

**HOME ASSIGNMENT
ON
VARIOUS ISSUES OF GREEN REVOLUTION**

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GREEN REVOLUTION

Introduction

The Indian agriculture, which had been stagnant for centuries has since recent years witnessed a veritable revolution called the "green revolution". Broadly, this is the result of the technological breakthrough in evolving seeds of high-yielding varieties. This technological leap forward in the country's agriculture is composed of a package, chiefly of four improvements none of which is wholly effective without the others: improved varieties, increased use of fertilisers, improved water supplies, and better cultural practices. With it one also associates increasing mechanisation of agricultural operations and measures of plant-protection from pests and plant diseases.

The Green Revolution have been a unique event in the agricultural history of independent India, as it has saved the country from the disasters of hunger, starvation and also made Indian peasant more confident than even before. ✓

Main Elements of the Green Revolution

Several factors have combined to usher in the Green Revolution in the country. The pride of place, however, goes to agricultural research conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (I.C.A.R) and the farm universities like Agricultural University at Ludhiana (Punjab) and the Pant Nagar (U.P). It is the development of high-yielding varieties of crops, especially the cereals and millets, which have brought about this revolution. But there are other contributory factors like inputs and initiatives, which are given below: —

(1) Wonder seeds. Agricultural revolution is primarily due to the miracle of new wonder seeds which have raised agricultural yields per acre to incredible heights. Among these we may mention new dwarf varieties of wheat PV 18, Kalyan Sona 227; for rice IR-8, PR-106, Padma, Vijaya etc.

(2) Chemical Fertilisers. The increasing use of chemical fertilisers has played a key role in this breakthrough. Fertiliser consumption increased from a mere 2.92 lakh tonnes in 1960-61 to 135 lakh tonnes in 1994-95.

(3) Multiple Cropping Thanks to new seeds maturing early it has become possible to obtain three, even four crops instead of two from the same plot in a year. This made a radical change in farm technology in India.

(4) Modern equipment and machinery
Modern machinery and implements like tractors, harvesters, pumping sets, tube-wells, etc., are being increasingly used and are replacing the bullocks wherever possible. Being time-saving, use of modern machinery in agriculture is conducive to multiple cropping.

(5) Price Incentives The Government has taken care to offer support prices to the growers so that minimum reasonable returns

for their labour and investment are assured to them.

(6) Extension of irrigation. The irrigation system of the country is being speedily extended to assure adequate water supply especially in the areas where new agricultural strategy is being applied.

(7) Processing, storage and marketing facilities. These facilities are being improved and extended so that the increased agricultural production is put to profitable use.

(8) Improved credit facilities. Farm finance is being given more attention so that farmer is not handicapped in efficiently carrying on his operations. The share of institutional credit in meeting the credit requirements of the agricultural sector has of late been rising rapidly and in the year ending June 1969, it stood at nearly 40 percent. The establishment and later the remarkable spurt in the lending operations of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation and the nationalisation

of 14 major commercial banks in July 1969 and six more in 1980 and the establishment of regional rural banks (RRBs) in later years gave further stimulus to the extension of credit facilities to the farm sector.

Merits of Green Revolution

- Compared to traditional seeds, the HYV seeds promised to produce much greater amount of grain on a single plant. As a result, the same piece of land would now produce far larger quantities of food grains that was possible earlier.
- The multiple cropping pattern helps the farmers to become economically self-sufficient as variety of foodgrains broadened the market possibilities. It also helps in reducing the rural unemployment problem especially the seasonal unemployment.
- Strong irrigation facility make the farming field appropriate for yielding

even if the rain does not fall.

- Fertilisers and pesticides keep the crops away from different diseases and the crop grow in greater amount.

Demerits of Green Revolution

- Poor farmers could not afford HYV seeds, fertilizers and machinery.
- Some borrowed and ended up with large debts.
- HYV seeds need more water and fertilizer which is expensive.
- Again new machinery replaced manual labour leading to unemployment and rural-urban migration.
- Green Revolution was limited to rice and wheat only.

Suggestions for future success of Green Revolution

On the different- solution of the problems, will depend the future spread of green revolution. We may accordingly briefly consider below the lines on which efforts be made to ensure its further success.

(1) Integrated Research Programme. An integrated crop research programme is essential to maintain a regular flow of innovations in high-yielding varieties, use of fertilisers and pest protection measures.

(2) Credit Needs. Purchases of farm inputs are often concentrated initially among the larger farmer who are able to finance their own purchases. But the rate at which small farmers adopt new technologies is largely determined by the availability of farm credit on reasonable terms. If the majority of small farmers are dependent on the money-lender for credit, often at rates ranging from 20 to 100 percent a year, they may not

find it profitable to use modern inputs such as fertilisers. A substantial step up in the institutional credit will be necessary at the programmes of intensive agriculture involving use of costly material and labour inputs will require massive credit support.

(3) Fertilisers A significant increase in fertiliser consumption is a crucial element in the new technology. It is necessary to get the optimum yield out of the new cereal varieties which are highly responsive to increased dosage of fertilisation. The major problem in this connection will, therefore, be to ensure the availability of fertilisers within easy reach of the farmer.

(4) Water Development. Intensive cultivation of the new HYVs requires an adequate supply of water. There is a feeling that the shortfalls in the HYV programme have largely been due to the 'glaring underestimation' of its water requirements. It is therefore, very necessary to supplement existing canal irrigation facilities with tubewells over as large an area as possible.

Conclusion

Green Revolution is a massive revolution for transformation of the less-developed countries to a developing and developed country through strong improvement in agriculture.

Despite of its various problems a continuous process is going on to make the field of agriculture rich and the farmers self-sufficient. For this the village farmers will also have to become fully conscious about all the facilities, information and effects.

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