

Agricultural Development in Miryalguda Mandal, of Nalgodnda District of Telangana - A Geographical Study

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Abstract: *Agriculture geography is the science, art, and business of cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock; farming. Agriculture contributes to development in many ways. Agriculture contributes to development as an economic activity, as a livelihood, and as a provider of environmental services, making the sector a unique instrument for development. As an economic activity. Agriculture can be a source of growth for the national economy, a provider of investment opportunities for the private sector, and a prime driver of agriculture - related industries and the rural nonfarm economy. Two thirds added is created in developing countries. In agriculture - based countries, it generates on average 29 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and employs 65 percent of the labor force. The industries and services linked to agriculture in value chains often account for more than 30 percent of GDP in transforming and urbanized countries. Agricultural production is important for food security because it is a source of income for the majority of the rural poor. It is particularly critical in a dozen countries of Sub - Saharan Africa, (Libya. Egypt, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Tunisia.... etc) with a combined population of about 200 million and with highly variable domestic production, limited tradability of food staples, and foreign exchange constraints in meeting their food needs through imports. These countries are exposed to recurrent food emergencies and the uncertainties of food aid, and for them, increasing and stabilizing domestic production is essential for food security.*

Keywords: Agricultural production, Agriculture, Sustainability, Development, Geographical study

1. Introduction

Agriculture geography is the science, art, and business of cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock; farming. Agriculture contributes to development in many ways. Agriculture contributes to development as an economic activity, as a livelihood, and as a provider of environmental services, making the sector a unique instrument for development. As an economic activity. Agriculture can be a source of growth for the national economy, a provider of investment opportunities for the private sector, and a prime driver of agriculture - related industries and the rural nonfarm economy. Two thirds added is created in developing countries.

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As a livelihood. Agriculture is a source of livelihoods for an estimated 86 percent of rural people. It provides jobs for 1.3 billion smallholders and landless workers, “farm - financed

social welfare” when there are urban shocks, and a foundation for viable rural communities. Of the developing world’s 5.5 billion people, 3 billion live in rural areas, nearly half of humanity. Of these rural inhabitants an estimated 2.5 billion are in households involved in agriculture, and 1.5 billion are in smallholder households.³ Agriculture is a way of life, a tradition which has shaped the culture and economic life of the people of Telangana therefore will continue to be central to all strategies for planned socio - economic development of the State. Rapid growth of agriculture is essential not only to achieve self reliance but also for food security and to bring about equity in distribution of income and wealth resulting in rapid reduction in poverty levels.

The State has recorded ever highest food grain production of 198.17 lakh tons during 2007 - 08 followed by 162.29 lakh tons during 2006 - 07 due to occurrence of drought and floods. The current year is expected to reach another milestone with record food grain production about 204 lakh tons and about 211 lakh tons targeted for the year 2009 - 10.

At the National level the production of Foodgrains in Andhra Pradesh in 2003 - 04 was at 6th position. In 2004 - 05 it was at 4th level and in 2005 - 06/2006 - 07 it has reached to the 3rd place. The year 2007 - 08 favorable for Agriculture showing very high signals of growth rate in Agriculture. To benefit the farmer community, the State Govt. has made all efforts to give free power on top priority and has also waived the old dues. This has immensely benefited to the farmers. The reasons being, a fairly good rainfall, seasonal conditions are congenial and secondly, the reform initiatives taken up by the State Government, such as timely quality seed supply and irrigation support through added area under canal irrigation system. These initiatives

are linked with the Government's policy to support the cause of the farmers to uplift their economy through various strategies, such as input support, extension reforms, marketing etc., The agril. sector in the State has regained its past glory.

The envisaged growth in excess of 4% in the Agriculture sector during 11th plan is possible only if the farm incomes improve sustainability. Recent Agriculture and irrigation policy initiatives of the State, besides targeting higher productivity in respect of food crops, lay focus on establishment and strengthening of linkages. Such secondary linkages of agriculture assume paramount importance, especially in the context of state's primacy in the production of commercial crops such as groundnut, chillies, cotton, sugarcane and a gamut of horticultural crops.

2. Need of the Study

Civilization began with agriculture. When our nomadic ancestors began to settle and grow their own food, human society was forever changed. Not only did villages, towns and cities begin to flourish, but so did knowledge, the arts and the technological sciences. In 88 countries, a significant portion of the population - some 800 million people worldwide - continue to suffer from deficient diets. What is more, the drive toward food security has slowed in recent years. The rate of growth in agricultural production is declining; world grain reserves have fallen to record lows; the demand for imported grain is increasing; and commitments of aid to agricultural development have decreased. This against a backdrop of expanding world population, intensifying demands on agricultural resources, and a growing recognition that the agri - food system is not sustainable.

It is a vicious cycle where environmental degradation is affecting agricultural productivity and agricultural practices are affecting the environment. To conclude agriculture, agricultural science and technology aids in reducing hunger, improving livelihood and increasing economic growth.

Indigenous and local agricultural practices need to be used along with scientific research and developments. There should be a co - ordination of international scientific programs for enhancing agriculture and agricultural produce. Policies and technologies that are conducive to sustainable use of natural resources must be shared internationally. It is imperative to alleviate hunger and look for the causes of nutritional insecurity and degraded natural resources. Productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries need to be increased in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner which is acceptable to both the farmers as well as the consumers. Agriculture is an important aspect of every society for its social, economic and environmental growth.

Miryalguda Mandal is famous for the paddy growth and it is listed among the top 5 paddy markets in Telangana. The new agriculture market yard under construction will be the largest in Telangana, with a size of 45 acres (180, 000 m²). Water from Left canal of Nagarjuna Sagar makes Miryalguda and its surroundings green and commercially rich. At this juncture it is important to study the agricultural

development in this parts of the Miryalgud Mandal of Nalgodnda district.

3. Review of Literature

Pingali, P. L. ; Bigot, Y. ; Binswanger, H. P. (1987) in his book "Agricultural mechanization and the evolution of farming systems in sub - Saharan Africa. pp. viii to 216pp.", physical explains why, despite the repeated extension efforts, the use of the land hoe remains predominant in some farming systems, identifies socioeconomic, technical and political factors that have influenced the evolution of farming practices from shifting to intensive or permanent cultivation of land, and evaluates the policy - planning and project framework within which to promote the future growth of agricultural mechanization"

Boris E. Bravo - Ureta and Antonio E. Pinheiro (1990) in his paper Efficiency Analysis of Developing Country Agriculture: A Review of the Frontier Function Literature, give emphasis on "The farm level technical efficiency indexes from all the studies reviewed range from 1770 to 100% with an average of 7270. The reported allocative efficiency indexes range from a low of 43or 40to a high of 89% with an average of 68%. By contrast, the economic efficiency indexes go from 13% to 69%, with an average of 43%. A major conclusion stemming from these efficiency measures is that there is considerable room to increase agricultural output in developing countries without increasing input levels and without requiring the introduction of new technology".

Anholt and Zijp (1994) representing the World Bank suggested that, "there is increasing recognition that if extension is to meet the diverse needs of modern farming, a fundamental change of approach is called for, towards educating and enabling farmers to define and solve their own problems, and to determine and take some responsibility for the extension service they require. "

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (Anderson, J., Herdt, R., and Scobie, G., 1988, p.1) reported, those who addressed themselves to the question of how to increase food production in the nonindustrialized countries after 1945 agreed that certain steps were vital. Ó Millions of peasant farmers who raised subsistence crops needed better knowledge of how to grow more food and achieve greater crop stability. Extension services therefore had to be strengthened.

4. Description of Study Area

Miryalguda mandal is in Nalgonda District of the southern Indian state Telangana. It is the home town of a key commercial center, town, mandal & revenue divisional headquarters in the region of Telangana. This town is well developed with Underground Drainage System, Sugar Water for drinking and cement roads in all interior streets. This town has good number of apartments and the living standards are high.

Geographically located at 16°52'19"N 79°33'46"E. It is around 148 km from Hyderabad/160 km from Vijayawada,

120 km from guntur, 180 km from Warangal Telangana tourism boating station in Thallagadda Lake. Miryalguda mandal is famous for the paddy growth and it is listed among the top 5 paddy markets in Telangana. The new agriculture market yard under construction will be the largest in Telangana, with a size of 45 acres (180, 000 m²). Water from Left canal of Nagarjuna Sagar makes Miryalguda and its surroundings green and commercially rich. The town is quite famous for its large number of rice mills in state and country, and it also has famous F. C. I (Food Corporation Of India) near to the chinthapally village.

The young town has been promoted as Municipality in the year 1985, youngest in the district and is competing with district capital Nalgonda. The population has been growing rapidly due to industrialization and its convenient location between coastal Andhra and Telangana. It is in close proximity to river Krishna. The only town in the district with safe, saturated and well organized drinking water supply. The town reflects both ancient traditions and carrying culture of Telangana, at the same time with new generation innovative activities.

The town gradually changing its infrastructure with the construction of new municipal offices, shopping complexes, apartments and other important commercial establishments. The State highway constructed through the city in year 1994 poured great opportunities to the town in terms of accessibility and exposure. It has become the most congested town in the district as a result of new settlers and rapid expansion. The land rates around have gone up 3 fold in 4 years due to real estate speculation. But there is no guarantee that this kind of growth will sustain due to future realization about true value of the output from investment. Also many innocent people are being lured into real estate investment by the local land owners who started ventures without proper government approval. This along with uncertain future growth and employment potential in the region, real estate business is set to doom in near future. Collector of Nalgonda had issued various notices to the realtors to prevent real estate fraud. It is expected to be the most populous city in the district by year 2012. Fifth Additional District Court in Nalgonda District is established in Miryalguda in the year 2008.

As of 2011 India census, Miryalguda had a population of 103, 855. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. Miryalguda has an average literacy rate of 82.09%, higher than the national average of 74.04.5%: male literacy is 89.34%, and female literacy is 75.01%. In Miryalguda, 13% of the population is under 6 years of age.

Miryalguda developed after the construction of Nagarjuna Sagar Dam. Growth of Miryalguda is fueled by the good irrigation facility for cultivation, which has also helped the growth of industries. Cost of living is increasing day by day. More than 170 rice mills are situated in and around the town. People from surrounding villages are doing rice related businesses there. **The rice from Miryalguda is very famous in India. Rice from here is supplied to Major states of the country (Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Bihar etc.) Rice is supplied to other countries and mostly to Dubai.**

4.1 Objectives of the Study

- To study the production of Food grains and non food grains
- To study the Impact of modern technology including high yielding variants on agricultural development
- To study the environmental consequences of agricultural development
- To co - related the land use and changing cropping pattern
- To co - related land fertility, irrigation facilities and agricultural development
- To study the socio - economic aspects of agricultural development

4.2 Hypothesis

Modern technologies have substantial impact on agricultural productivity

5. Methodology

The primary data will be collected through schedules, questionnaires, personal visits with local officials, etc.,. Secondary data obtained from the published source, fielded work will also be undertaken relevant literature will be consulted to provide some fruitful strategies in the regarding interpretation of thematic data by using.

Finally data collected from the primary as well as secondary sources are analyzed and information obtained. Information analysis with reference to objectives and hypothesis of the study. At the end some suggestions will be given in conclusion.

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