



International Journal of Arts & Education Research

SOME REFLECTIONS IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE A CRITICAL DILEMMA

Vinod Kumar*¹, Pramod Kumar Upadhyay¹

¹Lecturer, Sri Gandhi Vidhyalaya Inter College Dhanora, Amroha, India.

ABSTRACT

India's food grains production has increased dramatically from 50.82 million tonnes (mt) in 1950-51 to over 234 mt in 2009-10. But, food demand has been continuously rising due to population growth, increase in consumers' income, and other reasons. The projection made by the National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) indicates that the total demand for food grains would be about 316 mt by 2025 and 441 mt by 2050. There are apprehensions now whether production of food grains can be increased to meet the projected level of demand given the recent dismal performance of Indian agriculture. On the one hand, the area allotted for food grain crops has been declining persistently in relation to gross cropped area, on the other hand, the growth rate in production and productivity of various food grain crops has decelerated during the last decade. Adding to this problem, now the paddy cultivating farmers from the state of Andhra Pradesh, which is the rice bowl of India, have declared themselves on crop holidays for the ongoing kharif season in an area of about four lakh hectares. The crop holidays, which are never heard in the history of Indian agriculture, declared by the farmers neither belong to rainfed areas nor the drought-prone regions but are from the districts of highly irrigated region in Andhra Pradesh. The farmers leading the crop holidays campaign have also urged their peers in Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to go on crop holidays so as to protest against the poor remuneration from paddy cultivation. Since the contribution of irrigated agriculture to the total production of food grains is large, this move can potentially harm the production of food grains which may lead to food security problems as well.