

Problem Of Indian Agriculture With Special Reference Of Bihar

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Bihar is the third most populous state in India with majority of its population depending on agriculture. Agriculture is at the core of Bihar's economy, employing 77 % of the workforce and generating 35 % of the state domestic product. With 88 % of the state's poor living in rural areas, improving agricultural performance and related rural non-farm activity is critical for improving livelihoods and reducing poverty. Thus, agriculture yet forms the backbone of development. An average Indian still spends almost half of his/her total expenditure on food and roughly half of India's work force is still engaged in agriculture for its livelihood. Being both a source of livelihood and food security for a vast majority of low income, poor and vulnerable sections of society, its performance assumes greater significance in view of the proposed National Food Security Bill and the ongoing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme. Thus with proper thrust on technologies, institutional direction, farm level support services, all delivery mechanisms, improved farm infrastructure including rural connectivity , Bihar could be developed as a granary of India. It can also be developed as the hub of fruits, vegetables, and fisheries for both national and global markets. The entire economic growth processes in Bihar depends on the dynamics of agriculture. Major crops grown since Bihar are rice, wheat, maize, gram, red gram, sugarcane, potato & other vegetables. However, the agricultural sector in Bihar is plagued with numerous, and well known, constraints and problems. We talk about the possible strategic interventions to make the best use of available resources adopting a multi-pronged strategy of development. It also talks about the area specific problems and suggests ways and means to tackle them. The paper tries to prove that if agriculture is developed systematically then agriculture can be one of the major profit earning sectors for Bihar.