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An Overview of Governments Policy of Agriculture inputs in Nashik District

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Abstract- In developing countries increased growth in agricultural production depends on continuous improvement through technological changes. This requires a sustained and rapid growth in the use of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticide, farm implements, farm machinery, etc., The farmers buy such inputs in their locality and more often from private agencies In spite of their specific business interest, these input suppliers provide various services to the farmers for better production of the crops Such services to the farmers add to their business performance.

Index terms- Government, Policies, Farm Inputs, Seeds, Fertilizers, Machineries etc

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture in India shifted its scope and focuses more on towards commercialization and export-orientation. Creation of employment opportunities and achieving food security are among the top priorities in the policies related to agriculture. Thus agriculture has been a prominent sector accounting for 14.2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2011 agriculture and agro-industries are considered to be highly important for the country's economic development. Although the service and industrial sectors showed higher rates of growth and have been contributing higher percentages to Gross National Product (GNP), Worldwide, expansion in agricultural commodities and food products has been accompanied by significant increase in usage of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery and improved seed material.

Seed is the basic and most critical input for sustainable agriculture. The response of all other inputs depends on quality of seeds to a large extent. It is estimated that the direct contribution of quality seed alone to the total production is about 15 – 20%

depending upon the crop and it can be further raised up to 45% with efficient management of other inputs. In India the field evaluation of the seed crop and its certification started with the establishment of National Seeds Corporation in 1963. A legal status was given to seed certification with the enactment of first Indian Seed Act in the year 1966 and formulation of Seed Rules in 1968

Fertilizers Just like humans and animals, plants need adequate water, sufficient food, and protection from diseases and pests to be healthy. Commercially produced fertilizers give growing plants the nutrients they crave in the form they can most readily absorb and use: nitrogen (N), available phosphate (P) and soluble potash (K). Elements needed in smaller amounts, or micronutrients, include iron (Fe), zinc (Zn), copper (Cu) and boron(B). Fertilizer is generally defined as "any material, organic or inorganic, natural or synthetic, which supplies one or more of the chemical elements required for the plant growth".

Pesticides The first recorded use of insecticides is about 4500 years ago by Sumerians who used sulphur compounds to control insects and mites, whilst about 3200 years ago the Chinese were using mercury and arsenical compounds for controlling body lice. Writings from ancient Greece and Rome show that religion, folk magic and the use of what may be termed chemical methods were tried for the control of plant diseases, weeds, insects and animal pests.

Machinery Technology and machinery enhanced the ability, quality, accuracy and efficiency of the human being. By using technology in any field the rate production and quality automatically increases. Farm mechanization helps in effective utilization of inputs to increase the productivity of land and labour. Besides it helps in reducing the drudgery in farm operations. The early agricultural mechanization in India was greatly influenced by the technological

development in England. Irrigation pumps, tillage equipment, chaff cutters, tractors and threshers were gradually introduced for farm mechanization. The high yielding varieties with assured irrigation and higher rate of application of fertilizers gave higher returns that enabled farmers to adopt mechanization inputs, especially after Green revolution in 1960s.

Policy Initiatives in Farm Input Sector In India the field evaluation of the seed crop and its certification started with the establishment of National Seeds Corporation in 1963. A legal status was given to seed certification with the enactment of first Indian Seed Act in the year 1966 and formulation of Seed Rules in 1968. The Seed Act of 1966 provided the required impetus for the establishment of official Seed Certification Agencies by the States. Maharashtra was the first State to establish an official Seed Certification Agency during 1970 as a part of the Department of Agriculture, whereas Karnataka was the first State to establish the Seed Certification Agency as an autonomous body during 1974.

Fertilizer Subsidy Policy for Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers:

Since independence, Government of India has been regulating sale, price and quality of fertilizers. For this purpose, Government of India has passed Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) under Essential commodity Act (EC Act) in the year 1957. In order to regulate the distribution of fertilizer, Movement Control Order was passed in 1973. No subsidy was paid on Fertilizers till 1977 except Potash for which subsidy was paid only for a year in 1977. In December 1991, Government set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Fertilizer Pricing to review the existing methods of computation of retention prices for different manufactures of fertilizers and to suggest measures for reducing fertilizers prices without straining the exchequer

Concession Scheme for P&K Fertilizers:

Based on the recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee, Government of India decontrolled all Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers namely DAP, MOP, NPK complex fertilizers and SSP with effect from 25th August 1992 which were under Retention Price Scheme (RPS) since 1977 except Urea which continued to remain under RPS. Since subsidy was retained on the Nitrogenous fertilizers (Urea) while phosphatic

fertilizers were decontrolled, the prices of phosphatic fertilizers in the market became comparatively high.

Quality of Fertilizers:

The Government of India has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) and has notified Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 (FCO) under this Act. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure the supply of quality of fertilizers by the manufacturers/importers of fertilizers as prescribed under the FCO under the ECA. As per the provision of the FCO, the fertilizers, which meet the standard of quality laid down in the order can only be sold to the farmers. There are 71 fertilizer testing laboratories including four laboratories of the Government of India at Faridabad, Kalyani, Mumbai and Chennai with an annual analyzing capacity of 1.34 lakh samples.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A number of studies have been undertaken on Agriculture sector and rural development and marketing strategy of agriculture inputs by academicians, research institutions, and governments. Various studies are conducted in the area of problems and prospects of agriculture policy in India

Edwin Faris (1964) states that improvement of plant and animal varieties, introduction of new type of insecticides and fertilizers, mechanization in agriculture and effective use of many of the factors of production have been esteemed as technological change.

Acharya (1972) concludes that use of fertilizers and insecticides increases with the participation in the HYV programme and mechanization.

P. A. Jadhav (1984) He has studied "agro-based industries in the Satara district" (M.S.). His entire work is divided into five chapters. Author has used primary and secondary data for the study region. He used various graphs and maps to interpret the data.

Ramaswamy (1985) analyzed a study of the marketing of fertilizer in India. He found that, the close linkage between fertilizer consumption and food production in India would be obvious to any observer of Indian agriculture.

Role of Subsidy in Agricultural Development: A Case Study in Ajitwal block, District Etawah. Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, 37 (3), 278-279.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data for this research were obtained from primary and secondary sources. The raw data are from primary sources and obtained from questionnaire designed. The basic unit of the investigation is Nashik District of Maharashtra as well as major group of agriculture inputs dealers and users of the inputs..

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The basic importance of Indian agriculture sector is mainly for Indian economy, the development and progress is mainly depend of the progress and productivity in agriculture sector. This study is helpful as the contribution to agricultural sector, commerce, and economics. The policies of the government will be communicated to the public and at same time the mentality of the farmers also be studied, Hence it will also be useful for the government to modify, implement his policies relating to agricultural service inputs.

TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

Data was collected in separate interview schedule designed for the study after The schedule initially developed for the study with a view to data from dealers of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and farm equipment's. percentages, averages, ratio etc were used for analysis and interpretation of data.

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

History- The Nashik District has great mythological background Lord Rama lived in Panchvati during his vanvas. Agasti Rushi also stayed in Nashik for Tapasya. Nashik is famous due to credit and contribution of well-known personalities Nashik district is located between 18.33 to 20.33 degree north latitude and between 73.16 to 75.16 degree west longitude at northwest The total area of Nashik district is 15530 square k.m. and it is the third city as per the area. It captures 5.04% area. There are 15 talukas in this districts. Earlier all these talukas were divided into four divisions, but now there 9 sub divisions are working in administration for control and administration set up As per the census of 2011,

The total population of nashik district is 61,07,187 out of which male population is 31,57,186 and female population is 29,50,001. The district get fourth rank in the state population. Nashik districts 74% population is depend on agriculture sector. The variation in rainfall, irrigation and an overall conducive environment for agriculture has promoted and variety of cropping pattern across the district. Grapes, onions, pomegranates and tomatos are the popular types crops and at the same type good quality ceral crops like bazar maize wheat soyabean etc

CONCLUSION

For the purpose of Strict procedures and policies were adopted from governments for maintenance of the quality of seeds. This includes seed certification Agencies, seed testing laboratories, seed labeling and application of seed law

The Department of fertilizers introduced new urea policy in the year 2015. The main objective of this policy is to promote the maximum use of fertilizers in the farming sector for increase in production of crops and rationalization of subsidy on fertilizers In Nashik region special promotion drives were conducted from time to time by some fertilizer manufacturers by adopting various Methods such as Demonstrations to farmers, arranging field visits of farmers to research centres, etc.

In Nashik District there are maximum number of small manufacturers and individual artisans spread out in the country making small types of farm machineries. and these sectors were easily supply various types of farm equipments such as bullock carts and threshers, there are different types of simple farm tools like plough share, hand hoe, sickle, pavada, etc.

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