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GeographyDate
24/10/20# Social forestry# Why Social forestry failed?

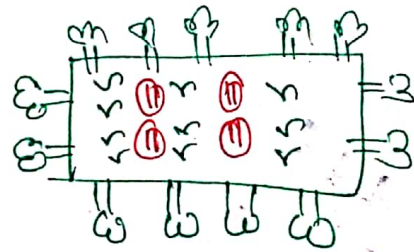
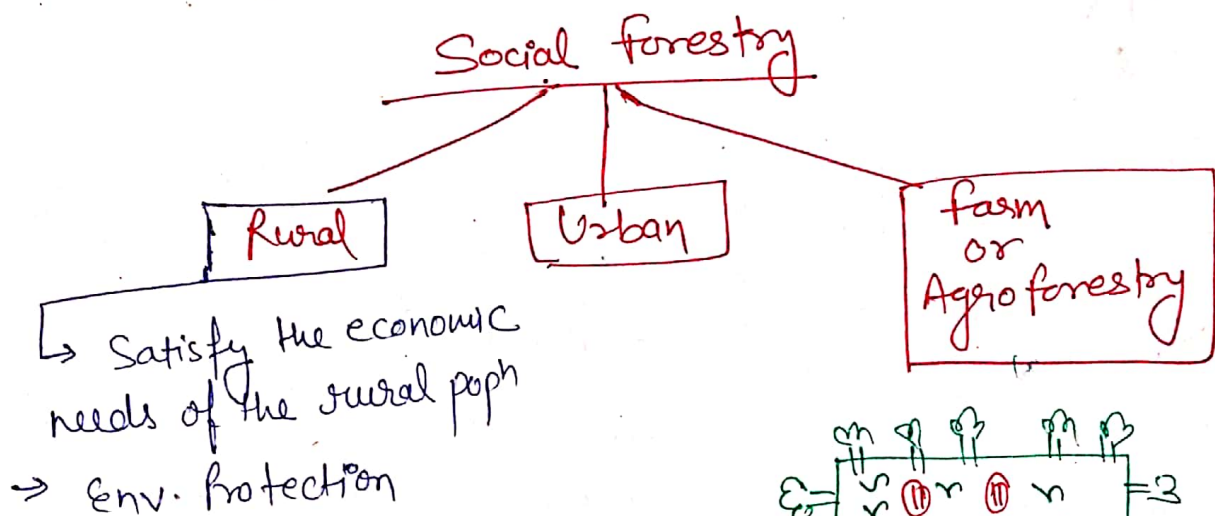
It completely ignored the prime objective of ensuring rural household excess to fuel wood, and fodder for domestic consumption. In these areas women and children spent their maximum time to collect the fuel wood. ~~In the~~

→ The social forestry program encouraged hardy ~~so~~ exotic species of trees like Eucalyptus on large scale on farm lands and public lands which has lowered the ground water table and also restricted the growth of native plant species.

→ Social forestry has failed to involve landless in afforestation as a matter of fact, it has aggravated poverty and unemployment in

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rural areas.

- Social forestry did not involve women, who collect fuelwood for family everyday. It has also not involved tribal, who are deeply interested in protection and promotion of forest.
- It has failed to check cattle browsing & grazing and cutting of trees.
- It only benefited the bigger farmer.



* Agroforestry

Advantages

- Litter or mulch
The litter falling from the tree can also act as a mulching agent.
- Increased nutrient content of the soil → tree roots normally penetrate deeper into the soil than the roots of the crops.

③ thus taking up nutrients released by weathering deep into the soil.

→ The presence of trees reduces the wind speed and creates good condition for the deposition of dust. Nutrients in the atmosphere are conveyed to the soil when they are dissolved with rain or settled with dust.

→ Many leguminous trees and few non-leguminous trees have ability to fix atmospheric Nitrogen.

→ Environmental Benefit.

- Reduction of pressure on natural forest. It is also recognised that agroforestry is perhaps the only alternative to meet the target of increasing tree cover, and forest cover to 33% from the present level of less than 25%.

- Agroforestry enables agricultural land to withstand the extreme of weather events, such as floods, draughts, and climate change.

→ Economic Benefit

- A greater output of food, fuel, fodder and timber increase in level of farm income due to improved and sustained productivity.

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→ Agroforestry leads to a reduction in the incidence of total crop failure.

→ Social Benefit

- Improvement in rural living standard from sustained employment and higher income.
- It makes villagers self-dependent at the village level itself.

Adverse effect of Agroforestry

- In the fields along which trees have been planted the productivity per unit area decreases as in at least 2 meter from the trees the moisture contained in the soil is significantly reduced.
- Mixture of trees and crops mix a more diverse environment for even undesirable pest than monocropping.
- Unscientific planning can also negatively impact the agricultural productivity of the land for eg. growing trees with photophilic plants.
- Absence of price discovery mechanism. and lack of post harvest processing technology.

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Precision farming

- 1) Micro irrigation techniques — ^{drip} sprinkler
- 2) Judicious use of fertilizers.
 - ↳ checking nutrient level or NPK balance of the soil
 - ↳ Soil Health Card.
- 3) Use of GPS, GIS & rather than using broadcasting method of sowing other precise methods such as drill sowing, use of sapplings can be deployed.

Definition of Precision farming

It refers to precise application of agricultural input based on soil, weather and crop requirement to maximize sustainable productivity, quality and profitability. It includes use of latest technology such as remote sensing GPS etc.

* Agricultural Trade

Major commodities imported to India are pulses, edible oil, fresh fruits and cashew nuts, major commodities exported by India are Rice, spices, cotton, meat and its preparations, sugar etc.

India's trade policy is affected by factors such as domestic availability of commodities, cost of production as well as global price level. (6)

However frequent change in trade policy, such as reducing the import duty on commodity to facilitate its exports, may have an adverse effect on development of the agroprocessing sector.

Over the past few decades, the share of agriculture import in total import has increased from 2.8% in 1990 to 4.2% in 2014, whereas the share of agricultural exports has reduced from 18.5% to 12.7%.

Advantages of liberalisation on Indian Agriculture

1. Best Methods - It results in culcating international best methods like that of drip irrigation, hybridization and scientific wage of sowing.
2. Increased mechanisation → increase in credit facility for agriculture.
3. Food processing technology has also provided new avenues for agricultural trade and increased profits.

Disadvantages

agricultural subsidies under

- Liberalisation made the laws of international Community, thus affecting the benefit providing.
- Fluctuation of international prices and surge in imports affects domestic agriculture.
- Growth in agriculture happened at the cost of degrading agricultural practices of application of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Indian agricultural fields become the testing grounds for international agricultural research and products banned in their country gets allowed here. for eg - Endosulfan in Kerala.

APMC (~~Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee~~)

Post Harvest Activity

Procurement of Agricultural commodities is the purchase of food products by central or state government.

The Food Corporation of India is responsible for the purchase storage movement distribution and sell and agricultural produce.

Minimum Support Prices

MSPs are the prices at which central government purchase food grains from farmers.

The largest procurement at MSPs is for rice & wheat. About a third of wheat and rice produced in the country is procured by central government. The department of agricultural and cooperation announces the MSP at start of each sowing season, taking into account the recommendation of Commission for agricultural cost and prices. The key considerations while recommending the MSP for crops are demand and supply, production cost, price trends in domestic and international market and likely implications of the price on consumers. High MSPs of crops provide incentive to farmers to adopt modern technologies and farming practices, to increase the overall productivity of their crops.

Government announces MSP for around 22 crops. but the public distribution system, for which grains are procured mainly distributes wheat and rice to its beneficiaries. Since procurement is mainly carried out for wheat and rice, farmers have focused on cultivation of these crops over other crops such as pulses and oil seeds.

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Criticism

- Very few farmers (10%) are aware of MSPs, before sowing seasons,
- Long distance to the procurement centres
- Increasing cost of transportation for farmers
- Irregular hours of procurement centre.
- lack of covered storage godowns and inadequate storage capacity.
- The authority insisting for revenue records
- lack of electronic weighing equipment in some places.
- delays in payment of MSPs to farmers

Suggestions

- Awareness among the farmers need to be increased and the information should be timely disseminated till the lowest level.
- Delays in MSP have negative effects on the farmers which need to be corrected thus MSP should be announced well in advanced of the sowing season. So as to enable the farmers to plan their cropping.
- Improved facilities at procurement centres such as drawing yards, weighing bridges etc should be setup, and maintained properly for

better storage and reduction of wastage.

- There should be meaningful ~~consultation~~ consultation with the state governments both on the methodology of computation of MSP as well as on the implementation.
- The criteria of fixing MSP should be based on current years data and based on more meaningful criteria than Historical cost.
- The procurement centres should be in village itself to avoid transportation cost.
- The MSPs scheme requires a complete over ~~whole~~-haul in those states where the impact of the scheme ranges from nil to marginal.
- Recently NITI Aayog has recommended tries deficiency system which was implemented by MP Govt in the name of Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana. under which government expect farmers to sell their produce in APMC Mandis and the compensation price which is required for the farmer for its viable produce will be provided by government.

PDS (Public Distribution System)

The PDS evolved as a system of management of scarcity and for distribution of food grains at affordable prices on a recurring basis. Under the PDS, presently the commodities such as wheat, rice, sugar and Kerosene are being allocated to the states or UTs for distribution. States or UTs also distribute additional items of mass consumption through PDS outlets such as pulses, edible oil, iodised salt, spices etc.

History of PDS

Till 1992 PDS was a general entitlement scheme for all consumer without any specific targets.

But in 1992 PDS became RPDS (Revamped PDS) focusing on the poor families specially in far flung Hilly, Remote and inaccessible areas.

In 1997, RPDS became TPDS (targeted PDS) which established fair price shops for the distribution of food grain at subsidised rate.

Growing significance of TPDS

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In peoples union of civil liberty Vs Union of India case, supreme court contended that right to food is essential to right to life as provided in article 21. In line with this parliament passed National food security Act 2013. The NFSA seeks to make the right to food a legal entitlement by providing subsidised food grains to almost 2/3rd of the population. It realised on existing TPDS mechanism to deliver these entitlements.