Eviction of small farmers and tenants from land
- Uneconomic Holdings
- Increase in indebtedness
- Spread of the use of money and exchange system
- Capitalistic Agriculture 8. Displacement of means of subsidiary occupations
- Disintegration of peasantry
- Break-up of joint family system
- Growth of absentee landlordism
- Disintegration of village communities of the pre nineteenth century
- The extension of money economy to rural areas in replacement of payment in kind
- Deforestation
- River erosion etc.

WHY AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IS VANISHING?: The turning point, according to the farmers, came in 2008 when the state government launched the Rs 2 per kg rice scheme for the 5.6 million below-poverty-line families in the state. "It is normally seen that when the minimum food requirement of a family is secured, its members explore new livelihood options for higher income. So government welfare schemes such as providing cheap rice and other necessary commodities through public distribution system could be the reason behind the disappearance of the labour force. The situation worsened with the industrialisation in the state. "The state economy has been experiencing a sectoral shift from agriculture towards industry and services sectors in recent decade.

THE KEY CAUSES OF THE FARM LABOR SHORTAGE:-The broader causes of farm labor shortage are complex, but key factors include:-

- An ageing farmer population
- Minimum wages of farmers
- Reluctance to live in rural areas

What kind of agriculture is India best suited for, mechanized or labour driven? India is extremely heterogeneous which means that different kinds of situations exist in different parts of the country. Some places are labour abundant while some others are labour scarce. Moreover, India's desire for increased farm income does not depend significantly on the mode of production, i.e., mechanized or labour-driven. Take the example of vegetable cultivation. It is highly labour intensive and machines are hardly used, but growing vegetables can increase the concerned farmer's income significantly. Let us have another example of wheat cultivation in Haryana and Punjab. In these states, wheat cultivation with assured market and price (*MSP*) is income enhancing, but it is highly mechanized. So, either route (*mechanised or labour-driven*) would not be a significant constraint for increasing farmer's incomes. The popularisation of machines requires a custom hiring facility, and if there are enough custom hiring facilities, the cost of hiring the machines will be less and farmers' income will increase. Therefore any person concerned for farmers' income should bother about the crops, commodities, and activities that would increase farmer's income. The mode of production would be adopted (*by farmers*) as per the micro-level situation. The situation can be improved with favourable institutions.

CONSEQUENCES OF LABOUR SHORTAGE: - Labour shortage cause delaying of farm operations lead to reduction in productivity and profitability finally fail to meet the future food security. Peak increment in laborer wages due to the supply demand. Delay in harvest makes difficult to take a subsequent crop, reduction in cropping intensity, huge changes in the recommended cropping system. Mitigation strategies:- The technologies used to overcome the labour shortage is described at here. Technologies like machine planting, cultivation of less labour requiring crops, mixed cropping, herbicidal weed management, fertigation and combined harvester are gain more popularity behalf of helping to overcome the labour scarcity. However, does small farmers benefited by these technologies is questionable. Many technologies are till not reached to the small and medium farmers might be due to lake of awareness.

HOW TO OVERCOME LABOUR SHORTAGE?: Some other locally accessible jobs. Labour scarcity is the recent and major constraint to scientists to find an alternate viable option. hiring of agricultural machineries, cultivation of less labour requiring crops, efficient utilization of government subsidies, precision farming and intensive use of family laborers are the viable options to overcome the labour scarcity in agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of India and more than 70% population depends on agricultural sectors for their livelihood. In agricultural production, involvement of labour is most important for planting to harvesting. India like labour rich countries also now a days facing a problem of agricultural labour scarcity. This is mainly because, most of the agricultural laborers are migrated from agricultural sectors to other locally accessible jobs. Due to the unavailability of labour, all the agricultural operations are delayed and fail to meet out the potential productivity. In recent days, most of the small farmers get away from agricultural sector because of the scarcity of water and labour. Some other farmers are lease their land and went to urban areas for better livelihood. In some cases, farmers lease their lands to medium and big farmers who affordable to buy a large machineries for meet out the labour demand and working under their farm for daily wages. To find a viable solution for this potential problem is the new area of agricultural extension research.

What factors are the major drivers of this labour shortage and what can be done about it?: To understand the factors for labour shortage, we need to understand the reasons behind the labour shortage in large parts of India, and peculiarities of demand and supply of labour agriculture. In agriculture, especially in the crop system, the demand for labour is highly skewed. For example in paddy, wheat, and similar crops, more labour is required/demanded at the time of sowing and harvesting of the crop, while requirement for labour is significantly less in another period. Hence, there are not enough work opportunities for agricultural (*wage*) workers in a period other than sowing and harvesting of the crops. Incidentally, the non-farm opportunities for agricultural (*wage*) workers can provide them

employment in the remaining period, but the same have decreased in the recent decade as per an NSS Assessment of Farmers Situation. Due to dearth of enough farm and non-farm opportunities throughout the year, they look for opportunities outside the village, and often migrate. In this context, the NSS data for employment suggests that rural-urban and inter-state migration have increased considerably in the recent decade. Following migration, supply of labour for agriculture has reduced. This is the reason behind labour shortage in agriculture. The skewed nature of demand for labour can be addressed with the diversification of crops in agriculture. Any encouragement to custom hiring facilities for machines will reduce labour demanded in the region. Any development of non-agricultural sector in the rural region will discourage migration and increases supply of agricultural workers in the region.

PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE LABOUR

- **Marginalisation of Agricultural Workers:** The workforce in agriculture (cultivators plus agricultural labourers) was 97.2 million in 1951 and this rose to 185.2 million in 1991. As against this, the number of agricultural labourers rose from 27.3 million in 1951 to 74.6 million in 1991. This implies that (i) the number of agricultural labourers increased by almost three times over the period from 1951 to 1991;
- **Unorganized sector:** The landless labourers are unorganized. Most of them also don't know the laws and their rights. It prevents them from understanding what they should demand. The illiteracy and disorganization of this sector is a huge problem.
- **Wages and Income:** Agricultural wages and family incomes of agricultural workers are very low in India.
- **Employment and Working Conditions:-** The agricultural labourers have to face the problems of unemployment and underemployment. For a substantial part of the year, they have to remain unemployed because there is no work on the farms and alternative sources of employment do not exist.
- **Indebtedness:** In the absence of banking system in the rural areas and trial process of sanction by the commercial banks, farmers prefer to take loans from un institutional sources. This exorbitant rate traps in the vicious circle of debt.
- **Low Wages for women in Agricultural Labour:** Female agricultural workers are generally forced to work harder and paid less than their male counterparts.
- **High Incidence of Child Labour:** Incidence of child labour is high in India and the estimated number varies from 17.5 million to 44 million. It is estimated that one-third of the child workers in Asia are in India.
- **Increase in Migrant Labour:** Green Revolution significantly increased remunerative wage employment opportunities in pockets of assured irrigation areas while employment opportunities nearly stagnated in the vast rain fed semi-arid areas.

SUGGESTIONS: Suggestions for the improvement of agricultural labourers:

- Better implementation of legislative measures.
- Improvement the bargaining position.
- Resettlement of agricultural workers
- Creating alternative sources of employment
- Protection of women and child labourers
- Public works programmes should be for longer period in year
- Improving the working conditions
- Regulation of hours of work
- Improvements in Agricultural sector
- Credit at cheaper rates of interest on easy terms of payment for undertaking subsidiary occupation.
- Proper training for improving the skill of farm labourers
- Cooperative farming
- Improve- the conditions of agriculture by adopting improved intensive methods and multiple cropping.

- To introduce social security measures for the agricultural workers.
- Introduce compulsory insurance on marginal contribution.
- Institute old age pension schemes for the agricultural workers by the government.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF FARM WORKERS: In order to improve the conditions of agricultural labourers in India both the central as well as the state Governments have taken various steps since independence. These measures are as follows:

- Abolition of Bonded Labour:-In order to remove agrarian slavery after independence Indian constitution has undertaken legislative measures to abolish the practice of bonded labour.
- Minimum Wages Act:-In 1948, the Minimum Wages Act was passed and the state Governments was advised to fix the minimum wages accordingly.
- Distribution of Landless Laborers:-After passing legislation for fixing ceiling on land holdings, state Government acquired surplus lands and distributed it among the landless labourers.
- Provision for Housing Sites:-Various states have passed necessary legislations for providing housing sites to agricultural labourers.
- Various Employment Schemes:-For providing alternative source of employment among the agricultural labourers various schemes have already been launched by both the central and the state Governments. These schemes include
- Rural Works Programme (RWP),
- Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE),
- Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) by the Government of Maharashtra,
- Food for Work Programme (FWP),
- National Rural Employment Programme (NREP),
- Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP),
- Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) etc.
- Special Agencies:-During the Fourth Plan two special agencies — Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA), Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency (MFALA) were developed for conducting Various works like irrigation, land leveling, soil conservation, dairy development, piggery development, poultry breeding etc. During the Fifth Plan both agencies were merged into a single programme.
- 20-Point Programme:-The Government introduced the 20-point economic programme in July 1975 in which steps were taken to improve the economic condition of landless workers and other weaker sections of the society in the rural areas.

CONCLUSION

In India, agriculture has been considered as a depressed industry and one of the major problems in Indian agriculture is the problem of agricultural labourers. The phenomenon of unemployment, underdevelopment and surplus population are simultaneously manifested in the daily lives of agricultural labourers. They have to put in very hard labour under the strong sun and in the rain and their working hours are not fixed. There is no provision for holidays. The income of agricultural labourers is very low for a considerable part of years. They are out of work and earn nothing. They are paid partly in cash and partly in kind.

The position of agricultural workers has further worsened due to rapid rise in prices which took place during the last ten years. The low level of these poverty-stricken people who do not get work throughout the years can easily be imagined. The level of living of agricultural workers in the country is very low. Generally, they eat Jowar, bajra, maize and other inferior cereals. Items such as fruits, vegetables milk, meat and other nutritive foods do not at all figure in their diet. They do not have even the minimum clothing, education and health facilities are not existent for them and their houses are no more than the places for animals which they share with them. They also suffer from many serious diseases. To meet these expenditure, they take loans and are driven into the clutches of money lenders. Fixation of minimum wage

is very essential for them. The condition of agricultural workers is not so good in many parts of India, their living standard and income is very low. For the improve the conditions government should take proper steps for various aspect for agricultural labours, like wage reforms, new methods for agriculture, hours of works, improve the living conditions and overcoming the natural factors like flood and erosion etc. After conducting the study we come to the conclusion that there is an urgent need for the development of rural areas and rural agricultural labours. Government must take more effective steps for their upliftment and betterment. One of the distinguishing features of the rural economy of India has been the growth in the number of agricultural workers, cultivators and agricultural labourers engaged in crop production. The Government of India conducted agricultural Labour Enquiry and Rural Labour Enquiries. The main objectives of these Enquiries have been to collect vital information on the Socio-Economic conditions of Rural Agricultural Landless Labourers. These enquiries formulate the policy measures to uplift the economic life of population in rural areas. In order to guarantee sustainable agricultural development in the new millennium, rural workers and their families should have access to adequate working and living conditions. Employment guarantee scheme of MGNREGS regulates the right direction to ensure livelihood security to the agricultural labourers. This Scheme Safeguard the agricultural landless labours sources of income earnings and improve standard of living. A technology which best suit and fulfill the requirement of agricultural labours should be promoted in the direction of sustainable agriculture without affecting livelihood security of agricultural labour in India. A balanced approach towards capital intensive technology without affecting the interest of manual labour is the need of the hour in the Indian context.

Agriculture is the combination or amalgamation of many activities. Sum of best performances of many activities is equal to best performance in agriculture. But, it is not possible to perform all activities perfectly, because many activities are related activities or dependent activities. Base of all dependent activities is good weather. If weather is good, all other activities are supposed to be good. But, most problematic factor in agriculture is the weather disturbance or vagaries of weather. Though, we will try to perform best considering weather as a constant factor. Out of all activities, the most important activities are the followings:

- Development of irrigation infrastructure
- Farm mechanization
- Addition of organic manure as far as possible
- Better transport system
- Better marketing infrastructure
- Availability of good quality seeds
- Crop diversification
- Farming diversification
- High value crop cultivation
- Proper storage facility
- Strong market price control measures
- Announcement of minimum support price for each crop, etc.
- Above all, availability of agricultural labourers, because they are the bedrock of Indian dynamic agriculture.

Government is taking lot of measures to improve the condition of agricultural labourers though the situation is pendulating. Hence, many activities are related activities, govt. should give much emphasis on –(a) Development of irrigation infrastructure (b) Better transport system (c) Better marketing infrastructure (d) Proper storage facility (e) Strong market price control measures and (f) Announcement of minimum support price for each crop. How much govt. will able to do that, that much extent farmers will get more profit and simultaneously agricultural labourers will be benefitted. If agriculture labourers get momentum, automatically our country's agriculture will be dynamic and sustainable.

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