

GLOBALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE AND WTO

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ABSTRACT

Globalization of agriculture has made a tremendous contribution to the development of the Indian economy. It has enhanced the reach of the trendiest cultures to such a terrific extent that the commodities scarce to a country from another have not just been rotated in the same diameter at the same place but also to other parts of the globe. Agricultural globalization has contributed to the growing wealth disparity. Globalization, in terms of trade interdependence, availability of scarce commodities from one country to another and vice versa, improved global relations, extension of civilization, and much more. In a world where feeding 9.7 billion people by 2050 seems like a daunting challenge, India's agricultural sector stands as a beacon of hope and potential. With its rich, fertile lands and favorable monsoon patterns, India has not only secured its position as the world's sixth-largest economy but has also demonstrated how agriculture can be a powerful tool for poverty reduction and economic growth. There are certain impacts and contributions of globalization on agriculture and the chains it is interconnected to. The most heart-wrenching of them is the farmer's suicidal cases that started arising after the year 1990. The rapid chain of transportation of Agricultural commodities such as food grains, seeds, and other eatables can cause the introduction of diseases along with them. Agricultural globalization can present opportunities for food and processed commodities, while also challenging the need to compete globally. It has also broadened the breach between the rich and the poor, improved global relations, extension of civilization, and much more. This review focuses on the impact of globalization on agriculture and the chains it is interconnected to.

Keywords: Agriculture, globalization, economy, trade, food, farmers.

Introduction:

As the term sounds, Agriculture refers to the science of cultivation in the soil for crop production.

It has been in practice for 13,000 years and has been established vividly for only 7,000 years. The Vedic literatures also provide the records of India practicing Agriculture for a long time. Indians have been in the practice of crop cultivation and animal domestication so much that it was the largest producer of wheat and grain. As of now, agriculture remains to be the

powerhouse of the Indian economy. India has observed almost every sort of revolution concerning agriculture expansion and has been the leading producer of milk, spices, pulses, and jute.

Not only that, India has been the second largest producer of staple food grains such as Wheat and Rice, and of other crops viz., sugarcane, fruits, vegetables, cotton, and many dry fruits.

The story of Indian agriculture is one of remarkable resilience and adaptation. But what makes this transformation particularly fascinating is how globalization has reshaped the agricultural landscape. From enabling year-round access to seasonal produce to creating new employment opportunities in food processing industries, the impact has been far-reaching. This intersection of traditional farming practices and global market forces has created a unique ecosystem where ancient wisdom meets modern innovation.

As we delve deeper into this topic, we'll explore how this agricultural powerhouse is navigating the challenges and opportunities of a globalized world, and what it means for the future of food security, economic growth, and cultural exchange.

1. Indian Economy and Agriculture:

The development of Agriculture indubitably is one of the concrete solutions to eradicate extreme poverty coming along with the rapidly growing population of which almost 73.5% accounts to rural (GOI, 2011), boosting shared prosperity among countries and according to The World Bank; aiming to feed a projected 9.7 billion people by 2050. (World Bank, 2024)

India being bestowed with highly fertile land to a large portion along with its monsoon pattern that indeed is highly favorable for farming leads the Indian Economy secure sixth position among the world's top economies.

About 70% of the Indian population is engaged in Agriculture with either of many intentions including the production of food grain for one's livelihood, the sales of surplus production for that substantial amount of cash helping local farmers run their other family needs, for large farmers with all of their large scale produce to be traded to other countries, etc.

A well-built agricultural economy in return welcomes societal progress in terms of increment in productivity, employment opportunities, and of course income generation.

Agriculture, being the backbone of India's economy, roughly contributes 14% of India's entire GDP.

2. Globalization:

On the other hand, Globalization is a term that denotes the connection of Nations around the globe in terms of trade and technology. India, in 1994, signed its first Agriculture WTO agreement, and that led to the inclusion of Agriculture as one of its policy structures.

The beginning of the 21st century led to the resonation of global agricultural trade. According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research i.e. ICAR, globalization can present opportunities for food and processed commodities, while also challenging the need to compete globally. This has resulted in the interdependence of economies of the World. In other terms, it is the extension of economic, societal as well as political relationships in space and time.

3. Impacts of Globalization:

There are certain impacts and contributions globalization has made including thriving in agriculture, global trade interdependence, availability of scarce commodities to a country from another and vice versa, improved global relations, extension of civilization, and much more.

Positive Attributes of Globalization on Agriculture and Trade:

1. Increased Cultural Harmony:

Agricultural globalization has increased the reach of the trendiest cultures to such a terrific extent that the commodities scarce to a region have not just been rotated in the same diameter

at the same place but also to the other parts of the globe. One of many such instances includes the availability of exotic fruits via import from other parts of the world.

2. Increase In Economic Amalgamation:

The rise in global trade, conveyance of technology and knowledge, commencement of new markets, and exchange of economies have led to the connection of one economy to another.

3. Eradication Of Poverty And Hunger:

An increase in Globalization is inversely proportional to the robustness of poverty. This can be explained in many ways. For instance; the poor gain better returns for the marketed surplus sold overseas. Also, the prime goal of agricultural expansion was to strike hunger, malnutrition, and the increased death rates due to starvation. Lately, our Motherland has been producing a substantial quantity of food grains which are used for expanding the national income via trading overseas.

4. Food Security:

Year-round availability of seasonal and exotic food items to every part of the World has been made possible by overseas trade and technological efficiency. This has led to the uninterrupted availability of food items all across the globe leaving no room for the occurrence of food deprivation.

5. Employment Generation:

The establishment of trade has led to the setting up of several industries which in turn requires large-scale employment. For example - The setting up of food processing industries requires workers for different tasks.

6. Increased Access To Markets:

Ever since the WTO agreement was signed by India, agriculture has paved the way for trade and growth in the economy to an immense extent.

7. Efficient Production Function:

The increase in the transfer of technologies all across the globe has got production and trade done in sprint mode.

Negative Attributes of Globalization on Agriculture And Trade:

As it's been said, way too much dependence on something leads to an imbalance in the small yet significant projections of a vast system the same way globalization as well has reflected quite many adverse effects on agriculture and the chains it is interconnected to.

Among the many adverse consequences of globalization, a few of them are;

1. Population Movement:

The poor, landless, or small farmers and laborers from rural areas have been moving towards the urban and industrialized areas in search of job opportunities, handsome wages, better living conditions, food security, and much more due to the allocation of all the revolutionary ideas into the cities where there is an industrial hub, better income, and indubitably, growth. This eventually leaves a lot less farmers in the field.

2. Technology Taking Over Human Labour:

The transfer of technologies from one region to its introduction to another has caused a need for fewer human resources with time. For instance; local brands of villages (with local yet successful startups of either candle making, papad making, incense stick making, etc) to industries from cities have all introduced machines and direct connection to the other traders leaving little or no room for workers, helpers or middlemen as well. Leading to unemployment of many people including people from below the poverty line, single mothers, unskilled youth, etc.

3. Competitiveness:

On one hand, globalization causes the availability of new markets and the introduction of competitiveness among the same on the other. The Internet, controlling most of the sales, causes transparency in the prices of various commodities including agriculture, offered by different business labels making it tougher for companies to apply the price tags according to their own will.

4. Increased Gap Between Rich And Poor:

Globalization of Agriculture in terms of trade has broadened the breach between the rich and the poor. The harm that globalization has caused to the farmers, especially small and marginal ones, is quite unnoticed yet a big issue.

For instance, agricultural commodities that are accessed via import and sold at much-slashed rates make a tough competition between the poor and the commercial farmers. Another instance includes the highly priced agriculture-derived technologies, seeds, and other agricultural commodities that small-scale farmers find hard to afford.

5. Increased Farmer Suicidal Cases:

We have already gone through several cases speaking of the hardships that farmers have been going through after the agricultural trade agreement came in command yet the most heart-wrenching of them is the farmer's suicidal cases that started arising after the year 1990.

The major cause of this includes crop failure due to unfavorable weather conditions, the burden of loans on the poor farmers and their families, subsidy corruption, poor government policies, and much more.

6. Increased Corruption:

Poor governmental subsidy leads to the uprising of people or organizations to bag maximum

illegal benefits via different illegal means. It also denotes the cases of bribery associated with government contracts or the licenses of agricultural supplies.

7. Introduction To Crop Diseases:

The rapid chain of transportation of Agricultural commodities such as food grains, seeds, and other eatables can cause the introduction of diseases along with them. Example: The widespread pandemic Covid-19 caused worldwide stalling of trade.

8. Alteration In Lifestyle:

Economic and social change has led to a change in the pattern of food consumption as well. The trend of any commodity has a great influence on the public as they're ready to get it included in their lifestyle. Example: Excess consumption of packaged and processed food items leads to health hazards such as obesity, heart attacks, and many more.

4. Conclusion and Discussion:

The dual nature of globalization's impact on agriculture necessitates a balanced approach that maximizes benefits while mitigating adverse effects. Policymakers must create frameworks that support smallholder farmers through subsidies, training programs on sustainable practices, improved access to credit facilities, and fair pricing mechanisms for their produce. Engaging stakeholders—from government entities and NGOs to private corporations—in dialogues about sustainable agricultural practices will be crucial moving forward as we navigate the complexities introduced by globalization in agriculture. By fostering inclusive policies that addresses both the opportunities presented by globalization as well as its inherent risks, we can work towards a more equitable agricultural landscape where all farmers thrive rather than merely survive amidst global competition. The World, specifically India has conquered an utter state of poverty that had been causing malnutrition, famines, and

increased mortality rates since the era of its Independence. The WTO and Agriculture steadily yet ultimately helped decrease such cases along with the upliftment of the Indian economy to an appreciable status. These reparations did come with a cost that unknowingly had to be paid.

Globalization in a wide sense has given birth to many consequences while making its way down the road from 1990 to till date. It has been shown it has both positive as well as negative attributes just the same as a coin, having two faces. Only the balanced way of trade is ought to bring out not zero but close to negligible detriment to the economy.

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