

GLOBALISATION AND AGRICULTURAL CRISIS IN INDIA

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The role of agriculture, as a major sector, contributing to poverty eradication and increased employment, in the context of World Trade Organisation regime, is discussed here. It is also stressed that globalisation, as an overarching measure should not intervene Indian agriculture to the latter's detriment.

In India, the Gross Domestic Product contribution of agriculture is 35% and its labour intake is 65%. This is an abysmal picture indicating the low productivity of farm labour, and is in direct contrast to western scenario. The agricultural surplus, according to Arthur Lewis is used by the secondary and tertiary sectors for their expansion. However, an ever increasing population growth in India has frustrated all such possibilities.

However, for upkeeping food security and at the same time mobilising a larger agricultural surplus to the urban centres, much more developmental thrust in the development of agriculture is needed. The attitude of development thinkers has changed to this effect, of late. The massive rural exodus into urban centres has strengthened the need for producing more and more agricultural surplus. This requires more land, more water, more power and more productivity. With a concern for environmental security, this paper advocates sustainable development of agriculture.

In spite of so much of technology, institutional finance and infrastructural development introduced into the rural sector, agriculture still remains the backbone of 70% of India's population. In this context, this paper advocates that the Trade Related Patent Rights advocated by Multi-National Corporations like Monsanto and global organisations like World Trade Organisation should be selectively implemented by the Government, so that the interests of the poor, marginal and small farmers who form the large majority, are not betrayed.

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