



Infrastructural Facilities for Agriculture Sector and Indian Economy: A Correlative Study

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Introduction:

Infrastructure is the important term for judging the level of a country or region's development. Infrastructure is the basic requirement for any kind of development. It is supposed to be physical and organizational structures needed for the function of a society. Generally, it can be defined as the set of interconnected structural elements that provide framework supporting an entire structure of development. According to some economists, it comprises all those facilities and activities the basic rationale of which is the sustenance which they provide to income generation and production in the rest of the economy rather than income generation and production within the infrastructure enterprises themselves. The term infrastructure includes some basic and advance things like, i.e. roads, bridges, water supply, sewers, electrical grids, telecommunications, product markets, schools, hospitals, and industrial units etc. There is a positive and statistically significant correlation between investment in infrastructural facilities and economic development. The development caused by development in infrastructure development is called as Infrastructure-based economic development or Infrastructure-driven development.



Agriculture and Indian Economy:

Regarding farm output, India ranks second in world. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry, logging and fishing accounted for 17% of the GDP in the year of 2012, employed 51% of the total workforce, and despite a steady decline of its share in the GDP. In the socio-economic development of India, agriculture is still the largest economic sector and a significant piece. Crop yield per unit area of all crops have grown since 1950, due to the special emphasis placed on agriculture in the five-year plans and steady improvements in irrigation, technology, application of modern agricultural practices and provision of agricultural credit and subsidies since the Green Revolution in India. International comparisons reveal the average yield in India is generally 30% to 50% of the highest average yield in the world. Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra are key agricultural contributing states of India.

India is the largest producer in the world of milk, jute and pulses. India is world's second largest cattle population with 175 million animals in 2008. It is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton and groundnuts. India is also the second largest producer and the largest consumer of silk in the world.

The agricultural development of India is based on the infrastructural facilities available for it. The chronological status of some infrastructural facilities is shown in table 1.

Table 1

Progress in Infrastructure for Agriculture Sector

Year	Power Generation (Billion kwh)	Irrigated Area (Million hectare)	Fertiliser Production (lakh tonnes)	Road Length ('000 kms)	No. of Commercial Vehicles (lakh)	No. of Regulated Wholesale Markets
1950-51	5	22.56	0.5	400	1.16	206
1960-61	17	27.98	1.5	524	2.25	715
1970-71	56	38.19	10.50	918	4.37	1777
1980-81	110	49.73	30.08	1491	7.01	4158
1990-91	264	62.47	90.45	2037	17.44	6250
1995-96	380	70.25	117.03	2884	22.21	6636
2000-01	515	76.69	159.47	3287	28.03	6942
2005-06	618	82.97	187.81	3822	36.58	7104
2010-11	811	87.44	198.37	4,236	39.93	7246

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of India

Table 1 reveals the progress of infrastructure for agriculture sector in India. The figures in the year of 1950-51 shows very low values since it was the starting of all kind of development in India after independence. Planning Commission of India started development process through Five Year Plan from 1951. In 1950-51 the power generation was only 5 billion kwh. At that time, very less power generation tools and techniques were available. The year 2010-11 shows tremendous change in power generation i.e. 811 billion kwh. It means it has increased by 160 times in 60 years.

Irrigation is the soul of agriculture sector. Indian agriculture is badly affected by less irrigation. In the year of 1950-51 22.56 million hectare land was under irrigation which further increased upto 87.44 million hectare in 2010-11. It has shown 4 times increase. But the increase is not satisfactory. Agriculture is the backbone of



Indian economy, so more increase in irrigation in order to have more production is expected. Green revolution has put forward fertilizer as a innovate input for agriculture. Fertilizer has shown its effect radically though it has some bad impact. In the year of 1950-51 the production of fertilizers was 0.5 lakh tones which further increased upto 10 lakh tones in green revolution and the year 2010-11 shows 198.37 lakh tones production. Now a days fertilizer has become a common and essential input for the agriculture. But uncontrolled use of fertilizer has also started to shows its bad impact on the productivity of crops.

Road network is also one of the basic and vital infrastructure for agriculture. Table 1 shows that, there were only 4 lakh kilometers roads across the country which increased upto 42 lakh kilometers in 2010-11. This shows 10 times increase. In concern with commercial vehicles, in 1950-51, the number of commercial vehicle were 1.15 lakh which very largely increased and reached upto 39.93 upto 2010-11. This is very important and effective development. These vehicles are used to transport the agricultural good from one point to another.

Modern agriculture is handicap without proper regulated markets. Day-by-day Marketing facilities are increasing. Farmers are able to sale his good at national and international level markets. In the year of 1950-51, the regulated markets were 206 whereas in 2010-11 it reached upto 7246. As the world has become global village, markets have crossed the geographical boundaries of the nation. International markets are giving more rates to agricultural product of farmer as compared to National markets.

Conclusion:

Agriculture sector has been the dominant sector for Indian economy. The GDP history shows its higher percentage / share in total GDP. It clearly indicates that agriculture was the prime sector in Indian economy. In 1950-51, the share of Agri-



culture & Allied Services -Share to Total GDP was 51.45 and it has decreased upto 13.68 in 2012-13. Increasing infrastructural facilities has performed its good role in the development of agriculture sector. Since some other sectors of economy have increased its share in economy, the agriculture sector is reducing its share. The increase in infrastructure facility has surely made innovation in agriculture sector. The agriculture sector has left its traditional attitude and trying to compete on international level.

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