

INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN ANDHRA PRADESH, "ISSUES AND CONCERNS"

Special Focus on AGRICULTURAL ALLIED SECTORS

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ABSTRACT

The importance of agriculture in the Andhra Pradesh states overall economic progress can hardly be over emphasised. Agriculture is the backbone of not just the state, but the country as a whole. In Andhra Pradesh 72.4 percent of the population live in rural areas and derive their means of livelihood primarily from agriculture and allied sectors.

Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh is undergoing rapid transformation since the introduction of Green Revolution technology.

The recent policy of liberalisation and globalisation has opened up new avenues for agriculture modernisation.

With the introduction of economic reforms, consequent generation of agriculture commercialisation started emerging in the Andhra Pradesh economy.

Low production costs and high yielding are encouraging farmers to go for "agriculture allied sectors" like horticulture, floriculture, sericulture, fisheries poultries etc.

Another emerging trend in Andhra Pradesh agriculture is leading towards diversification which is opening up the prospects for dairying, horticulture, sericulture, truck farming, agro-forestry etc.

Objectives of the study:

- 1.To study the scope and importance of "agriculture allied activities" to migrate the additional labour force in agriculture.
- 2.To analyse the present status of agriculture allied sectors like horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry and poultry etc.
- 3.To identify the requirements and need for the encouragement of agriculture allied sectors and how they can improve the standards of livelihood of poor rural people.

- 4.To recognise the growth and role of agriculture allied activities in rural development of Andhra Pradesh.
- 5.To suggest some measures to spread and improve the agriculture allied activities to accelerate the economic development of the state.

Methodology:

The methodology used in this study with the help of the data from secondary sources.

Introduction

Agriculture and agriculture allied sectors: Agriculture is the predominant occupation of two thirds of the working population for their livelihood. It is the major source of income of the rural people. Due to the additional burden of the labour force the farmers are getting negative returns from the farming. Lack of credit, irrigation, low productivity and unsupported market conditions are forcing the rural people for alternative sectors of agriculture.

Now there is a need to improve and encourage agriculture allied sectors which can create alternate employment for the surplus labour of the agriculture. And by encouraging agriculture allied sectors there is a scope for optimum utilisation of the limited resources.

Horticulture is gaining greater momentum in the State as revealed by its contribution to the GSDP and to its relative share in the agriculture sector as well. The contribution of horticulture to the GSDP of Andhra Pradesh is around 5.03 percent.

The Horticulture sector covers a wide variety of crops, provides ample scope for empowering the people by generating employment opportunities, improving economic conditions, providing nutritional security and plays a vital role in the transformation of agrarian economy.

Growth of horticulture: The area under horticulture has increased from 3.70 hectares in 1982 to 24.97 lakh hectares by 2010-11 and it is estimated at 25.59 lakh hectares in 2011-12.

HORTICULTURE CROPS AREA AND PRODUCTION DURING 2010-11

	Area	Production
CROP CATEGORY	(Lakh Hect)	(Lakh MTs)
Fruit crops	6.46	94.17
Plantation crops	3.11	13.30

Vegetables & tuber crops	6.51	118.47
Spices	8.25	35.98
Cut flowers	0.02	7.02
Flowers	0.63	3.85
Total	24.97	265.82

SOME OTHER SEGMENTS OF HORTICULTURE:

Floriculture has been identified as one of the focus segments of horticulture. Due to growing demand for flowers in the domestic and export market. Flower cultivation is a profitable prospect for the farmers.

Landscape & Ornamental Gardening : With a view to transform of urban environment into pollution free and pleasant surroundings, the department is taking up revitalisation of Public Gardens with an aim to develop model landscape gardens.

Organic farming: During 2008-09, 1,496 vermi compost units were sanctioned under horticulture crops towards encouraging adoption of organic farming. An area of 7,223 hectares of fruit crops, vegetables and spices has been brought under "organic farming".

Mushroom Development:

Mushrooms are rich in proteins, vitamins and minerals. The oyster mushroom and paddy straw mushroom are cultivated in unorganised sector and in need of spawn material. The department has set up 6 mushroom labs in the State for production and supply of spawn/seed material to entrepreneurs. During 2008-09, 4,181 Kgs of spawn material is produced and 370 individuals were trained in mushroom cultivation.

Oil palm development:

Andhra Pradesh stands 1st in area, production and productivity under Oil palm. An area of 4.10 lakh hectares has been identified as a potential area for Oil palm cultivation. Around 322 mandals were identified as potential areas in the state and out of which 274 mandals were allotted to public/private entrepreneurs for establishment of processing units. An area of 77,328 hectares has been covered under oil palm up to 2008-09. Under this project assistance is being provided towards plant material, cultivation, micro irrigation and inter-crop besides organising training programmes.

Fisheries:

Andhra Pradesh occupies an important place in the Fisheries map of India. Several irrigation projects underway in Andhra Pradesh are rendering the "fisheries" to grow exponentially with the increase in the water spread area. With growing importance attached to the fisheries sub-sector especially in the backdrop of employment offered by it to the fishermen whose occupation is highly prone to natural calamities,

efforts are afoot- both at central level and state level to strengthen the existing infrastructure through implementation of successful cultural practices.

Andhra Pradesh ranks 1st in Brackish water shrimp production, 1st in Fresh water prawn production, 2nd in Fresh water fish production, 5th in marine fish production. The state is contributing about 40% of the marine exports from the country. The fisheries sector contributed 2.30% to the Gross State Domestic Product during 2008-09.

Sericulture:

Low fixed capital and relatively higher returns on investment, rendered the Sericulture as a sustainable farm-based enterprise favouring rural poor in Andhra Pradesh.

An important feature of the sericulture industry is involvement of women around 60%. Realising the importance of the activity, the government has earmarked an outlay of Rs.2545.91 lakhs for sericulture sector under Annual Plan 2008-09 for implementation of various schemes.

Andhra Pradesh is the 2nd largest producer of 'mulberry' and 'tassar' cocoons in the country and 'muga' culture is in its initial stage. Andhra Pradesh has the privilege of producing all 4 types of silk called Tassar, Eri, Muga besides Mulberry being predominantly practiced in Tribal areas of the state. As vast tracts of forest based tassar food plantations are available in the state, judicious exploitation for rearing tassar silk worms can offer supplementary gainful employment for tribals.

Tassar culture:

A round 3,000 tribal families are engaged in rearing Tassar silk worms on the food plants available in the forest areas of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam districts. The department has produced a record production of 166.67 lakhs of tassar cocoons in the tribal belt of northern Telangana region covering 2803 beneficiaries.

Ericulture:

Andhra Pradesh has a larger extent of castor and tapioca plantations particularly in the districts of Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda, Rangareddy and East Godavari. The farmers can utilize 30% of the castor seed and tapioca leaf for rendering of Eri silk worms without any deterioration in the yield of castor seed and tapioca tuber, to get additional income of Rs.2,000 to 4,000.

Animal Husbandry:

As an important sub-sector to agriculture sector, animal husbandry is rapidly making inroads into the rural economy providing gainful employment to a large number of small and medium farmers thereby effectively raise their economic status. Implementation of economic support programmes like distribution of milch animals, sheep and poultry units have enormously helped the rural masses in bridging their income gaps. Besides conserving domestic biodiversity, it is a means of producing in dry lands without depleting ground water resources. Dependability even during drought times is one thing that makes the livestock sub-sector more lucrative and progressive. The sub-sector provides sustainable daily income to nearly 60 lakh families even during adverse seasonal conditions. Several schemes targeting increased production of milk, meat and eggs are also helping the human population in the state to improve their nutritional standards.

Thus, the animal husbandry department has been rendering the services to all the sections of people, in particular weaker sections of society and playing a vital role in the rural development by generating additional sources of income and employment and by protecting their valuable livestock.

Sheep development:

Sheep rearing plays an important role in the state economy. It provides gainful employment and income to the weaker sections especially the rural poor. Scientific breeding is being advocated in the sheep farms for the production of breeding rams with improved quality of mutton and wool. To improve the quantity and the quality of sheep, Two Sheep Farms and one Ram Multiplication Farm and Two sheep units are functioning.

Piggery development:

Pig farming has an important role in improving the socio-economic status of a sizable population

of the weaker sections of the society. To make available "pork" at a reasonable price, piggery development has been taken up in Andhra Pradesh under various programmes like ITDA, IRDP and SC Action Plan etc, as pig is a profile breeder with heavy little size, short gestation period, and good feed conversion efficiency. Piggery plays an important role in meeting the demands of meat in rural areas as well as urban areas.

In order to make available the required pedigree Male and Female breeding stock to the beneficiaries under various schemes, 4 pig breeding stations are functioning in the state.

Poultry Development:

Poultry farming in Andhra Pradesh is the most dynamic and fastest growing segment of the agriculture sector. The state occupies 1st rank in egg production and broiler production in the country with an annual production of 1,925 crores eggs.

Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Development of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, New Delhi have introduced a centrally sponsored scheme assistance to State poultry farms during the year 2005-06 on 80:20, Center to State basis for maintaining low input technology breeding stock, which can survive well in rural areas.

The target group for supply of these birds is as far as possible, limited to only small and marginal farmers, agriculture labourers and women in self help groups and other socially backward sector of the society.

It is proposed to establish 3 Vanaraja/ Gramapriya Multiplication Centres in Utukuru in kadapa, Alluru in Nellore and Garividi in Vizaianagaram districts, under a Centrally sponsored scheme.

Conclusion:

The technological innovations have helped the agriculture allied sectors providing abundant scope for empowering the people not only by improving economic conditions of those subsisting on it but also catering to their nutritional security and eventually resulting in transforming the agrarian economy. The most significant development in the last decades is that agriculture allied sectors are moved from rural confinement to that of a commercial activity encouraging private sector investment. In reality, the transition from traditional to trade oriented outlook has brought a perceptible change in the concept of agriculture development in the state. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been giving much needed emphasis to agriculture allied sector development.

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