

E-TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP INDIAN FARMERS TO COME OUT OF DISTRESS.

Introduction:

Agriculture is a crucial sector and E-technology in aid of the farmers is trying to enhance the sector. Read here to know more.

Indian Agriculture is a core sector for food security and sustainable development along with poverty alleviation.

Indian farming sector is dominated by small and marginal farmers and increasing their productivity and incomes can make a major contribution to economic advancement while reducing hunger and poverty.

There have been many efforts over the decades to enhance the farming sector on-field by introducing the Green revolution, Blue revolution, White revolution, yellow revolution, etc. Most recently, Biotechnology and Information and communication technology are revolutionizing the sector.

However, the technological changes in Indian agriculture started in the 1960s when access to modern inputs, especially a high-yielding variety of seeds, fertilizers, mechanization, credit, and marketing facilities improved. The central government also introduced an intensive area development program in 1960.

E-technology in aid of farmers

E-technology stands for Electronic Technology. This includes the internet and related information technologies, and digital technologies, used of which have grown rapidly in recent years in all fields.

The impact of information and communication technology in agriculture can be evaluated broadly under two categories.

- First, Information technology is a tool for direct contribution to agricultural productivity.
- Secondly, as an indirect tool for empowering agriculturalists to make informed and quality decisions, it will have a positive impact on the agriculture and allied activities conducted.

Agricultural biotech and InfoTech together are helping to create new tools to-

- tackle the problem of consistent rural poverty
- generate employment,
- increase farm productivity and production,
- improve quality and marketing

Beneficial outcomes of e-Agriculture which enhance the quality of life of farmers include-

- bridging the information gap between the farmers and
- building a productive and competitive market,
- Different IT interventions support rural and under-developed markets to become efficient and pesticides.
- Farm animals are fed and monitored by electronic sensors and identification systems.
- Access to price information, access to agriculture information, access to national and international markets,
- Increasing production efficiency and so on.

Advantages of E-technology in aid of farmers

Some of the benefits derived by the farmers through ICT are given below:

- **Improved decision making:** By having the necessary information, farmers make improved decisions concerning their agricultural activities. The exchange of knowledge from various countries and organizations also helps farmers be more aware of factors to consider before making their decisions.
- **Planning:** IT has paved the way to come up with farming software that determines the best aids to use on the farm. Gaining information from their farm is essential in sustaining growth.

- **Community participation:** When a community adopts modern methods for agriculture, the production of local goods can be increased. With IT, there can be an improved union among local farmers, leading to better income for everyone involved.
- **Agricultural innovations:** When scientists develop new and improved techniques that help grow crops in adversities, a connected agricultural world will promote better reach.
- **Better outreach:** Not only small and medium farmers, but even backyard farmers also play a role in promoting agriculture. Use of e-technology will help in spreading ideas and innovations to all levels of farming sects.

Along with the advantages, e-agriculture has lots of problems like technical feasibility of connectivity in rural areas, cost involved in ensuring services, need for basic computer literacy, etc. Some of those problems are:-

- The reach of the technology is still very poor and a large number of farmers are still ignorant about such advancements.
- The distribution of technologies is not uniform throughout the country.
- The use of technology is being used by the already big-scale farmers is pushing the wealth gap wider. The small and marginal farmers are again being left out in the process of development.
- Due to the low literacy rate among farmers and the digital divide, there is a rise of a new class of middlemen, who provide ICT services to farmers.
- The rural infrastructure for the use of ICT is also not uniform and a lot of regional disparity persists.

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