



**Biotica
Research
Today**
Vol 2:3 **34** / **35**
2020

Doubling Farmers Income by 2022: Perspective

Debmala Mukherjee¹, Tridip Bhattacharjee^{2*}, Subhrajyoti Chatterjee¹, P. K. Maurya¹, S. Banarjee¹, Thingreingam Irenaeus K. S.², A. Chattopadhyay¹

¹Dept. of Vegetable Science, Faculty of Horticulture, BCKV, Nadia, West Bengal (741 252), India.

²College of Agriculture, Tripura, Lembucherra, Tripura (799 210), India

Open Access

Corresponding Author

Tridip Bhattacharjee
e-mail: tridip4u2@gmail.com

Keywords

Farmers, doubling income, schemes, farming

Article History

Received in 12th March 2020

Received in revised form 15th March 2020

Accepted in final form 16th March 2020

How to cite this article?

Mukherjee *et al.*, 2020. Doubling Farmers Income by 2022: Perspective. *Research Today* 2(3): 34-35

Abstract

Development of the agriculture sector in India focused primarily on raising agricultural output and improving food security. On the contrary, farmers' income also remained low in relation to income of those working in non-farm sector. During early 1980, farm income per cultivator was just 34% of income of a non-agricultural worker. The potentiality of high value crops (HVC) to double farmers' income over the cultivation of staple crops can clearly be understood with a statistical comparison. A number of schemes have been promoted by Govt. of India during the last years. Science that optimizes on the inputs, helps to reduce costs, makes the production more competitive and mitigates any inflationary pressure should be undertaken.

Introduction

India has earned self-sufficient in agricultural aspects with 273.38 MT for food grains and 295.16 MT horticultural productions annually. But after independence the strategy for development of agriculture sector in India mainly focused primarily on raising agricultural production and improving food security among ever increasing population. These strategies did not explicitly recognize actual need to raise farmers' income and did not mention any direct measure to promote farmers' welfare. The ultimate result has been that farmers' income remained low, which is evident from the incidence of poverty among farm households. The NSSO data on Consumption Expenditure Survey for year 2011-12 reveals that more than one fifth of rural households with self-employment in agriculture as their principal occupation were having income less than the poverty line. The proportion of farm households suffering from poverty was quite high in some states. On the contrary, farmers' income also remained low in relation to income of those working in non-farm sector. During early 1980, farm income per cultivator was just 34% of income of a non-agricultural worker. After 1993-94, relative income of farmers worsened and reached one fourth of income of non-agricultural workers. There was some improvement during 2005-06 to 2011-12, but in past few years again witnessed (2012-13 to 2015-16) deterioration in relative income of farmers.

Concept of Existence

Realizing the need to pay special attention to the predicament of farmers the Central Government changed the name of "Ministry of Agriculture" to "Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare" in 2015.

Recommendations of the National Round Table on Doubling Farmers Incomes by 2022 based on the recommendations of National Commission on Farmers, Government announced measuring agricultural progress by real income of farmers and not by gross production of agricultural commodities. The Finance Minister in his “Budget 2016” speech, mentioned about doubling farmers’ income. Realizing the need to pay special attention for the welfare of farmers and to reduce agrarian distress our honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi set a goal to double farmers’ income by 2022-23 when the country will complete 75 years of its independence.

Need to be Implemented

The average monthly income per capita from farming increased from Rs 1,060 in 2003 to Rs 3,844 in 2013, according to the report of Situational Assessment of Agricultural Households by the NSSO, a compounded annual income growth rate of 13.7%. To double the income of farmers by 2022, in nominal (numerical) terms—which do not take inflation into account—would require a 15% compounded income growth rate, which is a marginal increase over the achieved increase from 2003 to 2013. However to increase the income in real terms, it is required to restructure the agriculture processes & policy interventions.

Doubling Farmers’ income by High Value Crops (HVC): The potentiality of high value crops (HVC) to double farmers’ income over the cultivation of staple crops can clearly be understood with a statistical comparison.

The staple crops (Pulses, Oilseeds and Cereals) occupy 77% of the gross cropped area but contributed only 41% of total output of the crop sector. Interestingly almost same value of output was contributed by HVC (Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers and Spices & Condiments) which just occupy 19% of gross cropped area during 2013-14.

Average productivity (Monetary value) of HVC after adjusting for cropping intensity variation was estimated as Rs-1,41,777.00/ ha as compared to Rs- 41,169.00/ ha for staple crops. With this differential in productivity, shifting 1ha area from staple crops to commercial HVC has the potential to increase gross return up to Rs- 1, 01,608.00.

Vegetables: Among all High Value Crops

The vegetable crops are with following characteristics:

- Short duration crop,
- Highly nutritious,
- High yield,
- Economic viability
- Ability to generate on farm and off farm income generation
- Export potentiality.

Ways to Improve the Farmers’ Income

• What farmers can do

- ✓ Planting with quality plant materials
- ✓ Planting of diverse crops
- ✓ Integrated nutrient management
- ✓ Integrated pest and disease management
- ✓ Organic vegetable production
- ✓ Adoption of new technologies
- ✓ Maintaining post harvest aspects
- ✓ Short duration storage facility

• What farm associated people can do

- ✓ Making available of planting material
- ✓ Promotion of protected structures
- ✓ Post harvest value added products
- ✓ Export promotion system
- ✓ Cold storage facility
- ✓ Support from Govt and non-Govt organization

Present Status

A number of schemes have been promoted by Govt. of India during the last years. Soil health card scheme, National mission for sustainable agriculture, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), National agricultural market (e-nam) and more. But all the farmers are not getting the advantage of these schemes and don’t get lone also.

There is a huge gap between farmers and consumers due to a chain of middle man.

Conclusion

This is necessary not only from perspective of food and nutrition security, but also needed to secure raw material for a vast multitude of industries that depend on agriculture. Science that optimizes on the inputs, helps to reduce costs, makes the production more competitive and mitigates any inflationary pressure should be undertaken. Linking farmers with optimal demand and assisting the marketing system to develop optimized supply chain operations are critical areas where technologies can add great value to the farmer. Formulation of Land Leasing Act, Digitization of Land Record, Certificate of cultivation for tenant farmers, provision for practicing kitchen gardening for urban households and poor people may be a great support to farmers to get a good return. For all these issues, all SAUs, KVKs along with Govt. and non-Govt. organizations should come forward so that the farmers of our country will never commit suicide and will live happily.