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## **AGRARIAN CRISIS IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW**

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**Abstract:** *India is mainly an agrarian nation, and its economy is agrarian. Even now, 60% of India's population is dependent on agriculture for their living. During the time of the British Raj, in most parts of India, agriculture was an profession of the small and middle farmers. But today the status of agriculture in India is miserable. Shortage of funds to invest in the irrigation sector, negligence of land and constant droughts have brought about this miserable situation. Since the early nineties, the glory days of India's green revolution have diminished. Profits from the green revolution areas have reached a point of saturation, and this was mostly generated by the weakening in land and factor efficiency from the late eighties. The production rate or yield rate of crops has been reported to be still in recent years with no hope of increasing the land area in cultivation.*

**Keywords—** *Keywords: Agrarian crisis, green revolution, marker imperfections, distress sale.*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture's portion in the GDP failed from 41% in 1972-73 to 20% in 2004-05. Unsatisfactory accessibility of irrigation across the nation, and an increasing pressure on available irrigation resources is one of the main causes for the agrarian crisis in India. Punjab's economy is overwhelmed in a serious agrarian emergency. The capitalisation of agricultural production procedures has hugged employment chances and wage rates in the farm area. The agrarian crisis in the state has lacking the agricultural labourers to low earnings and debt traps, which have led them towards death by suicide. Founded on a door-to-door and village-to-village survey of 2,400 villages falling in the jurisdiction of six districts of Punjab, the current study discloses that 7,303 agricultural labourers died by suicide in the state during 2000–18. The financial recompense, debt waiver, provision of healthcare and education of victim

families along with protection of legal rights regarding wage improvements and land rights, and agro-industrialisation are main policy methods for talking the act of suicide by agricultural labourers.

## **DISCUSSION**

India is an agrarian economy as over half of the total labor force of 48.2 crore is involved in agriculture. Of the total agricultural workers of 26.3 crore in the nation, over 45% are cultivators and the outstanding around 55% are agricultural labourers (GoI 2011). Although being a noteworthy size of workers and population of agricultural labourers, their socio-economic conditions have declined over time and have touched a level that increases alarm. Victims of dire economic adversities, a large proportion of them are subject to unhappiness; then, many are ending up taking their own exists. During the last two periods, more than 3.50 lakh farmers pass away by suicide in India. This issue has often been deliberated and discussed on various platforms, but inappropriately, agricultural labourers' plight has been overlooked for long. For example, the data of suicides of this stratum of the country was not available and accessible till 2013. In India 6,750 agricultural labourers died by suicide in 2014, which declined to 4,595 in 2015 and increased to 5,019 in 2016. Though, this number further declined to 4,324 in 2019 (NCRB 2020: 237). The phenomenon of rural suicides is more predominant in the green revolution belt of the country. All the so-called agriculturally industrialized states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Punjab, are the worst-hit areas. The extent of socio-economic sorrows of agricultural labourers in these states has reached a critical stage. So much so, the green revolution has been debatably considered to be accountable for hardships among the rural working class.

In Punjab, out of total workforce of 99 lakh, over one-third is engaged in agriculture either as ploughs or agricultural labourers, which is much lower than that for India as a entire (54.6%). Amongst the total agricultural workforce of 35 lakh in the state, 15 lakh (43%) are agricultural labourers. Around two-thirds of these agricultural labourers belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC) category (GoI 2011), which is reflected as the lowest in the caste hierarchy in the state. The mechanisation of agriculture, though enhanced crop productivity, reduced the work opportunities in the farm sector, consequently generated surplus labour. As a consequence, the difficulties of unemployment, underemployment and low labour productivity has grown up in the agricultural segment.

The rising frequency of farmers' agitations in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and elsewhere and the high incidence of farmer's suicides are symptoms of a deep malaise in rural India. But outside

scanning the morning headlines, urban India has hardly saw. So long as growth keeps continuing along at 6% plus and food prices remain steady, urban India doesn't really care.

This satisfaction about the bad luck of Bharat is quite dangerous. Agriculture is still the core of our food security. With over 1.3 billion mouths to feed, imports will not solve our problematic if there is a severe drought and food deficiency. Those old enough will recall the desperate years of 1964-65 and 1965-66. Moreover, though agriculture now accounts for less than 15% of gross domestic product (GDP), it is still the main source of livelihood for nearly half our population. It was, consequently, reassuring to see Nitin Gadkari candidly distinguish in a recent TV interview that there is a crisis in Indian agriculture. But what are the roots of this crisis? And what is the way forward? I can only plan the answers to these critical questions in this short pillar.

### **CONCLUSION**

Despite grants on power, manures, etc., input costs have been rising faster than sale prices, further hugging the meagre income of the small agriculturalists and heavy them into debt. About 52% of agrarian families are projected to be in debt, and the average size of household debt is Rs47, 000. If small agriculturalists are subjected to any of the production or marketing shocks described overhead, it knocks the bottom out of their unwarranted being. The household slides into a downward spiral of extreme suffering, debt default and more suffering. Ajay Dandekar and Sreedeeep Bhattacharya have pointed out in a recent paper that there is a strong association between crop disappointment and the occurrence of agriculturalist suicides.

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