

VOICE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

“CONTEMPORARY AGRARIAN
CRISES”

E- JOURNAL EDITION VI

*A TRIBUTE
TO OUR
FARMERS*



If you ate today, Thank a Farmer

PRAYER



Mata Sundri Ji was the wife of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth guru of the Sikhs. Born on 23rd Dec. 1667, she was married to the Guru in 1686. Hers was a remarkable personality that blended to a distinction, the diverse roles of a devoted wife, an ideal mother and a confident and far-sighted guide of the community. After the death of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Sikh masses found themselves in a state of disarray because of State terror, in addition to other hardships. In this difficult situation, it was Mata Sundri Ji who served as their guide, raised their morale, and virtually breathed new life into them through her wisdom, erudition and spiritual power.

It was she who got the writings of Guru Gobind Singh collected and compiled as "Dasam Granth". She also persuaded devout Sikhs to prepare copies of holy hymns to be compiled in Adi Granth Sahib. Further, Mata Sundri Ji took care to ensure that the tradition of "langar" (free community kitchen) continued to flourish. Today, when moral values have declined, her lofty personality shines all the more by virtue of sheer contrast

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and Supriya**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Agrarian crises is a critical issue worldwide. Poor market infrastructure, faulty implementation of agricultural policies, price volatility, misallocation of resources, trade barriers, excessive use of chemicals and rise of fragmented landholding are some of the factors contributing to the agrarian crises. Livelihood crises and agricultural development crises are subsets of agrarian crises.

Monoculture typical to green revolution remains a contributing factor to crop failure. According to a survey, India produces 2,00,000 lakh varieties of rice but monoculture to the green revolution has reduced the number to 17,000. In Punjab 80 percent of ground water is overexploited and use of agrochemicals and soil salinity have restricted growth of the crops.



Farmer suicides by consumption of pesticides became a common sight due to excessive burden of indebtedness. National Crime Record Bureau reported around 3,18,528 farmers committed suicide between 1995 and 2015.

Heavy usage of pesticides have led to vast stretches of lands becoming waterlogged and pollinators like butterflies and insects being killed causing restrictive growth in deserts and trees

Through the theme of our 6th edition of VOICE – "CONTEMPORARY AGRARIAN CRISES" we aim to present the emotions, views, deliberations and discussions regarding and related to the agrarian crises in contemporary times.



ESSAYS



Research Conducted by Students of Political Science Department

Titled

“Farmers Distress and the Current Deadlock on the Three Farm Bills 2020”

Submitted by

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Research Concept Note

“Farmers Distress and the Current Deadlock on the Three Farm Bills 2020”

The impetus for this research topic came from the recent ongoing farmers protest around the contentious farm bills – The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020. This research is undertaken by the students in order to understand the present deadlock between the Government and the Farmers on the three farm bills and to understand the issue from both the perspectives and to analyze the pros and cons of the Act. The working hypothesis of the research is “A guarantee of minimum support price together with an effective procurement and public distribution system acts as a safety net both for the farmers and consumers.” The research is primarily based on qualitative data analysis and tries to do a comparative study of Bihar where APMC system was abolished and that of Punjab where APMC is very strong, in order to understand how it has impacted both the states and what are the benefits and disadvantages of the APMC system and what can be done to improve the situation, from the perspective of the farmers. The research also tries to explore and analyze the issue of contract farming and its impact on the farmers and the regional differences in the impact.

The research is divided into six parts and each part deals with an important farmer's issue –

Part One – The issue of farmer's distress and farmer's suicide- reasons for it.

Part Two – How is MSP decided - politics behind it; problems and loopholes in the process of deciding MSP; problems with the implementation.

Part Three – How does the Mandi system work - problems, issues and politics behind it.

Part Four – The case study of Punjab.

Part Five – The case of study Bihar.

Part Six – The current change in laws and how will it impact the farmers – opinions of farmers.

Conclusion - The way out.

Glimpses from the Research Conducted

The Issue of Farmer's Distress and Farmer's Suicide

Challenges Faced by Farmers in India

India is a country which offers agriculture as a source of primary livelihood to around 58% of its population. However, the state of farmers in India remains daunting. Among many others, some of the major problems faced by the Indian farmers are low-yield, high indebtedness due to the high costs of production, and climate change leading to disturbed cropping partners. Moreover, the basic infrastructural amenities required by an average farmer on an everyday-basis, such as irrigation facilities, road connectivity, electrification, storage facilities, market facilities and maintenance of natural resources – still remain to be in an impoverished condition.

“The map released in 2017 shows India has 179.8 million hectares of cropland, more than the U.S.A’s 167.8 million hectares and China’s 165.2 million hectares.” Even though India has large areas dedicated to the agricultural sector but most of its farmers are small and marginal farmers, with small land holdings, and cannot invest in high-tech irrigation facilities, high yielding varieties of seeds, other modern technologies and mode of production because of the rising cost of these technologies. Adding to that, something that’s not given due importance is the role played by soil health. Soil degradation also accounts for the low-yield. “According to New Delhi-based National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), the annual soil loss rate in our country is about 15.35 tonnes per hectares (ha), resulting in loss of 5.37 to 8.4 million tonnes of nutrients. The loss of soil has another immediate major impact on crop productivity.” Such climate factors make things even more uncertain for the farmers, also leading to uneven production. Along with all these seemingly inevitable problems, there exist market risks too. All of these challenges collectively leave these farmers with very low income, causing them to take loans from bigger farmers or middlemen at higher rate of interest.

Why do farmers commit suicide?

Farmer's suicide is a serious concern both at the societal level and at the policy level. It's not just a psychological issue and we cannot understand it just by using studies on suicidal psychological behavior; we also need to understand the social, economic, political, psychological and structural causes behind it. The literature on farmers suicide have highlighted that it's the result of political and economic policies, where the government is moving towards pro-market provisions without improving the infrastructural and institutional capacities needed for farming.

“At an economic level, the threshold is crossed when the sole source of livelihood is seriously threatened or cultivation becomes impossible for the farmer. When can this happen? This can happen when either the farmer loses his/ her land (or the right to use the land) or when he can no longer access the inputs to be used on the land. In other words, either his fixed capital (land) or working capital (needed to buy seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides) is no longer there. In our survey, we found the latter to be the primary cause for suicides. A point in time is reached when the farmer does not have the means to undertake cultivation in a new season. This breeds a sense of complete hopelessness. Along with this, at a socio-political-psychological level, it is the feeling of extreme isolation and helplessness accentuated by lack of political organizations and movements of the peasants. In such a situation, economic hopelessness can easily translate into a feeling of social shame, lowering of self-esteem and seeing suicide as the only option especially when others in the village are seen to do the same.” Suicides in the farm sector have steadily declined over four years, according to the latest data released by the NCRB. A comparative study of data on Accidental Deaths and Suicides released by NCRB shows that suicides in the agriculture sector have declined by 10% — from 11,379 in 2016 to 10,281 in 2019.

When cultivators and farm labour are taken separately, there is a much steeper decline in suicides among the latter. According to the data, while suicides among cultivators (landowners and those cultivating on lease) declined by 5 per cent, suicides among farm hands declined by 15%.

To take some steps towards all these issues, some recommendations as basic as the following should be made to the government:

- Small farmers should be educated about the fundamentals of irrigation technologies.
- Provisions should be made to carry these farmers' produce from their lands to the markets, where it is assured that the MSP is followed.
- Facilities for water supply and managing soil-health should be given.
- Savings should be encouraged, and saving instruments should be devised for the farming population.
- Better provisions should be made for crop-storage.
- There should be a quick, simple, and corruption-free approach to crop damage assessment with disbursement of relief directly into the claimant's bank account.

The New Economic Policy of 1991 and its Impact on the Agricultural Sector

Agriculture is the means of income to almost every household in rural India, in other words, it provides shelter to over half of the population of the country. This automatically means that any socio-economic policy being introduced in the country will primarily have a huge impact on the agricultural sector.

Back in 1991, when the LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation) schemes under the New Economic Policy were being implemented, the Indian agrarian sector was drastically affected. The LPG policy opened the Indian markets, making them more liberal, which further led to the emergence of more people in the field, and resulting in an increase in domestic competition. This is why the number of small scale farmers also increased. “Liberalization era (1990-91) began in India when over 40% of rural households were landless or near landless, and over 96% of the owned holdings and 68.53% (over 2/3rd) of owned land belonged to the size groups (marginal, small and semi-medium). The decade of 1981-82 to 1991-92 seems to have witnessed a marked intensification of the marginalization process – the percentage of small owners increased from 14.70% to 21.75%.”

Moreover, the focus gradually shifted from agricultural growth to industrial growth, as the policies were more capital-intensive, eventually benefiting the service sector. This is how these schemes took a more neo-liberal/capitalist path. Other factors because of which the agricultural sector had a setback were reduced government expenditure in the agricultural sector and a cutback in the agricultural subsidies.

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The Three Farm Laws 2020: Reason for the present distress of the farmers

On 14th September, 2020, three bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Narendra Singh Tomar, in order to replace the ordinances promulgated on 5th June, 2020. After being passed in both the houses, these are now recognized as laws.

The three laws are:

- (a) Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020;
- (b) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020;
- (c) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020.

Once these bills were passed, the farmers claimed that it was done so through unfair means, as no dialogue or consultations had taken place with representatives from their field. Even though the government's intentions have been to benefit even the smallest of farmers, the latter seem to disagree and believe that these bills will cause them more harm than good. The bills have raised multiple contentions, including the removal of the MSP and the APMCs, increase of pressure with the emergence of private players and loss of say under contract farming.

The protesting farmers have countered that by pointing out the following:

Point 1- Emergence of Private Players.

Government's Stance: The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, allows the farmers to sell their produce outside the APMC regulated markets. The APMCs are government controlled marketing yards. What the law does is, it merely creates a parallel system, which means that farmers can choose whether to sell their produce in the APMC Mandis or to the private players. The monopoly of APMC mandis will end but they will not be shut down.

The Farmers' Stance: While eradicating the APMC might not explicitly be written in the law, it is implicit in its design. They think so because the very fact that the farmers will not have to pay the tax while selling the produce to the private party, as they do while selling it to the APMCs, acts as an incentive for the farmers to do the former. The APMCs get their funds from these taxes, which means if the farmers divert towards the private parties, the APMCs will have no money to function, i.e., pay the salaries of the people who work there and maintain the roads. Thus, the APMCs won't sustain.

Point 2 - The MSP System.

Government's stance: Written assurance from government for the continuation of the existing MSP system.

The Farmers' Stance: The problem is that these farmers also have a surplus crop during the bumper seasons, which is sold to the APMCs at the MSP. If the APMCs don't sustain, there will be no one left to buy the crop. Moreover, the surplus crop will further result in market prices crashing, which will leave the farmers unable to negotiate with the private players, and will have to sell the produce at a low price. They are not only apprehensive but fully convinced that the new agricultural Acts are brought to dismantle APMCs. Therefore, they are demanding that the Union government should employ a comprehensive Act on MSP for the whole country and for all crops. But the government is dragging its feet to bring legislation on this issue and only talking about a written assurance, which is not a legal document and has no guarantee. That's why farmers have rejected the government proposal of written assurance and insisted on repeal of these anti-farmers Acts.

Genetically modified crops and its impact

Jiya Bhargava (2nd Year)

A genetically modified organism (GMO), also known as a transgenic organism or genetically engineered organism, is any plant, animal or organism that has had its genetic makeup altered in a laboratory. Genetic engineering can incorporate a foreign DNA, insert or delete genes, DNA sequencing, cloning of genes, etc. It was introduced by Herbert Boyer and Stanley Cohen in 1973 while, the first genetically modified crop plant was produced in 1982, an antibiotic-resistant tobacco plant.

Various genetically modified crops like cotton, maize, papaya, soybean and so forth are in utilization in many countries such as India, USA, Brazil, Canada, etc. If we look at it, GMO just like any other thing possesses both pros and cons i.e. a shift from an upper hand to controversies. Let's comprehend some of the reasons for this variation.

Golden rice, that is a genetically engineered, biofortified crop in which “gold” is beta carotene, a substance known for getting converted into vitamin A in human body. Beta carotene is present in conventional rice crops as well, but only in their leaves and stems, and not in the kernels. Golden rice thus, gives an edge by confronting vitamin A deficiency in various parts of the world.



Bt Cotton, which was introduced with the aim of reducing insecticide use needed in farming cotton. Initially, it did benefit farmers but eventually, it was seen that the effect was not on par. Bt cotton with the help of genetic modification very much developed resistance against insects like bollworms and larvae of moths, while there are still many organisms like whitefly, that in recent years, has grown to be an economically significant pest and is seriously reducing agricultural yields.

A gene called *cry1Ac* from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* was inserted into the brinjal to develop Bt Brinjal, a transgenic brinjal. This brinjal has been genetically modified to withstand insects like the Brinjal Fruit and Shoot Borer. Bt Brinjal was developed by Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) but it has faced a lot of controversies leading to its ban. In 2009, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) authorised the commercial sale of BT brinjal in India but the Central Government needed more time to investigate the safety of the BT Brinjal before authorising it for commercial usage in response to concerns. Finally, in 2010 government announced a 10-year ban on the commercialisation of Bt Brinjals.

Similarly, DMH (Dhara Mustard Hybrid)-11 mustard, another genetically modified crop allowed cross-pollination in a crop that self-pollinates in nature.

According to one study, Bt cotton and other genetically modified crops in India have raised agricultural yields by 22%, decreased the need for chemical insecticides by 37%, and increased farmer income by 68%. GMO surely have many advantages like increased productivity, nutrient content, reduced maturation period, benefit to farmers in terms of income, resistance to various pests and herbicides, crop protection from extinction, lesser chemical usage and these are easy to cultivate too. But with the positive comes the negative aspects.



One specific issue is the potential harm that GMOs could do to human health. Since crops are altered and new products are formed using new techniques, this might be brought on by dietary differences, allergic reactions, or unfavourable side effects like toxicity, organ damage, or gene transfer. Another concern is that GMO might increase antibiotics resistance as scientists working on GMOs frequently introduce an additional gene to plant cells along with new DNA to confer antibiotic resistance. The remaining plant cells that weren't able to successfully incorporate the new DNA can subsequently be eliminated using an antibiotic. Some scientists have linked consuming GMOs with cancer and the risks that arises from mutations in GMOs.

Apart from health concerns, GMO seeds are costly, there's a big question mark whether it is safe or not, some people also bring the ethics theory and believe that interference in nature should be avoided, last but not the least, there's also a threat to biodiversity as the toxins in genetically modified crops can affect other species, can contaminate other areas and can also produce herbicide-resistant superweed.

Extensive research is still to be done, various aspects are still to be ventured upon and benefit of all is still to be ensured but as Norman Borlaug has said, "It is better to die eating GM food instead of dying of hunger", this can be the new future, a way of tackling hunger and poverty worldwide.



Tracing Agrarian Situation from Independence to Post-Liberalsaiton Period

Ridhima Vaish (1st year)

The present agricultural situation can be viewed along two levels, at one level there is the operation of the internal logic of the agricultural practice in India, at another level there is the external logic of the larger systemic dynamics. Post-independence period there have been introduced many changes in the agricultural practice. Farmers have moved from subsistence farming to commercialised farming, now they produced not only for their consumption but also for selling it off to the indigenous market and the international market, thus a notion of profit earning has seeped into the agricultural sector.

To boost up agricultural productivity the government launched the green revolution package, which was to induce a paradigm shift in agricultural practice, but was to reap benefits only for some. The package comprised of high yielding variety of seeds, large doses of fertilisers, pesticides, good amount of irrigation. now this package was selectively dispersed into those regions where there was already an assured amount of irrigation, and where farmers were capable enough to buy this package and educated enough to make full use of it, now the requirement was that the size of the field should be around 5 to 10 acres to reap the real productivity. Thus the green revolution package made the already rich farmers more rich. There did emerge a middle class of famers 'the bullock capitalists' who tried to make the most of the package. But still there was around 64% of the total farmers community which was suffering because this shift from labour intensive production to technology intensive production, which had forced a large number of farmers to become workers in the urban areas and thus adding to the population of urban poor.

The idea of land reform also did not work, and was to a great extent not even implemented by the state governments. Its immediate result was that 'absentee land lordism' vanished, and many of the big land lords managed to get their land distributed to their own relatives. Thus land redistribution did not take place effectively, and even tenancy laws were not properly implemented, the resultant of this was the land grab movement orchestrated by the left parties in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and other places where they had their bases. The over-all resultant of this land reform episode was that large number of farmers became land less labourers, workers and the very small number of farmers who had their small pieces of land were struggling with the market forces, where their products had to compete with the superior quality of food grains which was the result of green revolution package.

Added to all of the above was the failure of cooperatives, whose major reason is that it was a measure taken from above without taking note of the ground reality of the traditionally entrenched rural areas. The green effect of green revolution package reached its plateau mark in mid 1970's, after which there was again a decline in productivity, leading to compounding of problems.

The present scenario is that there is a general over-all decline in agricultural productivity, and those marginal farmers who have somehow managed to take a loan from the cooperative banks in the hope that they will be able to return it after their crop harvesting have faced deep problems because the out-put is not always assured, since it depends on the amount of rainfall which is most of the times erratic. Thus the amount that goes as input is much more than what comes out as the out-put which forces the marginal farmers to fall into a debt-trap, and if the loan was taken from some private money-lender then the farmer has to face more stringent conditions, even confiscation of property. This is the whole rural story on whose receiving end are the small and marginal farmers.

To sum up, the major shifts within the agricultural practice are, there has been a diversification of the crops being sown, many farmers have moved from food grains to cash cropping, and are growing cotton, tea, coffee. Many have opted for horticulture. Farming is now more of technology intensive rather than labour intensive, and has become more of a commercial business leading to the emergence of agro-business. There has been an emergence of contract farming also, which has its own pros and cons.

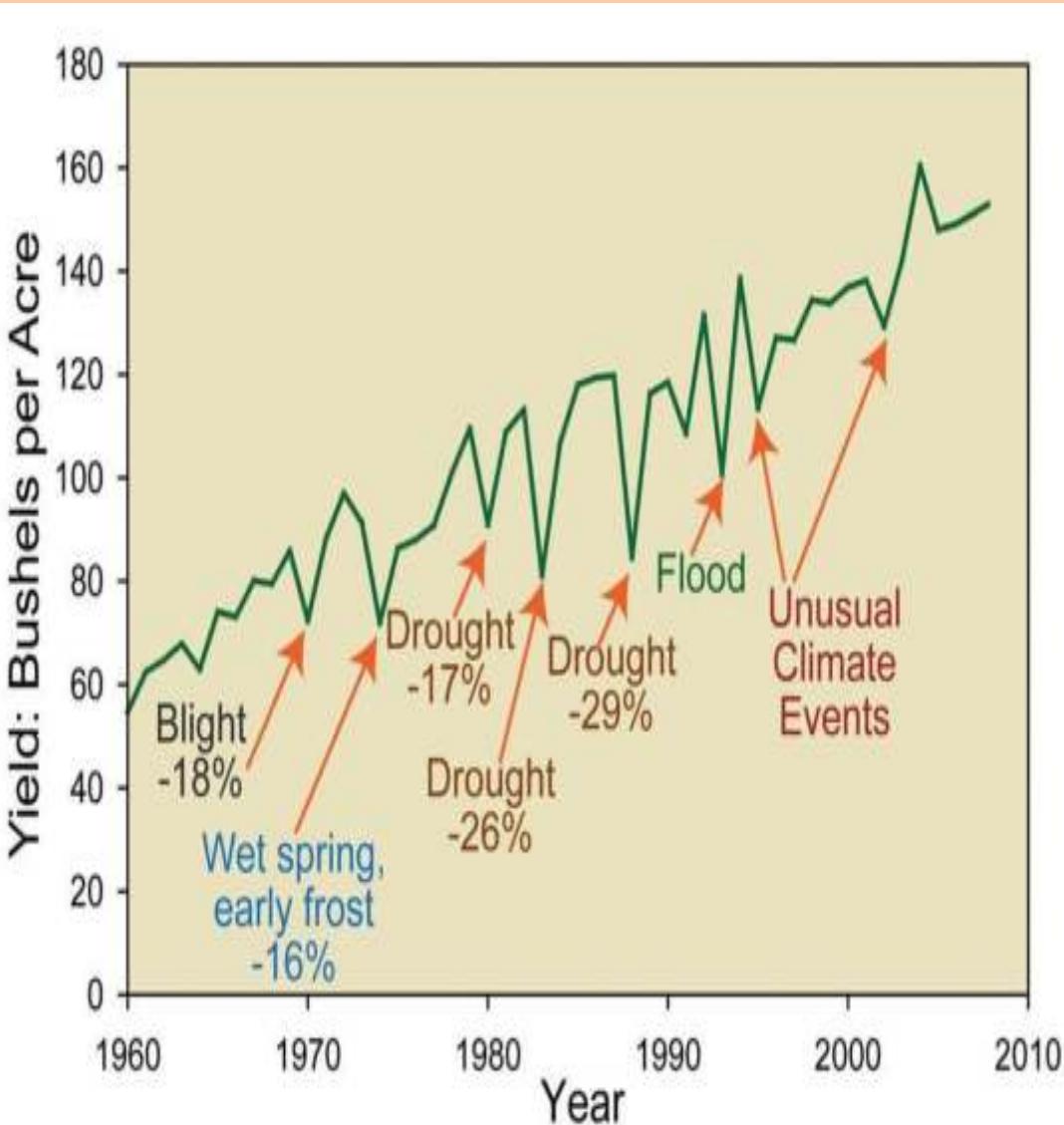
Coming to the systemic dimension of agricultural sector, one thing that needs to be stated at the very out-set is that there has been a stepping back of the welfare state. The state is no more available as a protective shield. There has been a decline in the subsidies provided by the government on fertilisers, pesticides decline in electricity and water tariffs. The cooperative banks have not been able to provide cheap credits and have not been able to attract all the farmers who still depend on private money lenders, or on their relatives. The farmers are now facing not only the rigours of the internal market but also the uncertainties of the foreign market, due to the opening of the economy (reference is to the structural adjustment programme). The opening of the economy has allowed many multi-national corporations to enter the seed and fertiliser market in India, and their prices are very high which can be afforded by only rich farmers, they have their branches at the village base where they also provide credits. Now there have been many instances of spurious seeds being sold by these branches of MNC's at the village level. The MNC's have no obligations to sell their products at subsidised rates and thus the costs offered by them are very high. There is a general failure in the fixing of minimum support prices by the government, there have been agitations to increase the minimum support prices to the remunerative level, but even such an increase will ultimately help the rich farmers and not the poor farmers who then have to buy the same food grains for consumption at a higher price.

A new kind of farmers movement is emerging which is the direct result of the state policies to create special economic zones. The law which protected the agricultural land has now become diluted so that now the agricultural land can be easily bought for non-agricultural uses. There has been a large uproar against many of the state's attempts to buy agricultural land for the purpose of constructing dams and SEZ's , the logic is that the state is just acting as a mediator between the big corporates and the small landholders the state buys land from these small farmers in the name of public interests and then sells it off to these corporates so that they may establish their big corporate houses. The result is that the farmers are not able to have direct negotiation with the corporates and thus do not get the actual market prices which would have largely benefited them. The emergence of real estates and enclosed colonies on the out-skirts of cities have also created a complexity in the land market.

Conclusion - With the retreat of the well-fare state, and the emergence of a powerful industrial lobby, aligned with the rich corporate farmers, the marginal and poor farmers have lost even the incentives to launch a nation-wide movement. There are many reasons to this. First, farmers have diversified their income bases and now are more attracted towards the urban areas where they prefer to work in industries and other sectors and are entitled to certain stable minimum wages, thus the small and marginal farmers don't find any incentives in cultivating and thus no incentive to pressurise the government to change terms of the equation between the industrial and agricultural sector. Second, another possible reason, which already has been hinted above is the internal divisions among the farmers themselves, and shifting of the terrain of agitation from the national to the state level, with the opening of the economy the central government has emerged more of a regulator rather than initiator of the economy, and in the absence of the central government there is the emergence of the state government as the final arbiter, but even at this level there is the dominance of the regional interests. agriculture productivity is definitely region specific depending upon the geographical terrain, and thus farmers issue also sometimes becomes state specific, but issues like electricity and water tariffs, availability of inputs at cheap rates, minimum support prices, availability of cheap credits are some issues which are applicable in general to all the regions, but still there is no nation-wide movement, because both the central government and state governments are least interested in the conditions of small and marginal farmers, waiving away of loans alone is not going to help them, and the small and marginal farmers don't have much incentives to join the rich farmers who have their own vested interests which in the long run go against the interests of small farmers.

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE

Manmeet Kaur Alag (3rd Year)



'Agriculture' is the main occupation for 50 percent of population in India. Agriculture and allied sectors contribute 15.4 per cent of the Indian GDP. This sector is highly susceptible to impact of climate change

An average of 30 per cent decrease in crop yields is expected by mid-21 century in South Asian countries. North Indian states and Bangladesh are highly susceptible due to erratic changes in rainfall and temperature. For example, in India, an increase in temperature by 1.5°C and decrease in the precipitation of 2 mm, reduces the rice yield by 3 to 15 percent. Climatic changes driven by increasing Green House Gases (GHGs) possibly affects the yield and productivity of agricultural crops from region to region.

Vegetable crops when exposed to extreme high temperatures are subject to very high transpiration losses, and it also limits fruit setting in citrus fruits. High temperature causes burning or scorching effect of blossoms, predominantly on young trees.



Fruit setting stage of navel oranges is recorded to be severely affected by high temperatures during flowering. High temperature induces moisture stress condition leading to sunburn and cracking symptoms in fruit trees like apricot, cherries and apples. The temperature enhancement at ripening stage causes fruit burning and cracking in litchi plantation. Most of the vegetable crops are severely affected by flooding, particularly tomato.

Erratic changes in weather conditions directly impact the production level of animal by 58 per cent and reproduction by 63.3 per cent. Dairy breeds are more vulnerable to heat stress than the meat breeds. An increase in metabolic heat production in higher milk producing breeds leads to higher susceptibility to heat stress; while the low milk producing animals are resistant. Increase in temperature and temperature humidity index value beyond the critical threshold level reduces the dry matter intake and milk yield. Poultries are extremely sensitive to temperature-associated issues, specifically heat stress

Sustainable and organic agriculture

Lavanya Dhawan (1st year)



Agriculture is the art and science of cultivating soil, growing crops, and raising livestock. Preparing and distributing products made from plants and animals for human consumption is what this industry entails.

The spread of agriculture over time has contributed to the rise of civilizations. The majority of human time was spent hunting wild animals and gathering plants prior to the widespread adoption of agriculture. Around 11,500 years ago, people learned how to grow root and grain crops and eventually adapted to a life based on farming. There are three aspects of modern agriculture that have attracted international attention: a) an increasing human population's need for food; b) the growing dangers of climate change posed by agriculture; c) the growing health risks brought on by the excessive use of agrochemicals, which can contaminate food chains. The majority of soils suffer a decrease in fertility stability as a result of continuous, intensive cropping without an equivalent addition of nutrients. Arable land needs more nutrients to produce the same amount of harvest as arable land does. Chemical pesticides and fertilizers have significantly increased global food production, but they have also deteriorated agricultural fields, diminished the flavour and quality of agricultural produce, and increased environmental risks.

In the field of agriculture, numerous cutting-edge methods and technologies have been developed in recent times. These are the methods of farming that require a lot of labour, a lot of money, and a lot of machinery like harvesters, threshers, and winnowing machines. It also employs techniques like selective breeding and chemical fertilizers and pesticides.



- **Organic farming's philosophy**

Organic farming is recognized as a useful, long-term farming method that does not harm the environment and produces healthy crops. It relies on cultivating a variety of crops and cultivating healthy, fertile soil rather than applying synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticides to the soil. Modern organic farming has many benefits for the environment and was developed in response to the environmental harm caused by chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in conventional agriculture. The farm is able to maintain biological equilibrium by having a variety of beneficial insects and other wildlife that act as natural crop pest predators, as well as soil that is rich in microorganisms and earthworms to keep it alive. By avoiding synthetic chemicals, organic farmers reduce health and pollution risks.

Obtaining toxins-free agricultural products for long-term human health safety and establishing a closed nutrient cycle to restore imbalances in soil nutrients are the two most widely accepted objectives of organic farming.

Due to the absence of pollutants in organic food, demand has steadily increased in both developed and developing nations, with an average annual growth rate of 20% to 25%. Organic farming achieves a closed nutrient cycle by relying on "biologically driven nutrients," which are necessary for sustainable agriculture.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING

The idea of sustainable agriculture development is based on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development from 1992, Chapter 14 of Agenda 21, which was ratified by the UN General Assembly, and the Rome Declaration on World Food Security from 1996.

A sustainable agriculture produces a lot of food without destroying the environment or consuming too many resources. The management of agricultural and animal production in a way that ensures ecological productivity over the long term without threatening human health or the natural resource base is known as sustainable agriculture. Some examples of sustainable agricultural management methods include choosing crops that are ecologically adapted to local climate regimes, increasing agro-biodiversity (like intercropping and agro-forestry), limiting soil erosion (like windbreaks and terracing), and strengthening biogeochemical cycles (like optimum crop rotation and using proper irrigation and drainage techniques).

"To grow food and promote food security in a way that is environmentally sound so as to contribute to sustainable natural resource management" is the objective of sustainable agriculture development, as stated in a resolution passed by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Growing awareness of sustainable agriculture and the health risks posed by agrochemicals has significantly altered people's preferences for nutritious food. As a result, interest in alternative farming practices like organic farming has grown.

The origin of organic farming's concepts

In the early 1900s, Sir Albert Howard, F.H. King, Rudolf Steiner, and others developed the principles of organic agriculture because they believed that a better farming system could be achieved through the use of biologically based pest treatments, crop rotation, animal manures (often made into compost), and cover crops.



Howard advocated for the adoption of sustainable and traditional farming practices in India following his work as an agricultural researcher there. These methods provided him with a great deal of inspiration, which he applied to his work. J.I. Rodale and his son Robert, who published the magazine *Organic Gardening and Farming* and a number of books on organic farming from the 1940s to the present, were proponents of these methods. The commercialization of agriculture had a significant negative impact on the environment. Pesticide use has accumulated a lot of chemicals in many parts of our ecosystem, like the land, water, air, animals, and even our own bodies. In addition to a general decline in food quality and the presence of pesticides and other chemical residues in our food, a rise in a number of diseases, particularly various types of cancer, and a decrease in body immunity are to blame. Organic farming comes into play in this situation. Organic farming can solve all of these problems.

Objectives of organic farming.

The main objective of organic farming is to produce nutritious, high-quality food, to encourage and improve the biological cycles of plants, animals, microbial life in soil, and plants, to improve the long-term fertility of the soil. Assisting in soil and water conservation, reducing any and all potential pollutants resulting from farming practices and utilizing as many farm resources as are practical. Moreover, to safeguard and develop indigenous farming methods, seeds, and varieties.

Framework for Organic Agriculture

Organic farming relies on three fundamental ideas to achieve success. The concept of interdependence comes first.

Since it is recognized that altering one component of the system could have an effect on how other components of the farm are interconnected, organic farming views the farm as an ecosystem. Think about how organic farmers will deal with the problem of high nitrogen levels in the soil, which can encourage weed growth. Farmers will be able to solve this problem by planting a crop that uses more nitrogen and restores the natural balance of nutrients in the soil.

Diversity is the second principle of organic farming. In organic farming, crop rotation is used to keep the environment as natural as possible.

Recycling is the third organic farming principle. Organic farmers recycle animal and plant waste on their farms to achieve nutrient independence.

The effects of organic farming on human health and the environment

Organic farming is much more environmentally conscious than conventional farming in a broad sense. One of the biggest problems we face with the environment right now is how much energy we use, but organic farming uses a lot less energy than conventional farming. In point of fact, the organic farming method is about 7% more energy efficient. Other environmental benefits of organic farming include using significantly less fertilizer and completely avoiding synthetic fertilizers, which are harmful to the soil, water, animals, and people. The concentration of nitrate in organic fields is also significantly lower than on conventional farms due to the absence of soluble fertilizers. An excess of nitrogen can upset the balance of a soil community, and algal blooms in the water can kill other aquatic creatures.





Biodiversity, or the diversity of animal and plant species that are necessary for the survival of all life on Earth, is another benefit of organic farming. Organic farming produces significantly less carbon dioxide than conventional farming. Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas that is causing global warming. However, organic vegetables had six times more salicylic acid than non-organic vegetables. Salicylic acid is used to treat bowel cancer as well as artery stiffening.

India's organic farming

Organic farming is becoming increasingly popular as a sustainable and friendly method of production. It is quickly catching up with Indian farmers and businesspeople in two productive rain-fed regions, tribal areas, the north-east, and hilly areas of the nation, where agricultural techniques and production systems are largely organic due to nil or low use of pesticides and fertilizer. The system claims to maintain soil fertility and prevent diseases and pests by boosting natural processes and cycles in line with the natural environment.

Since the Vedic era, organic manures have been used in Indian agriculture, and British agronomist Sir Albert Howard pioneered organic farming in 1990. Farmers in a variety of parts of India have since adopted it, either on their own initiative or as a result of a lack of resources.

A survey that was carried out in February 2005 by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) and the Stiftung Oekologie & Landbau (SOEL) found that only 0.05%, or approximately 73,326 hectares, of India's agricultural land is managed organically. This survey indicates that there are approximately 5147 certified organic farms in India. It is believed that 20 million dollars have been invested in India's organic farming industry, which primarily focuses on exports. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a central organization working to promote organic agriculture in India, estimates that 6792 tonnes of organic products worth 72 million rupees are exported from India.



Needs for Organic Farming?

In the organic farming system, a farm can only be certified organic if it meets certain minimum requirements.

I. Changeover:

Conversion is the process by which a farmer moves from a conventional to an organic farming system. The time between the beginning of organic management and certification is referred to as the conversion period. During the conversion, the biodiversity ought to be preserved. for instance, vast fields, marshes, and forests.

II. Diverse farming:

Animal husbandry, poultry, fishing, and other related activities should be practiced in addition to agricultural farming. Changes in cultivation are not permitted.

III. The Cropping Style:

Crop rotation is something you should do if you plant annuals. Intercropping should be done when growing perennial crops. Crop rotation should include fodder crops and green manure.

IV. Planting:

In addition to being suitable for the climate and soil, the species and varieties that are grown ought to be resistant to diseases and pests. Seeds and other supplies for planting should come from natural sources. If they are not readily available, seeds and planting materials that have not been chemically treated can be used once. Transgenic plants, pollen cultures, and tissue cultures are examples of genetically modified seeds, and their use in planting materials is strictly prohibited



V: Manuring

By cultivating crops like leguminous crops, green manure crops, etc., The fertility of the soil must be maintained or enhanced.

After harvest, plant waste should be used to as much as possible amend the soil. Only substances of microbiological, botanical, or animal origin are permitted for use as manures. Examples include sheep shearing, compost, vermicompost, and farmyard manure. Mineral-based compounds like rock phosphate, gypsum, lime, and others can be used as a solvent. can be utilized in small quantities.

Conclusion

The foundation of organic farming is an integrated link between soil, minerals, water, plants, microorganisms, insects, animals, and people. By creating productive landscapes, it successfully combines food production with environmental preservation.

Organic management relies on local human resources and expertise to improve natural resource processes while respecting ecological carrying capabilities. Reduced reliance on off-farm inputs and the creation of more balanced nutrient and energy flows increase ecosystem resilience, improve food security, and generate additional income. Organic farming has a positive impact on all of the objectives of sustainable agriculture and rural development. It also helps to maintain the fertility of the soil, increases crop yield, and improves farmers' socioeconomic conditions.



References

- <https://ofrf.org> - Organic Farming Research Foundation
- Britannica.com
- A documentary by DW DOCUMENTARY – Organic Food – Hype or Hope (YOUTUBE).
- YOUTUBE Video by ABHI AND NIYU on ORGANIC FARMING & How it helps the Indian Farmers.

BY-

**LAVANYA DHAWAN (1ST YEAR) ROLL NO.- POL/22/130
SECTION-B**



Use of Sustainable Technology in agriculture

Manmeet Kaur Alag (3rd Year)

- In today's world, it is imperative to make use of sustainable technology which not only increases agricultural productivity but also ensures improvement of social and environmental footprint at every stage. Providing access to farmers with agricultural tools, machinery and modern technology can create a shift for them from subsistence farming to market-oriented farming. In the context of India, where the agricultural sector provides employment to 50% of the labor force and is one of the major producers of rice, wheat, pulses, spices, cotton, meat and sugar, the goal is to enhance food security for a population of 1.3 billion. The shift towards sustainable mechanization in agriculture would not only improve efficiency and agricultural productivity but in developing countries like India, it would also lead to the development of food supply chains.
- The agricultural sector plays an extremely important role in the overall welfare of farmers as well as ensuring food security in India. Despite the progress in the mechanization of the agricultural sector, the challenges that farmers face due to the high cost of input and machinery acts as an obstacle. To make the agricultural sector more productive, there is an immediate need to focus on sustainable mechanization and make it accessible. India highly subsidizes the agriculture sector, and as a result, it is important to invest in technology that is efficient and environmentally sustainable. Conservation of water and electricity should be a priority and should receive encouragement from the state. The government should also support, encourage and invest in companies that work towards agricultural transformation in India.

Agricultural Schemes In India

Nishta Sharma (2nd Year)

India has become the most populated country in 2023; it is therefore inevitable that with the ever-growing population, the demand for food grains shall subsequently rise as well. Moreover, the Agriculture sector of India holds the record for second-largest agricultural land in the world generating employment for about half of the country's population and consequently it substantially contributes to the GDP as well.

These reasons are ample to reflect the paramountcy of the primary sector and when an institution holds such power, it demands superintendence. Ergo, the Government of India has propounded a plethora of schemes for the collective welfare of the primary sector. I'd henceforth mention briefs some of the many such schemes;

1. **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:** Launched in 2016, this is a government sponsored crop insurance scheme, it provides a promise of financial security to all the farmers in unfortunate cases of failure of crops.

2. **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana**, launched by the NDA government back in 2015; through this scheme the government aims to propagate organic farming, each farmer who'd enrol in the scheme would be provided with INR 20,000 per acre by the government spread over three years time.

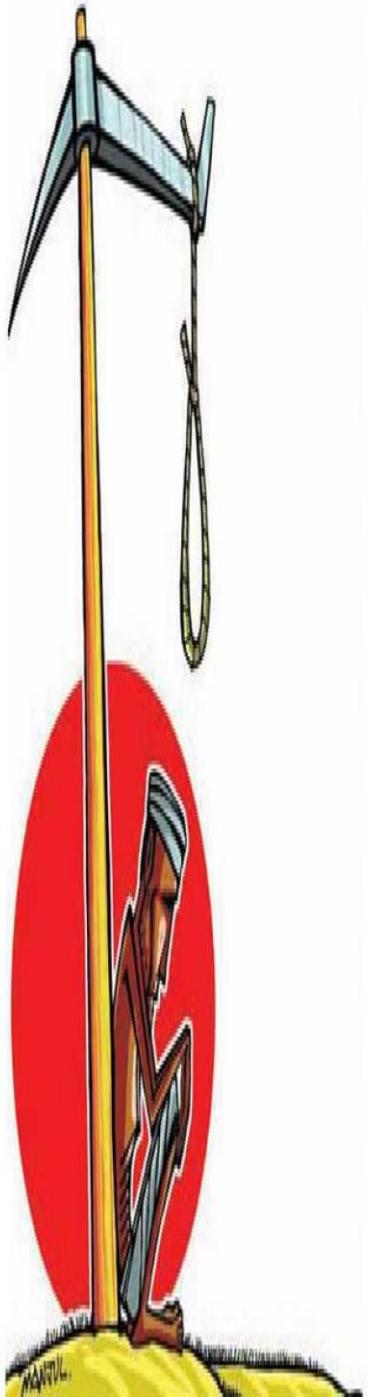


3. **Gramin Bhandaran Yojna**, launched in 2001, this scheme primarily aims to provide adequate storage facilities for farm produce and agricultural inputs.

4. **Livestock Insurance Scheme**, it was implemented from 2008-09 in 100 selected districts of the country. Under the scheme, the crossbred and high yielding cattle and buffaloes are being insured at maximum of their current market price. This provides a protection mechanism to farmers and cattle bearers against the loss of their animals.

5. **Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)**; this scheme has been formulated with NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) by Government of India, operationalized from 2019-20. Micro Irrigation Fund seeks to disseminate Rs. 5000 crore among states for promoting micro irrigation. This scheme is extremely crucial because agriculture in India is exceedingly dependent on monsoon. Furthermore, climate change disturbs the inordinate rain-fed irrigation system. These are a handful of schemes initiated by the Government of India over the years, for the perpetual maintenance of the agricultural sector, the mainstay of our nation.





Solutions to Farmers' Suicides in India

Manmeet Kaur Alag (3rd Year)

- Small and marginal farmers should be encouraged to pool their farmland to leverage the advantages associated with larger land holdings, such as the use of modern and mechanized farming techniques
- Water supply for irrigation must be insulated from the vagaries of nature by better water management systems; attention must particularly be paid to rainwater harvesting and resolution of interstate river water sharing disputes
- Farmers must necessarily be educated about modern farming techniques and practices
- Younger professionals must be encouraged to participate in farming activities
- Farm loans at soft interest rates need to be made available, and loan recovery procedures need to respect human rights; farmers should be discouraged from dealing with private money lenders
- Fair price for farm products must be ensured, and middlemen eliminated by creating a direct reach for the farmers to the market.
- The government-administered MSP should take into consideration the existing realities to cover the cost of production and to insulate farmers from fluctuating market conditions



- Training needs to be provided for secondary rural investments in dairy farming, poultry farming, animal husbandry, and other activities, with a clearly viable chain apparent from financing to marketing
- Financially wasteful expenditure arising from unnecessary and even harmful social practices must be discouraged; this includes matters ranging from alcohol use to dowry gifts and large wedding spending. Savings should be encouraged, and saving instruments should be devised for the farming population
- Storage and food processing units need to be established in rural areas
- Comprehensive but affordable insurance schemes should be made available, covering farmers and crops from problems at every stage of the crop cycle. There should be a quick, simple, and corruption-free approach to crop damage assessment with disbursement of relief directly into the claimant's bank account.

The recently announced Pradhan Mantri Farmer Bima Yojana, an improved version of existing schemes such as the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, is a step in the right direction although some voices have been raised against it. Organizations such as the Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture call it another missed opportunity, citing drawbacks such as noninclusion of tenant farmers, limited coverage, noninclusion of crop damage by wild animals, improper damage assessment methods, and lack of clarity regarding where the claim amount will be deposited (to the farmers' savings account or to the loan account).

POEMS



"Green Revolution: The Double-Edged Sword"

For India, 1960s was a tough time,
When food production struggled to climb,
Agriculture was in dire need of change, And
the country was in an economic range.

Then came the Green Revolution,
Agricultural reform, a bold solution,
Led by M.S. Swaminathan,
A scientist with a visionary plan.

New seeds, irrigation, and fertilizers,
Were introduced as efficient energizers,
Wheat and rice production soared,
And India's food grain production roared.

The Punjab region was the starting
point, And other states soon joined the
joint,
Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West
Bengal,
The Green Revolution expanded overall

But the impact wasn't all positive,
The environment was negative,
Soil degradation and water pollution,
Were the Green Revolution's major tribulation.



New seeds required more water and fertilizers,
Small farmers struggled to be efficient energizers,
While large landowners and wealthy farmers,
Took advantage of the new technologies' armours.

The Green Revolution helped reduce poverty,
Increased food production, it was not just a novelty,
But it also contributed to social and economic
inequality, A double-edged sword with complexity.

India's economy benefited from this
agricultural revolution,
Reducing food prices & improving food security, a major
contribution,

The Green Revolution also had a global
impact, As other countries joined the
agricultural pact.

For India, the Green Revolution's legacy is
mixed, Positive and negative impacts are in the
mix,
While it helped increase food production and
reduce poverty,
It also contributed to environmental degradation and
inequality.

A Poetic Expression
by: DEEPSHIKHA
DHINGRA POL/21/71
BA HONS - POLITICAL SCIENCE (Second Year)



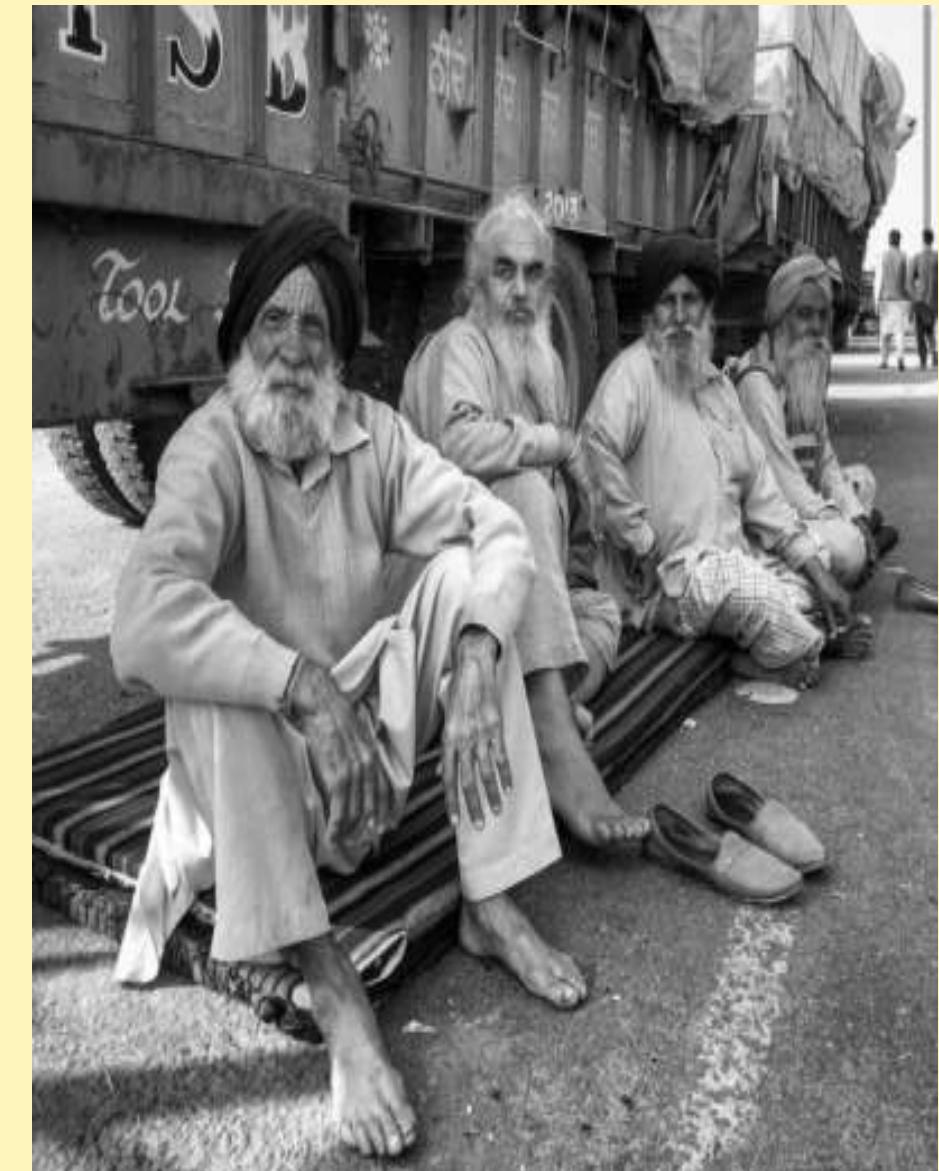
LIFE OF A FARMER

Another man ended himself in isolation,
the one who always supported others.
The earth where he cultivated his dream,
the laugh, the tears all get buried away in that soil.

In the city of learning issues of useless past,
we rarely see the present,
where a farmer got killed for the dept he couldn't pay,
where a small issue can have big consequences,
but, big problems got buried in the grave.

What should we (farmer) do?
go to the media?
which is only interested in showing who married whom,
and where they should be covering the suffering of the needy.
Or the viewers who are always interested in this kind of story.

A man who wants to feed their family,
ends up in isolation,
writing a poem to the universe,
where his life was different,
a life, where he cultivated pearls but his children wouldn't go hungry.
And his death will be a terminal rain,
which will always contribute in the form of the beautiful scent of wet
soil.



AGRARIAN CRISIS

Poem

Scrape out the weed, plough the field
Blister in the palm, hoe in the hand
Protect the field from the unwanted eaters
Listen today the amur of a maker- farmer.

Feed the youngsters and the elders
of the country.

Sleep with an empty stomach
at night

Try to enliven
but lose the hope in the end
and dies for not worth dying.

Remuneration is needed
to cure this agrarian crisis.

To solve the problem of a maker.

- SHIVANI



ARTWORKS





Aakarsha Jagga
3rd Year
Section B



Bani Bhatia
3rd Year
Section B



Shiniya Badola
1st Year
Section B

Schemes Of Agriculture and Farmers

1 Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

- Commitment toward conservation and management of water.
- Improve the water-use efficiency.



2

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

- To promote organic farming
- Use of traditional resources

3 Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- To provide the farmers a stable source of income.
- Farmers need not worry about income during natural calamities.



4 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)

- The Welfare of small and marginal farmers
- Provide monthly income to farmers above 60 years of age



5 Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

- Farmers should not be cash-starved.
- Farmers are not at the mercy of money lenders for agricultural expenses.



Bhawana
2nd Year
Section A



AGRARIAN DISTRESS IN INDIA REASONS

- Unpredictable weather cycle and low agricultural output.
- Input costs have increased while income is decreasing.
- Degradation of soil, decreasing water resources and increased use of pesticides are making agriculture unsustainable and non remunerative.
- Inequality in landholdings as shown starkly in land ownership.
- Lack of proper storage facility particularly for horticultural crops.

WAY FORWARD

- Investments shall be raised in to Agro processing industry.
- Farmers producers organisation need to be encouraged to benefit farmers from market participation. Policy reform in agriculture is need of the hour.
- Proper decentralised storage facility for better access to farmers and prevent the wastage of food grains.
- India and Russia have signed an agreement for cooperation in the development of 26 integrated Agro irradiation centres which is a step in the right direction.

Jasleen Kaur
3rd Year
Section B



Nishtha
2nd Year
Section B

Media highlighting the 'Voices' of the farmers - Their issues, needs, challenges and the way ahead

mer's Unions And The Centre. TOI Brings You Both Sides Of The Debate

Agriculture laws need reform but not at the expense of small farmers

Kanshi Ram & Navtej Singh

FOR



AGAINST



A black and white photograph of a man in a white shirt and a turban, crouching in a field and working on a small plant. The image is part of a newspaper article.

A newspaper spread with a large, bold headline at the top left. Below the headline is a sub-headline. The central part of the spread features a graphic with three large numbers: 160,000, 48, and 17,500, each accompanied by a small caption. To the right of the graphic is a column of text. At the bottom of the spread are two columns of text. On the right side of the spread are three smaller images: a close-up of cotton bolls, a group of people working in a field, and a close-up of people working on a plant.

EXTRACTION

farmers' Unions And The Centre, TOI Brings You Both Sides Of The Debate

Agriculture laws need reform but not at the expense of small farmers

FOR

Kishore Kumar & Nitin Kumar Singh

AGAINST

Abdul Basset, Member, Adivasi Farmers' Union of Andhra Pradesh

B

OPED

07

Farming can't be sacrificed at altar of trade

COVER STORY/AGRICULTURE

Plough the Sand

The drive for high-yield seeds, mechanisation, pesticides, energy and water have ploughed agriculture to the brink of collapse

Climate change is causing a shift in pathogen outbreaks, as well as

AGRICULTURE **Chemicals are the only way to keep pests and weeds under control, but the cost of inputs is high and the yields are not commensurate with the cost. The government should encourage organic farming, which is more sustainable and less expensive. The government should also provide subsidies for organic inputs and encourage farmers to switch to organic farming.**

All pain, no gain for farmers

NSO report indicates that an average Indian farmer fares worse than a labourer

FOR

Kishore Kumar & Nitin Kumar Singh

AGAINST

Abdul Basset, Member, Adivasi Farmers' Union of Andhra Pradesh

B

OPED

07

Needed: Urban agriculture for food security

WORLD IN COMMUNITY

Agriculture thrives while farmers languish

COVER STORY/AGRICULTURE

Santhal women script success story in finger millet cultivation

Climate change is causing a shift in pathogen outbreaks, as well as

AGRICULTURE **Chemicals are the only way to keep pests and weeds under control, but the cost of inputs is high and the yields are not commensurate with the cost. The government should encourage organic farming, which is more sustainable and less expensive. The government should also provide subsidies for organic inputs and encourage farmers to switch to organic farming.**

Mission Jeevika brings 120% more land under cultivation

LIVELIHOOD MATTERS

Let's not allow lies to derail farm reforms

Five ways to reduce farm distress

WORLD IN COMMUNITY

COVER STORY/AGRICULTURE

The Organic Farmer

It's harvesting time, farmers!

OPED

07

Santhal women script success story in finger millet cultivation

Climate change is causing a shift in pathogen outbreaks, as well as

AGRICULTURE **Chemicals are the only way to keep pests and weeds under control, but the cost of inputs is high and the yields are not commensurate with the cost. The government should encourage organic farming, which is more sustainable and less expensive. The government should also provide subsidies for organic inputs and encourage farmers to switch to organic farming.**

Santhal women script success story in finger millet cultivation

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AGRICULTURE **Chemicals are the only way to keep pests and weeds under control, but the cost of inputs is high and the yields are not commensurate with the cost. The government should encourage organic farming, which is more sustainable and less expensive. The government should also provide subsidies for organic inputs and encourage farmers to switch to organic farming.**

15 THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

AGRICULTURE | BUDGET IN BRIEF

2 Diversify markets for the produce, maintain and protect the environment and promote the welfare of farmers and their families. The budget also aims to provide a minimum support price of Rs 3,200 per quintal for the 1.25 million farmers in the horticultural sector. The budget also aims to provide a minimum support price of Rs 3,200 per quintal for the 1.25 million farmers in the horticultural sector.

RESHAM SINGH, 55, JALANDHAR

'Had we not had grains at home, we would not have survived lockdown'

GEVINDA SHARMA

Agriculture can drive economic growth if assured of higher output price & income

Karnataka's 2014-15 decision to provide a boxset of Rs 450 per quintal of rice did result in a record procurement. This should be the norm for all crops across the nation.

GROUND REALITY

Inflation, supply issues grow risks for farmers

Prices range from maize to farmers-affected US parts

Taiwan's agriculture practices hold solution to India's farming troubles

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Arid Region

It's time to make MSP a legal right for farmers

Where industrial products can come with a price tag, why can't farmers get pre-determined price?

GEVINDA SHARMA

Small growers go big with organic farming

BOON FOR FARMERS

IIT-Roorkee develops online crop monitoring system, app

7

The Sangai Express

More agricultural cooperative success stories is the need of the hour: Dy CM

12 BUSINESS

Startups, research institutes set to revolutionise farming

MANIPUR GOVERNMENT



MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

presents

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

on

IMPLICATION OF A WAR FOR RESEARCH

DR. MEENAKSHI SWAMI

and

IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGA:

FINDINGS FROM THE FIELD

DR. MOITRI DEY



13 January'2023 MATA GUJRI HALL
12:30 P.M.



PRINCIPAL
PROF. HARPREET KAUR

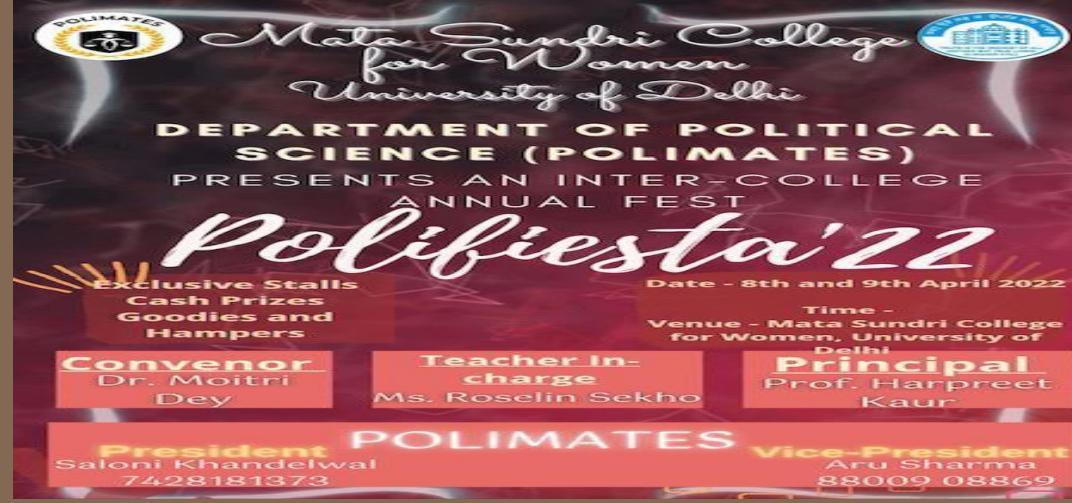
TIC, MRS. POONAM SHARMA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



TIC, MS. SHIVANI VERMA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE



POLIFIESTA 2022 (8.04.2022 – 9.04.2022)

Polifiesta – Celebrating Genderhood: The Department of Political Science organized a 2-day inter-college fest from 8.04.2022 – 9.04.2022. It encompassed four events: Flow-मंच – Poetry and Stand-up Comedy; Reel Making Competition; चर्चा टॉ – Group discussion with imitation and Workshop on Improving Access to Justice for survivors of Gender-Based Violence. This entire event was sponsored by food.pone; baking-shaking; utsav – aroma express; the.yarshnivibes; akarshini; eclyapses; the.glamstore; cozycorner.official and sastaabastaa. The event was declared open with opening remarks from the Principal , Prof. Harpreet Kaur. She spoke about the theme of the event and its significance. She also highlighted how festivals in college set a fervor for the youth to learn from each other. It was followed by an introduction of the festival by the Convenor, Dr. Moitri Dey.

'Poetry and StandUp Comedy' under Flowमंच, an event under Polifiesta'22. The competition witnessed a large amount of audience and active participation from students. There were a total of 16 participants, 14 from Mata Sundri College for Women and 2 from other established Universities. The competition was based on Gender Rajneeti and was judged by Ms. Priyadarshini and Ms. Poonam Sharma. Audience and judges enjoyed how the participants presented their ideas in the most unique and creative ways. Sonam Pandey from Mata Sundri College for Women won the first prize for her Standup Comedy. Second and third place were bragged by Shivangi Sharma and Sapna from the college itself. Students were also presented with consolation prizes for their efforts and participation.

Reel making competition under Flowमंच which was an event of "Polifiesta'22". The competition was held virtually, based on the topic Eradicate Homophobia and Embed Humanity. After going through the registrations, two of the reels of finalists were posted on the official Instagram handle of Polimates. The results were based on the decision made by audience.



- The competition was won by Krisha from Janki Devi Memorial College and was awarded with goodies and a cash prize. The reels were shared and liked by a good amount of audience.
- On 8th April Mata Sundri college held its annual fest - POLIFESTA 2022. We organised a group discussion and the topic was - " Women's Role In Parliament". The event was held in Mata Gujri hall and there were 5 participants in total. The commencement of the group discussion began around 1:30. The judges of the event were Ms. Neetu and Ms. Simmi. The winner of the group discussion was announced on the same day. First position was bagged by Devansh Dwiwedi and the second and third by Ashveen and Bhavya respectively.
- On April 09, 2022 Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi conducted an online workshop on GENDER HOOD AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR SURVIVALS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE. in collaboration with Women Manifesto.
- This workshop was conducted as part of 'Polifiesta' , an Annual Departmental Fest of the Department of Political Science. The speaker for the workshop was Dr. Sharnas Muthu, General secretary Women's Manifesto Delhi, India. Workshop started with Dr. Simerpreet Kaur the Co- convenor of the event welcoming the speaker and the young faces with enthusiasm. Then the host for the Event introduced our chief speaker, Dr.Muthu and welcomed her. She started the workshop by thanking the college for giving her the stage to speak. She began the workshop with an introduction and talked about how Gender is determined, then she goes on talking about how her NGO helped many women overcoming gender violence , she also shared her personal experiences.
- The session concluded with a question round, where in students asked their questions about their experiences. The session was concluded by the Convenor of POLIFESTA , Dr.Moitri Dey. She thanked all participants, the speakers, faculties and sponsors for the success of the annual festival. The session was ended with a vote of thanks by the Teacher In Charge, Ms. Roselin Sekho.



A VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT

The Department of Political Science organized a field visit to the Indian Parliament on 19 January 2023. The very insightful visit was organized for the third-year undergraduate students. Students assembled in the college premises and a total of forty-nine students with five staff members went together to the Parliament using the college bus. After reaching the parliament the informative visit began with the guide showing the Lok Sabha house also known as the lower house of the parliament to the students and teachers. The guide informed us about the functioning of the house and explained about the details of the Lok Sabha and how it is different from the Rajya Sabha or the upper house of the parliament.

Then, this continued with a doubt session where he took up questions from the students. Guide next took the students and staff members to the Central Hall where he informed the students about its significance. He explained the need of the Hall to the students and then took up their queries and doubts. The visit then continued to the Rajya Sabha where students were made aware about the functioning of the house and other information regarding the house. The visit then continued with showing a glimpse of the new parliament to the students from some distance. The visit later came to an end with giving a glimpse of the various offices within the parliament from outside.





DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
In collaboration with IQAC

invites you to

BOOK DISCUSSION ON

REGION, RELIGION, AND POLITICS

100 years of Shiromani Akali Dal



Chair
Prof. Manindra Nath
Thakur (CPS,JNU)



Author
Prof. A.S. Narang
(Former Prof. IGNOU)



Principal
Prof. Dr. Harpreet Kaur

Moderator: Dr. Neetu Sharma

Discussants:

Dr. Harwinder Singh (MSCW)

Varun Wighmal (CPS,JNU), Research Scholar

Dr. Simerpreet Kaur
Convenor

Dr. Moltri Dey
Co Convenor

Ms. Poonam Sharma
Teacher in Charge

Dr. Lokesh Kumar Gupta
IQAC Coordinator

Prof. Dr. Harpreet Kaur
Principal

Venue: Mata Gujri Hall

Date: 12 April'23 ;Time: 12:30

Book Discussion

Region, Religion and Politics: 100 Years of Shiromani Akali Dal

A book discussion on the recently published book “Region, Religion and Politics: 100 Years of Shiromani Akali Dal”, by Prof. A.S. Narang (Former Professor of IGNOU), was organised by Polimates, the Political Science Department, Mata Sundari College for Women, University of Delhi, in collaboration with IQAC. It was held on 12 th April 2023 in Mata Gujri Hall, at 12:30 p.m., on the occasion of 100 years completion of Shiromani Akali Dal.

BOOK DISCUSSION



INTER DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

An inter departmental research seminar was organized jointly by the Department of Political Science and Department of Economics on 13th January, 2023.

The speaker for the event was Dr. Moitri Dey, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Dr. Meenakshi Sinha Swami, formerly with the Department of Economics as Assistant Professor. Dr. Dey spoke on “Implementation of MGNREGA: Findings from the field”.

She shared the research methodology, she adopted for her study.

She also shared her main findings from the field. On the similar lines, Dr. Swami talked about the “Implications of a war for research”. She highlighted the scope of research in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War. She raised many questions for research and its implications. Students and faculties from both the department attended the event. The event was ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Poonam Sharma, TIC, Department of Political Science.



Inter - Departmental Lecture Series

 Under Delhi University Centenary Celebrations-2022

MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(UNIVERSITY OF DELHI)

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
Presents

ONLINE INTERDISCIPLINARY LECTURE
ON
ROUSSEAU'S PHILOSOPHY ON EDUCATION
by
Dr. Ishleen Kaur Lamba
(Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, MSCW)

for B.Ed. III year students

Date: 19.12.2022 Time: 05:00 pm Platform: Googlemeet

Ms. Divya Sharma
(Convenor) Dr. Aarti Mathur
(Teacher in-charge) Prof. Harpreet Kaur
(Principal)

 Mata Sundri College for Women
(University of Delhi)

Meraki, the Literary Society of English Department
in collaboration with
Polimates, the Society of Political Science Department
Under the aegis of IQAC
is organizing an
Interdisciplinary Lecture on

'UNDERSTANDING MARX'
on Thursday,
April 20, 2023 at 10 AM.

Speaker: Ms. Alka Pal
Assistant Professor,
Department of Political Science,
Mata Sundri College for Women

VENUE : ROOM NO. 202

Mr. Divya Pradhan
TIC, Department of English Dr. Poonam Sharma
TIC, Department of Political Science Dr. Lokesh Kumar Gupta
Director, IQAC Prof. Harpreet Kaur
Principal

MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(University of Delhi)

Under DU Centenary Celebration 2022
Celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
IN COLLABORATION WITH
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
presents an Interdisciplinary Lecture

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA : FRAMEWORK AND SCOPE

RESOURCE PERSON - DR. SIMER PREET KAUR
(ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE)

 **30.05.2023**
(TUESDAY)

 **L1 (SECOND FLOOR)**

 **9:30 AM- 11:00 AM**

Ms. DIVYA SHARMA
(CONVENOR)
DR. MANESHA SURBA
(CO-CONVENOR)

DR. AARTI MATHUR
(TIC, B.Ed.)
MS. POONAM SHARMA
(TIC, POLITICAL SCIENCE)

PROF. HARPREET KAUR
(PRINCIPAL)
MANJEET KAUR
PRIYA DABRA
(STUDENT VOLUNTEERS)





राजनीति विज्ञान विभाग

हिन्दी संबल समूह

आगामी सत्र के लिए आमंत्रित करता है

विषय - हिन्दी माध्यम "दशा और दिशा"

दिनांक- 27 अप्रैल, 2023

समय- 9-10

Room no - 308

Student Coordinator

Karuna Sharma

2 year

Harshita Kundra

1 year

Teacher In- charge

Ms. Poonam Sharma

Speaker

Dr. Rachna

Kumari Prasad



MOCK ELECTIONEERING

The “Mock Electioneering” was held on September 5, from 12:00-2:00PM at Mata Sahib Kaur Auditorium, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi by the Department of Political Science, Polimates. Dr. Harjinder Chawla ma'am and Dr. Jasjit Kaur ma'am were invited as the Chief Guests to the event. The event highlighted the cons of the party politics in India with special emphasis on the unfulfilled promises by the politicians and their parties.

The event observed six teams with two candidates in each team. In the first round the teams were asked to put forward the symbol, slogan and manifesto of their respective parties within the duration of 5-7 minutes. Parties introduced themselves in a comical demeanour which was followed by a debate in the second round where the parties argued over the representation of women in the Indian parliament. Afterwards, the students celebrated teacher's day as a gesture of gratitude to their teachers. The Team Polimates put in their heart and soul to keep the event lively and engaging for all.



PICTURES FROM THE MOCK ELECTIONS

