



DAILY NEWSPAPER
ANALYSIS
THE HINDU
(3rd December, 2018)



THE HINDU
Daily News Paper

Job creation at the farmer's doorstep

Economic Situation of Rural India:-

- Rural India's economic situation continues to worsen.
- A recent survey by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey) shows that the average monthly income of rural households is ₹8,059, with agricultural households deriving only 43% of their income from agriculture; most of it is from providing daily wage labour and government jobs.
- While agricultural households typically had a higher income than non-agricultural households, they had higher debt on average (₹1,04,602 and ₹76,731, respectively).

Measures to Improve Rural India Income:-

- The government has sought to double farmer income by raising minimum support prices and other farm related input, output measure like PMKSY, PMAASHA, PMFBY, E-NAM etc.
- But such initiatives would apply directly only to 48% of rural India, with non-agricultural households being left behind.

- The conversation on raising farmer income should need to embrace non-farm diversification, so that landless labourers and marginal farmers could be included in the path of empowerment.
- **Why non-farm diversification will help to marginal and landless farmers-** Diversification, away from marginal farming, will help them to overcome land constraint to income growth, while allowing farmers to cope with exogenous shocks through additional income. In some cases, it even allows them to reinvest in productivity enhancing agricultural technologies.
- **Utilize livestock sector-** The livestock sector can offer significant opportunities for bolstering non-farm income.
 - **Revamp of National breeding Policy-** by inclusion in upgrade of the best performing indigenous breeds and State governments should be encouraged to participate in national breeding policy implementation, creating an environment for competition among alternative suppliers of artificial insemination.
 - **Improving Feed Supply-** The feed supply which is currently inadequate needs to be mitigated through greater imports, with feed technology packages developed for extension dissemination.
 - **Geographical information system-based analysis-** it must be utilised to map production systems

- **Private investment** must also be encouraged.
 - **Improving Animal health care-** it should become a priority, with greater investment in preventive health care.
 - **Helping Backward/lagged behind States -** The government needs to create better incentive structures for investment in livestock in the States that are lagging while harmonising rules, regulations and regulatory authorities across States.
 - **Promoting Research and Assessment Market-** State governments should sponsor research and assessment of the market, along with highlighting investment potential.
- **Improving the Conditions of Migrant Labourers-** Agricultural labourers routinely seek construction-related daily wage labour to bolster their income. So there is need to improving the conditions of migrant workers in the construction sector.
- **Inclusion of Migrant workers in welfare scheme-** They should have access to various government (Central and State) schemes, despite the lack of state identity proof but should have Indian citizen proof.
 - Though multiple laws exist for the welfare of construction workers, compliance is abysmal. The

- penalties for non-compliance should be increased and registration of workers with the Welfare Board should be made mandatory and be the responsibility of the contractor and the builder.
- **Women Specific Measure-** strict anti-harassment laws should be implemented. Creche facilities at construction sites should be provided to also ensure that children are not neglected; they often play with gravel and dust, which can threaten their health.
- **Education of Migrant Worker's Children-** According to **UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report**, there is about 28% illiteracy between 15-19 age group in migrant worker's child, where India's average of this age group is 18% due to **lack of accessibility of education in construction sites** and **psychological effect on left out children**. Though there are many policy and **RTE Act of 2009** still accommodate this issues but most interventions are focused on keeping children in home communities instead of actively addressing the challenges for eg
- teachers on the construction site cited **culturae, language, cleanliness and clothing are major barriers** between them and labour community.

Way-Ahead:-

- Our policies should help create sustainable, long-term, rural, non-farm employment options which can aid the rural poor in overcoming barriers to economic prosperity.

- India's rural development policies should increasingly focus on developing markets, infrastructure and institutions that can help sectors such as livestock and construction growth.
- There is need to shift in rural development policy **from development via driving people away from agriculture and towards cities to development by incentivise job creation at their doorstep.**

THANK YOU

**LIKE &
SUBSCRIBE**