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Growth of Agriculture in **Indian Economy**

Dr. Atul Salunke

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Introduction-

Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Indian economy and despite concerted industrilisation in the last six decades, agriculture still occupies a place of pride. I provides employment to around 60 percent of the total work force in the country. The significance of agriculture in the national economy can be best explained by considering the role of agriculture under different head.

Objectives of Economic Planning-

While planning to develop the agri cultural sector, the planning commission has generally kept four broad objectives in view:-

- (a) Increase agricultural production-the aim has always been
 - (1) To bring more land under cultivation,
- (2) Raise the per hectare yield through intensive application of such agricultural inputs as irrigation, improved seeds, fertilisers etc. and thus
- (3) Bring about increased agricultural production.
- (b) Increase employment opportunities-Apart from increase in production, the agricultural sector has to generate additional employment opportunities and provide scope for increasing the incomes of the poorer sections in our villages.
- (c) Reduce the pressure of population on land- Another basic objective of planning in the

agricultural sector has been to reduse the number of people working on land, on the assumption that there are to many people working on land. The surplus labour on land should be shifted to secondary and tertiary sectors, preferably in rural and semi-urban areas.

(d) Reduce inequality of incomes in the rural sector- The Government should remove the exploitation of tenants, and should distribute surplus land among small and marginal farmers in such a way that there would be some degree of equalityand justice in the rural areas.

Share of Agriculture in The National Income

Year	Agricu Iture			
1950-51	56.5			
1970-71	45.9			
1990-91	34.0			
2000-01	24.7			
2005-06	19.55			
2006-07	18.51			
2007-08	17.8			
2008-09	15.7			
2009-10	14.7			
2010-11	14.5			
2011-12	13.9			
2012-13	13.6			

Figures provided by the Central Statistical

Organisation (CSO) reveal that in 1950-51, the share of agriculture in GDP was around 55 percent (Table 1). As the process of industrialisation and economic growth gathered momentum under the Five year plans with manufacturing and service sectors growing rapidly and agricultural sector limping along, the percentage share of agricultural in GDP declined and reached a level of 13.6 percent in 2012-13.

YIELD PER HECTARE - FOODGRAINS

Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Total	Pulses	Total Foodgrains
1960-61	1013	851	528	753	539	710
1970-71	1123	1307	665	949	524	872
1980-81	1336	1630	695	1142	473	1023
1990-91	1740	2281	900	1571	578	1380
2000-01	1901	2708	1027	1844	544	1626
2010-11	2 2 3 9	2988	1531	2256	691	1930
2016-17	2550	3216	1784	2564	779	2153