



BHARATI VIDYAPEETH
(Deemed to be University), Pune

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SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

ECONOMICS (G1) – II



F.Y.B.A. (A221)

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Centre for School of Distance Education
Bharati Vidyapeeth
(Deemed to be University), Pune, India

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UNIT - 1

AGRICULTURE

NOTES

- 1.1 Role of agriculture in the Indian economy.
- 1.2 Causes of low productivity and measure to improve it.
- 1.3 Green and White Revolution
- 1.4 Agriculture marketing- difficulties and remedies.
- 1.5 Sources of agriculture finance.
- 1.6 Livestock and animal Husbandry in India
- 1.7 Suicide of farmers- causes and remedies

Introduction: Agriculture in India is one of the most important sectors of its economy. It is the means of livelihood of almost two thirds of the work force in the country and according to the economic data for the financial year 2006-07, agriculture accounts for 18% of India's GDP. About 43 % of India's geographical area is used for agricultural activity. Though the share of Indian agriculture in the GDP has steadily declined, it is still the single largest contributor to the GDP and plays a vital role in the overall socio-economic development of India. One of the biggest success stories of independent India is the rapid strides made in the field of agriculture. From a nation dependent on food imports to feed its population, India today is not only self-sufficient in grain production but also has substantial reserves. Dependence of India on agricultural imports and the crises of food shortage encountered in 1960 convinced planners that India's growing population, as well as concerns about national independence, security, and political stability, required self-sufficiency in food production. This perception led to a program of agricultural improvement called the Green Revolution. It involved bringing additional area under cultivation, extension of irrigation facilities, the use of improved high-yielding variety of seeds, better techniques evolved through agricultural research, water management, and plant protection through judicious use of fertilizers, pesticides and cropping practices. All these measures had a salutary effect and the production of wheat and rice witnessed quantum leap.

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy because of its high share in employment and livelihood creation. The share of agriculture in the gross domestic product has registered a steady decline yet this sector provides direct employment to more than fifty percent of total workforce in the country and a large proportion of the population depends upon agro-based industries and trade of agriculture products. It is also an important source of raw material and demand

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