INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWS ASSOCIATION'S

RESEARCH JOURNEY

International Multidisciplinary E-Research Journal

PEER REFREED & INDEXED JOURNAL

February - 2020 Special Issue - 235 (A)

Strengthening Business Competencies for Sustainable Development

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'RESEARCH JOURNEY' International Multidisciplinary E-Research Journal

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Impact Factor - (SJIF) - <u>6.625</u>. Special Issue 235(A) : CBCSD 2020 Peer Reviewed Journal ISSN: 2348-7143 February-2020

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Impact Factor - (SJIF) - <u>6.625</u>, Special Issue 235(A) : CBCSD 2020 Peer Reviewed Journal ISSN: 2348-7143 February-2020

Agriculture Sector & Sustainable Development

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Absract-

Agriculture is an important contributor to employment with nearly 50 percent of the population employed in it. Agriculture sector supports the industry by providing raw materials and necessary inputs for its production. Government initiatives in Agricultural sector provide the hand holding support for the Agriculture sector to grow and progress. Agriculture sector has to achieve its objective of maximizing efficiency and also ensuring equity in a sustainable manner.

Key Words- Agriculture, Sustainable Development.

Introduction-

For a developing economy like India, agriculture is immensely important. Even a small tweak in the agriculture sector, whether it is positive or negative, impacts the economy to a great extent. The primary challenge for agriculture sector is to provide food to 1.3 billion population in India. With National Food Security Mission already in place, the onus is on agriculture to provide food for all in a sustained manner.

Agriculture is also an important contributor to employment with nearly 50 percent of the population employed in it. Agriculture sector supports the industry by providing raw materials and necessary inputs for its production. On the other hand, it consumes fertilizers, pesticides produced by the industries for its own production. So, there exists an inter dependence between agriculture and industry which is essential for the socio-economic development of the country.

Keeping in view, the importance of agriculture in socio-economic fabric of India, the Government has given special emphasis and attention to this sector.

Agriculture Sector in India: Current Scenario-

India's economic growth in 2019 is estimated at 6.8 percent. Agriculture accounts for nearly 18 percent of GDP, and employs almost half of country's total workforce.

The growth of agriculture sector in India has always been volatile, especially in last decade. Inconsistency in growth rate of agriculture has impacted farmer's income and credit worthiness adversely. Despite the volatility, in 2017-18, total food grain production in India was estimated at 275 million tonnes (MT). India is also the largest producer of pulses in the world accounting for 25 percent of global production in 2017-18 was 165 MT, making India the largest producer of milk, jute and pulses. India is also the second-largest producer of rice, wheat, groundnuts, cotton and sugarcane. It is also the second-largest fruit and vegetable producer, accounting for 10.9 percent and 8.6 percent of the world fruit and vegetable production, respectively. Share of agriculture sector in total exports of the country is 11.76 percent for the year 2018-19 as per DGCIS data. The exports of agricultural products provide enhanced marketing opportunities for the agricultural producers and also in turn increase their income.