**Model Essay**

**Agriculture in India(First Draft)**

Agriculture is the oldest industry in India. Old books and scriptures also mention it. There are gods and goddesses and prayers to them for boons to agriculture. In India, it has also been seen as the best occupation. Trade has been seen as the second best, and being servant of others has been seen as the last resort, better only than begging.

For centuries, it has been the backbone of Indian economy. Numbers have fallen now, but until recently it used to employ over 80 percent of India’s total population. Agriculture here was so good that barring some exceptions, India produced more than enough for its own people. Along with minerals and metals, artefacts and textiles, food grains have been India’s principal export ever since there has been export of anything from India. Actually, agriculture here was so vibrant that the only people the British took out of India for their help, other than of course soldiers to fight for them, are the farm labourers who brought them prosperity through farming of sugarcane and other commercial crops.

India grows a variety of crops, larger than perhaps any other country does. I cannot imagine any agricultural product that is produced elsewhere but not in India, It produces a variety of cereals from rice to wheat, maize, millet, barley, corns, etc. Then there are over 15 different kinds of protein rich pulses. Of fruits and vegetables there is such a large variety, that even cataloguing them all here in this short essay is not possible. Commerical agriculture has also been very popular in India. Tea, coffee and tobacco were brought to India by the Europeans, but it has always had sugarcane and spices which have brought Europeans and other foreigners to India, and which even today brings valuable foreign exchange. Now Indian tea and coffee are big foreign exchange earners. The best thing about Indian industry is that until recently it used only eco-friendly methods of farming, using animals and their dung and vegetation to sustain the productive capacity of soil. Animals have been both used and sustained by Indian agriculture.

Everyone values the importance of agriculture in the economy of India. Beginning with the British, many universities and research institutions have been established in India to improve the productivity and conditions of farming and farmers have been created in India. Union and all state governments have ministries and departments of agriculture. Its place in economy is unquestionable.

Yet, in recent years, agriculture sector has not attracted the kind of manpower it should have. Best of young people hardly any longer come to agriculture for their occupation. Besides government has done little to bring modern methods of farming affordable and sustainable in India. Old methods of irrigation and flood control have disappeared. As a result, Indian agriculture has been plagued with problems like increasing suicides by farmers, debt-burdened farmers, successive years of droughts and floods, and India has done nearly nothing to change this situation.

We must bring talented and enterprising people back into agriculture. We must not limit the size and title on agriculture plots. If there is no limit to how many shops, malls, factories and houses can one own in a city, why should there be restrictions upon holding plots of land for agriculture? Unreasonable and archaic legislations like land ceiling act must go, farm labour and wages must be better organised and better treated. Farm insurance is still a foreign word in India. Crops die for want of water, even by the side of rivers. Solar power must be used to draw water from these rivers to irrigate farms, and rivers must be allowed to flow freely. Farm machinery continues to be expensive and unaffordable for most farmers, neither is most of this machinery suitable to Indian conditions of agriculture.

We must make tillers, sprayers, sprinklers, power generators, harvester, thrasher, etc for our own needs such that they do not take a lot of power neither do they cost a lot of money and work well on both small and big plots of land. Agriculture marketing must be more business-like. Famers do not need subsidy, but they should be allowed to charge competitive prices. If price of soap is not regulated, why should price of sugarcane be regulated! If we can do these things, then as the famous agriculture scientist, Dr M S Swaminathan, says, Indian can feed the world.

With these measures, Indian agriculture is still capable of regaining its old glory and power. It will attract talented and enterprising people and will reward them with returns worth of respect. Earth is seen as mother in India. And mother can never fail. All that is required is giving agriculture its due place. Rewards can be incalculable.

**Agriculture in India(Final Draft)**

Agriculture is the oldest industry in India. Old books and scriptures mention it. Songs and prayers have been written for good harvest. In India, it has also been seen as the best occupation, better than any other. It gives employment to all sorts of people, trained or otherwise.

For centuries, it has been the backbone of Indian economy. Until recently it used to employ over 80 percent of India’s population. India produced enough for its own and other people. India has been an exporter of food grains. Actually, agriculture here was so good that the only people the British took out of India for their help are the farm labours. They helped he British grow sugar cane and other commercial crops.

India grows a variety of crops. It produces a variety of cereals from rice to wheat, maize, millet, barley, corns, etc. Then there are different kinds of pulses. Of fruits and vegetables there are countless varieties. Commercial agriculture has also been popular in India. Besides tea, coffee and tobacco, it has always had sugarcane and spices which have brought foreigners and foreign exchange to India. Indian agriculture has always been eco-friendly, using only animals and their dung and vegetation to sustain productivity.

Everyone values the importance of agriculture in the economy of India. Universities and research institutions have been established to find ways to improve output. Union and state governments have ministries and departments of agriculture. Its place in economy is unquestionable.

Yet in recent years, it has suffered. Talented youth no longer comes to agriculture. Besides governments have done little to bring modern methods of farming in India. Old methods of irrigation and flood control have disappeared. As a result, Indian agriculture has faced problems like suicides by debt-burdened farmers, and years of droughts and floods, resulting in crop failures.

We must bring talent back into agriculture. We must not limit the size and holding of plots. Farmers should be allowed to own and expand like industries. Unreasonable legislations like land ceiling act must go, farm labour must be better paid and better treated. Farm insurance must come to farmers. Crops die for want of water, even by the side of rivers. Solar power can help irrigate farms. Rivers must be allowed to flow freely. Farm machinery continues to be unaffordable and unsuitable in India.

We must make farm machinery answer our needs. They cost less and work better on both small and big plots of land. Agriculture marketing must be more business-like. Famers do not need subsidy, they need freedom to compete and charge competitive prices.

With these changes, as the famous agriculture scientist, Dr M S Swaminathan, says, Indian can feed the world. It will attract talented and enterprising people and will reward them with respectable returns. Earth is seen as mother in India. And mother can never fail. All that is required is giving agriculture its due place. Rewards can be incalculable.