

SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY FARMING IN THE ASIAN REGION – SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY FARMS IN INDIA

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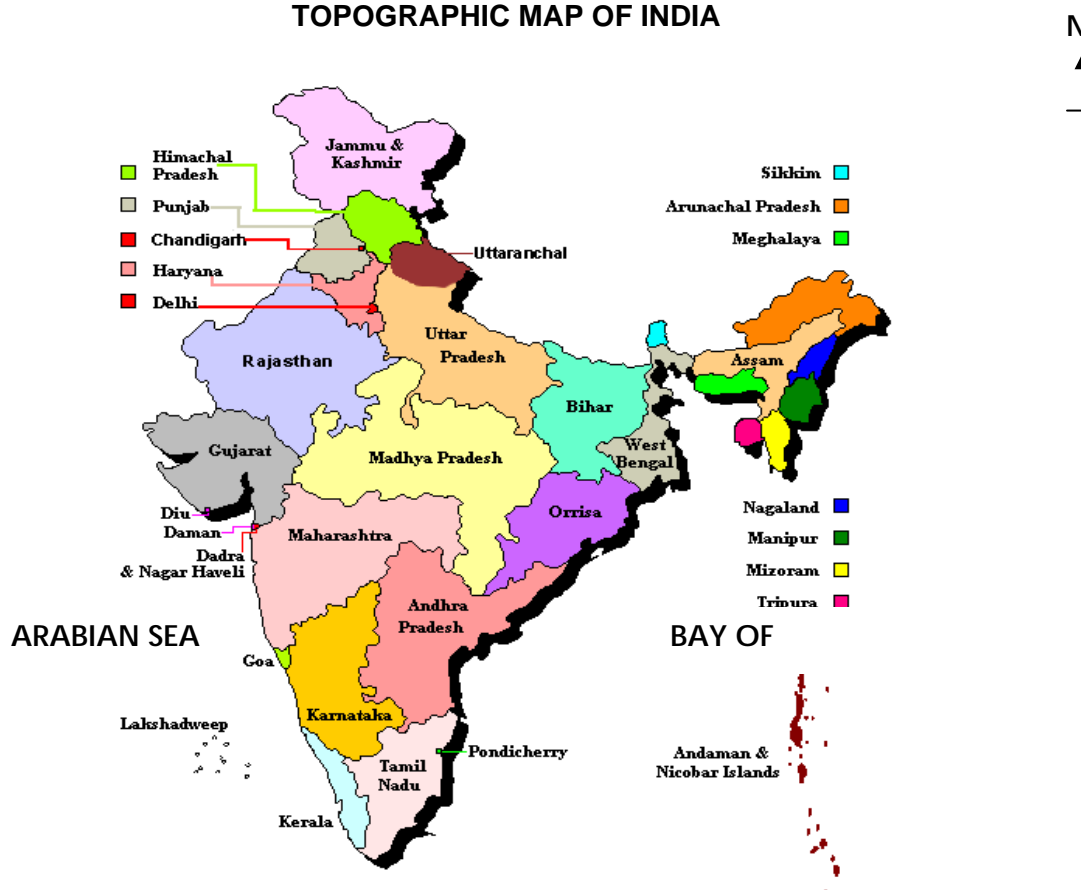
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1. INTRODUCTION

India is a land of hills, rivers, plateaus, plains, beaches, deltas and deserts. It has much to offer to travelers and tourists. India's northern states are situated in the Himalayan Mountain Range.

The central and eastern India consists of the fertile Indo-Gangetic plains. In the west is the Thar Desert. The southern Indian Peninsula is almost entirely composed of the Deccan plateau, which has two hilly coastal ranges, the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF INDIA





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- a) Location: Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan.
- b) Geographic Coordinates : 20 00 N, 77 00 E
- c) Area: Total : 3,287,263 sq km,
Country comparison to the World : 7
Land : 2,973,193 sq km, Water : 314,070 sq km
- d) Area-Comparative: Slightly more than one-third the size of the US.
- e) Land Boundaries: Total: 14,103 km
Border countries: Bangladesh 4,053 km, Bhutan 605 km, Burma 1,463 km, China 3,380 km, Nepal 1,690 km, Pakistan 2,912 km.
- f) Coastline: 7,000 km
- g) Natural Resources: Coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land.
- h) Land Use: arable land: 48.83%, permanent crops: 2.8%, other: 48.37% (2005).
- i) Irrigated Land: 558,080 sq km (2003)

2. BASIC ECONOMIC FEATURES.

- a) 70% people directly or indirectly depend on Agriculture.
- b) Gross Domestic Product by Economic Activity at Current Prices for the year 2006-07.

Rupees in Millions

S.No.	Sector	Gross Domestic Product
1.	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	7545610
2.	Mining & Quarrying	1107570
3.	Manufacturing	7087480
4.	Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	765050
5.	Construction	3651400
6.	Trade, Hotel & Restaurants (includes Transport and Communication)	10843150
7.	Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	6117550
8.	Community, Social & Personal Services	5712590



c) Poverty Situation (2004-05)

S.No.	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	No. of Persons (millions)	% Share	No. of Persons (millions)	% Share	No. of Persons (millions)	% Share
1.	220.90	73.20	80.80	26.80	301.70	27.50

d) Food Security Situation

- i) Despite, India being a large producer of a range of food products, the percapita availability is one of the lowest because of large size of population; 1025 million and growing at about 1.8 percent a year.
- ii) The percapita net availability of food grains is now lower than it was fifteen years ago.
- iii) Food grains output growth has failed to keep pace with the demand growth driven by rising incomes.
- iv) The production growth rate of food grains is decelerated to 1.2 percent during 1990-2007, lower than even annual growth of population averaging 1.8.

e) Nutrition Situation

Malnutrition in India continues to be at a high level with 42.5% children being underweight and almost 70% being anaemic. 22% children are born with low birth weight. Child malnutrition is both the result of economic conditions and poor nutritional awareness. Nutrition education and extension has been recognized as one of the long-term sustainable interventions essential to tackle the problem of malnutrition and to generate awareness and to promote the nutrition status of the country.

f) GHG Emission Situation

The total amount of GHGs emitted in India has been estimated at 1228 million tonnes, which accounted for only 3 per cent of the total global emissions, and of which 63 per cent was emitted as CO₂, 33 per cent as CH₄, and the rest 4 per cent as N₂O. The GHG emissions in the years 1990, 1994 and 2000 increased from 988 to 1228 to 1484 million tonnes respectively and the compounded annual growth rate of these emissions between 1990 and 2000 has been 4.2 per cent. Emissions from the industrial sector registered the highest rate of growth per annum within this period. A comparison of the Indian emissions with some of the largest global emitters, indicates that the absolute value of Indian emissions is 24% of the US emissions, 31% of China and 80% of the USSR in 2000. The Indian per capita emissions are only 7% of the US, 13% of Germany, 14% of UK, 15% of Japan, 45% of China and 38% of global average in 2000.



3. BASIC FEATURES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

a) Total Farming population over total population.

In millions

S.No.	Population			Population depending on Farming		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	530	495	1025	318	297	615

b) Number of Family Farmers and Big Farmers

S.No.	Small Farmers	Big Farmers	Total
1.	498	117	615

c) Land ownership and size of lands tilled by Small Scale Farmers.

S.No.	Lands tilled by Small Scale Farmers		
	Male	Female	Total
1.	249	249	498

d) Kinds of lands being Farmed: Both low land and up land

e) Major Crops produced: Cereals, Pulses, Grams, Oil Seeds, Commercial Crops, Horticulture Crops.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY FARMING TO THE NATION.

S.No.	Average size of Holding
1.	1.33 hecets.

Average holding size of Family Farmers is 1.33 hecets. The Family Farms grow traditional crops under Organic Farming through the manure obtained from their own cattle. Thus the traditional flavour of Commodities and Environment are protected.



5. CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMY OF THE NATION

Family Farms Constitute 81% of total agricultural holdings in the Country. 60% of the production comes from these family farms. These Farms not only provide Food Security to the Nation but also contribute to the economy of the Nation directly and indirectly in the form of taxes, cess and foreign currency through exports. Agriculture exports constitute 12.2% in the total National exports.

6. CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENT

Traditional culture practices are adopted in Family Farms by following Organic and natural farming practices. These culture practices results maintenance of soil fertility, environment and reduction in the Green House Gases (GHG) and effects of Climate change.

7. PROBLEMS / THREATS TO FAMILY FARMERS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS

a) Incomes of Family Farm Farmers are not in tune with increase in the prices of agricultural inputs. Not even 1/3rd of the price paid by consumer is not reaching the farmer. Inadequate access to natural and basis resources for production, markets, value addition and processing are responsible for uneconomic conditions of Family Farm Farmers.

b) Political

Farmers in India are divided National and Regional Political party wise. Empowerment of farmers is the immediate need of the our. Apolitical and independent organizations like Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA) are working for organizing farmers groups. CIFA also implementing Advocacy and lobbying programme to involve farmers in the organizations concerned with agriculture allied activities at all levels. With a view to articulate problems before decision making bodies and protect their human rights.

c) Cultural

As per National sample survey report, 40% of farmers including young are of the view for switching over to other livelihoods if an opportunity comes, since farming is not remunerative to them. In spite of the fact that rural communities wish to protect their traditions, culture and customs, they are reluctant to continue in agriculture.

d) Initiatives to address these problems and threats

CIFA has already initiated Farm Development Programmes particularly farmers welfare programmes for empowering them by organizing Farmers Groups (FGs), Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) creating awareness on the deficiencies in Agriculture Extension Services, Rural Infrastructure, Training Programmes on Soil Health, Crop Management, Integrated Pest Management, Pre and Post harvest technologies, Processing, Value Addition and Marketing. Farmers groups are also created awareness on the innovative and modern



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technologies viz., Space Technology for development of agriculture and Food Security etc. CIFA also sensitizes Parliamentarians, Legislators and Policy Makers on the problems confronted by Farm Sector particularly small and weaker section farmers to enable articulating the issues in the Legislative Forums and secure farmers friendly policies.

e) Conclusion

Family Farming plays crucial role in Farm Sector development. The subject revolves around Food Security and economy of the Country. Therefore there is need for strengthening agriculture infrastructure at grass root level in the direction of encouraging Family Farming Farmers by taking up programmes intended for soil health improvement, for rectifying and retaining soil health, so that productivity can be increased. Specific action plans should be evolved for 100% seed replacement and timely supply of quality fertilizers, especially for small holders. Public investment in Agriculture sector, particularly on research should be increased along with encouragement for organic farming. Strengthening Agriculture infrastructure under Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to tap private sector ability to work across value chains so that food stocks position can be improved. To introduce innovative instruments for risk management and crop insurance, especially for small farmers, when crops are affected by natural calamities, which facilitate continuous production of food crops. Long term export policies should be evolved to ensure continuous supply of food grains. Technology Missions constituted by Government for evolving strategies for increasing productivity of food crops could not produce anticipated results and lagging behind when compared with yields of other major food producing countries. The NGOs, like CIFA, are already supplementing the efforts of Government for increasing productivity of food crops. More support and technology transfer are needed by Indian NGOs from Foreign Donors to accelerate productivity increase programmes and meet the challenges under WTO.

