

Chapter-5

Agriculture, Food Security and Quality

Introduction:

The economic prosperity of any country depends on the development of agriculture and industry. Both these sectors are considered as the pillars of economic growth.

India is an agriculture based country where about more than 64% population is even today dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Truly, agriculture is backbone of Indian economy. For most of the rural families, agriculture is the main source of employment. The urban population is also dependent on agriculture for supply of food grains and raw materials. There

In the words of Prof. M.S.Swaminathan, an eminent agro expert and chairman of National Commission on Farmers “Agriculture is not a mechanical thing, rather the backbone of Indian economy to guarantee livelihood of 80% people living in India. Agriculture is the engine of economic development in India and Bihar”.

is no country in the world which has such direct and close relation with agriculture as India has.

The eminent agro economic Prof.Swaminathan believes that about two third population of India is related to agricultural family. It shares an average of about 20% of national income and provides employment for 80% labour force in rural India. So revolutionary change and high growth rate in agriculture sector is essential for a semi developed and agricultural country like India. Undoubtedly Indian agriculture is an important source of employment exportation and foreign currency and it contributes in industrial development, capital formation and improvement of the living standard of people.

Agriculture in Bihar:

Bihar is the largest state among economically backward states in India, where agriculture is the main occupation. This sector produces a large part of gross income in Bihar. Bihar is mainly an agricultural state. Most of the organised industries fell under Jharkhand after it got separated from Bihar. The rest one are either closed or in a sick condition. The economy of Bihar now primarily depends on agriculture. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood, income and employment of the people over here. The majority of the population (80%) in Bihar living in villages depend on agriculture directly or indirectly.

Agriculture plays a prominent role in the development of Bihar. This has been proved through various facts. Agriculture supplies food grains and raw materials to other sectors of economy and provides sources in the forms of savings and taxes. The rural population accelerates the development of other sectors because development and expansion of industry, trade, etc, depends on the demand of kinds supplied by it. Valuable foreign currency can be earned by exporting cash crops such as mango, litchi, sugarcane, etc. It is viable to say that increasing productivity in agriculture of Bihar can help the other industrial development of Bihar in many ways. Transfer of labour force from agricultural sector to other sectors will be possible by the growth of agricultural production in Bihar. The demand of food stuff in non-agricultural sectors can be fulfilled even after minimising the number of labour force in agricultural sectors. It will increase the income of farmers with the development of agricultural production; the income of state and per capita income also increase. The contribution of agriculture is larger in the income of state.

Importance of Agriculture in Bihar:

Agriculture provides opportunity for the development and expansion of the other sectors through selling and buying. It supplies food grains and raw materials to the other sectors and provides market for the sale of product. Thus it encourages non-agricultural sectors like trade and commerce.

Importance of agriculture in Bihar

- Important contribution to state income
- Main source of employment and livelihood
- Contribution in industrial development
- Source of government income
- Contribution in successful planning

Causes of Agricultural Backwardness in Bihar:

Agriculture is the backbone of economy in Bihar, on which the majority of population of the state depends for their livelihood, income and employment, but the condition of agriculture is not better in Bihar.

According to Clouston "There is not only backward class in Bihar, but even the industries are backward and unfortunately among them agriculture is the most backward". This statement of Clouston is cent percent true in the context of Bihar, which can be better depicted in this way.

Causes of agricultural backwardness in Bihar

- Excess pressure of population on agriculture
- Unequal distribution of land
- Dependence on monsoon
- Horrible condition of flood, famine and drought
- Traditional and unscientific way of farming and lower productivity
- Lack of high yielding variety of seeds and fertilizers
- Lack of irrigation facility
- Lack of capital
- Sub division and fragmentation of land Illiteracy

Measures for removing agricultural backwardness in Bihar:

It is to be remembered here that all round development in Bihar can be done by removing the above causes of agricultural backwardness and by getting more production and benefits through agriculture.

Measures for removal of agricultural backwardness in Bihar:

- Population control
- Planned irrigation facility
- Flood control and better water management
- Useful advanced and better agricultural techniques
- Flow of more institutional finance in agriculture

Kinds of Crops

The crops in India and Bihar can be divided into two parts-

Kinds of Crops

Edible crops
(paddy, wheat, maize, barley, mahua, jwar, millet, gram, pigeon pea, etc.)

Cash crops
(sugarcane, jute, oil seeds, pulses, chilli, potato, onion, etc.)

There is obvious impact of climate on the sowing and harvesting of crops. Paddy is the main crop in the state but in the west side to plains of Bihar the importance of crops like maize, wheat, barley, gram and other that depend on rain, increase. The agriculture in state is divided in four parts on the basis of mutual relationship of crops and seasons.

Kinds of edible crops:

1. *Bhadai*
2. *Kharif* or Aghani
3. *Rabi*
4. *Garma* (in summer season) Main crops in Bihar are wheat and paddy. We get rice from paddy.

1. **Bhadai** (in rainy season)

The *bhadai* crops are sown in May-June and they get ready in August-September or *Bhado* month of Hindi calendar. Maize, jwar, jute and some special varieties of paddy are main crops. The production of *bhadai* crops depends on the rain. The pre-monsoon rain is more in the plain area than the plateau region.

2. **Kharif or Aghani** (in winter season)

Paddy is the main crop of this season. It is planted in the month of June and the crop gets ready in December or Hindi month *Aghan*. Aghani crops have highest place in the agriculture of Bihar.

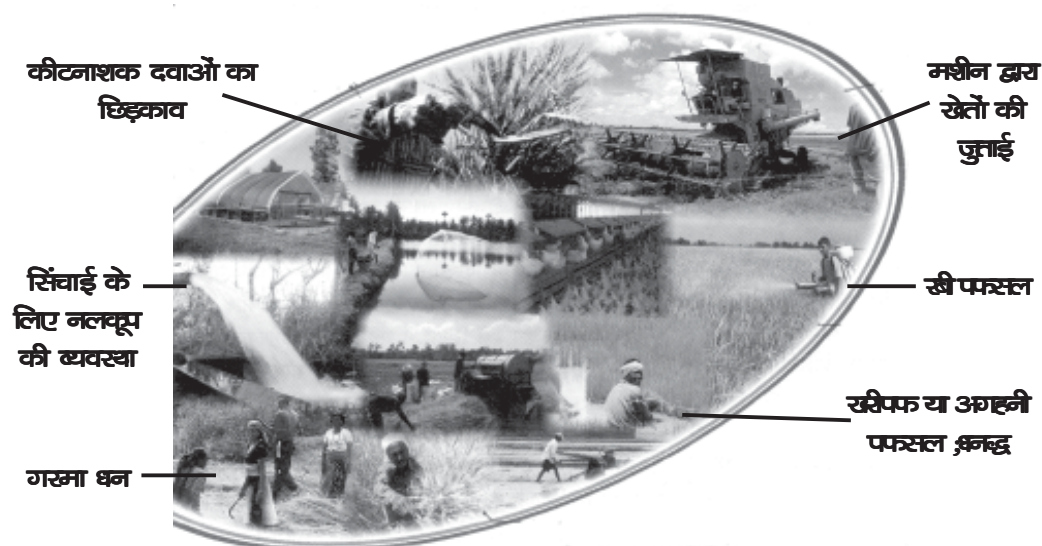
3. **Rabi** (in the spring season)

Rabi includes wheat, barley, gram, *khesari*, pea, lentil, pigeon pea, mustard, etc. and various kinds of oil seeds and pulses. The crops are sown in October-Nov and they get ready in March (in the spring season). The farming of *rabi* is carried out on the one-third of the total arable land of the state.

4. **Garma** (in the summer season)

The cultivation of *garma* crops in the state is done in the region where irrigation facility is available or on the land that have enough moisture. Green vegetables have special place in this season. Some special varieties of paddy and maize are grown in this season. The farming of green vegetables is carried out in

Picture:5.1



People engage in production of various crops

Nalanda district and on the bank of Ganga in Vaisahli and Saran district of Bihar.

Sources of food grains:

After discussing the kinds of food grains, we shall now throw light on their sources and availability. Through the sources of food grains, as per need, we give emphasis on the fulfilment of food grains. Extensive farming is considered as the chief source of food grains. **The better the agricultural policy of a nation or state is, the more is the growth in agricultural production.** During natural calamities like drought, famine, earthquake, epidemic, etc, the source of food grains gets slacken. So it is essential that agriculture should be very strong. The fulfilment of food grains is inevitable as food is a basic need of human being.

Sources of food grains:

- Extensive farming
- Agricultural policy
- Import policy
- Policy of surplus production

The import policy, storage policy and policy of surplus production have been considered as the other source of food grains. Food grains are specially

Picture: 5.2



Farming of mustard through advanced techniques

imported from other nations during disaster so that the people could be saved from hunger.

When there is increase in agricultural production or the production is surplus, due to extensive farming, it becomes necessary to keep it safely and so food grains are kept in big godowns. Thus the source of food grains kept in the godowns is largely helpful in calamities.

When the government policy on agriculture is liberal, the farmers undertake farming happily and use new techniques in it. Through this process they are able to produce more than what is needed. Its main impact is seen during emergency. The surplus produce overcomes the shortage of produce in future. **The strong source of foodgrains is the symbol of a strong nation.**

Quality of Food Grains

The availability of food grains in the form of food reflects that we are independent in terms of food grains. The foundation of self dependence on food grains is the quality of food grains. As such, more attention should be paid on quality compared to quantity. In this connection, again, there are various assumptions regarding minimum needs of the people. For example, it is estimated that a woman working in home requires food with 3100 calories every day while a teacher or a person working in an office needs 2600 calories per day. On the other hand the need of calorie for a general active person like doctor, engineer and tailor is 3000. Similarly, an industrial labour requires 3600 calorie. From the above example it is clear that the need of the unit of calorific value is different among the persons of different working class.

If the people get foods in accordance with the calorie need they are self satisfied and prove themselves as skilled and successful workers. So it is necessary to understand the importance of quality of food grains along with its yield. A qualitative aspect of food grains creates healthy life and healthy thought among people. The proper and successful disposal of work by people is indicator that they are getting qualitative and good food. The availability of good foods for the people is symbol of prosperity of a nation.

The quality of the food items should be the top priority. For this it is necessary to give special emphasis on the food grains of more calorie value.

After evaluating the all available technologies in Bihar and using it in increasing the food grains and other crops it will be necessary not only to find out alternative and extensive possibilities but also to formulate an immediate and long term industrial planning.

Food Security

Food is as necessary for life as air for breathing. The meaning of food security is related to regular availability of food, access and capability to get it. Whenever there is a problem regarding production and distribution of food grains, the poor families get more affected. Food security is a government effort for public distribution system, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, official vigilance and during food crisis.

There are following dimensions of food security

- i. The signification of **food availability** is to food production, food import, and the stock of previous years stored in the government godowns.
 - ii. The meaning of **food access** is that food should be available to every person without any hurdle.
 - iii. The sense of **capability** is that sufficient money is available with the people for buying nutritious food and other items of their needs.
- The food security in any country or state is ensured when:
 - i. There should be availability of food for all people.
 - ii. All people have capacity to buy the acceptable quality of food items and
 - iii. There should be no hindrance in availability of food grains ,i.e., people should get food grains without any hindrance.

Food Security, Why?

The poorest class of the society can always be a victim of food insecurity. But when the nation is under the grip of earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami

and condition of famine due to bad crop even the people above poverty line of the society can be affected from food insecurity.

The meaning of food security in the decade of 1970 was- 'adequate ever availability of staple food' (U. N. 1975). Amratya Sen added a new dimension to food security and emphasised on the access to food on the basis of entitlement. The entitlement means the fulfilment by state or the society and it is associated with the items that can be produced and exchanged in market by any person. Accordingly, the meaning of food security has considerably changed. In the World Food Summit, 1995, a declaration was made that lay the foundations for diverse paths to a common objective – **“the existence of food security is, at the individual, household, national, regional and global levels. Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”** In addition in the declaration it is affirmed that **“eradication of poverty is critical to improve access to food”**.

National Food Security Mission

The objective of the Mission is to produce rice, wheat and pulses to increase the production of rice by 10 million tons, wheat by 8 million tons and pulses by 2 million tons by the end of (2011-12) so that the demand of food grains could be fulfilled and food security could be ensured.

250 lac farmers are expected to be benefitted in 250 districts of 16 states in the country.

Some areas, that are eligible for financial assistance under operational guidelines of the farmer mission, include:

- high yielding variety seed
- farm machinery
- water management at field
- integrated pest management for successful use of pesticides
- integrated nutritious element management for increasing soil health

The following items are included in the other activities for providing benefit to farmers:

- presentation of advanced methods through field display
- convening Farmer Field Schools (FFS) for providing extension support

Suggestions for Food Security

1. Increase in agriculture production
2. Systematization of food distribution
3. Cooperation and organisation through community development
4. Reforms in food administration
5. Population-planning
6. Change in current habits of consumption

Story of Ramu

Ramu works as a temporary agricultural labourer in agriculture sector at Madhopur village. His eldest son Somu is 10 years old. He also works as a care taker of the cattle of Satpal Singh, *the Sarpanch*. Somu works round the year with the Sarpanch and gets one thousand rupees for the work. The other three sons and two daughters of Ramu are very young, and they cannot work in fields. Sunahri, Ramu's wife, keeps herself engaged temporarily in cleaning the cattle and cowshed. She gets half litre of milk, vegetables and some cooked food for her daily work. In addition to it, she works in fields with her husband during busy season and increases her income. Agriculture is a seasonal work; so, Ramu gets employment only during sowing, plantation and harvesting seasons. About four months in every year he remains unemployed between the period of sowing and harvesting of crops. He remains in search of job in those days. Sometimes, he gets work at brick kiln or in construction works in his village. Through his efforts, Ramu manages to earn enough in cash or kind to provide his family two squares of meals. However, when he fails to get work he and his family have to face difficulties and sometimes his children go to bed without their meals. The family could not get milk and vegetables on regular basis. Due to seasonal nature of agriculture, Ramu remains insecure in terms of food security during four months period of inoccupation.

Self-sufficiency in food grains during famine

Due to any natural calamity (such flood, drought, famine, earthquake, epidemic, etc) there is decrease in the yield of food grains. The affected are experiences shortage of food grains. In such a condition, people cannot buy food items on high rates because to get food items on high rates in lower income becomes beyond their reach. If the catastrophe affects the larger area for a longer period, the condition of starvation may occur. A wide ranging starvation happens during famine.

M.M.Saminathan: In view of the recommendations of National Commission on Farmers a National Food Grain Security and Sovereignty Council should be established and we will have to develop habits and capacity to take immediate action with full information during famine and natural calamities. Only then we shall have necessary storage of food grains and will be able to get through the public distribution system to all.

The growing population of country has created many problems consequently a gruelling famine in some states is a common phenomenon. Due to this reason the people not only live in starvation but also there is no control over poverty.

It is essential to pay much attention to agriculture sector, rather than ignoring it, so that everyone should get food grains (food) during famine. We know that the agriculture sector provides about 64% employment to state and 80% employment to the population in rural areas. In view of the needs of the farmers and to deal with such situations, The National Commission on Farmers came into existence. The commission, keeping an integrated strategy, emphasised on continuous monitoring and effective use of food grains, health and irrigation; and in addition to that presented proposals to draw attention of the government on some important issues like reforms in loan and insurance services, new techniques in agriculture and market facilities. The government efforts can be seen in this direction.

As we know that during famine the death rate increases largely which is the result of starvation and epidemic due to polluted and contaminated water and spoiled foods.

In India, Bengal faced the most horrible famine before independence in 1943, known as the great famine of Bengal. Nobel Prize laureate Amartya Sen has also discussed the catastrophe. About 30 lacs people had died out of starvation in Bengal, in India then.

Discuss:

Do you know who were the worst affected during Bengal famine? Agricultural labourers, fishermen, transport workers and other temporary labourers were most affected due to high increase in the rate of rice. The persons died in the famine mostly belonged to this class.

Production of rice in Bengal Province

Year	Production (lac tons)	Import (lac tons)	Export (lac tons)	Total availability
1939	79	04	-	83
1940	82	03	-	85
1941	68	02	-	70
1942	93	-	01	94
1943	76	03	-	79

Let's Discuss:

- Some people say that the Bengal famine was due to shortage of rice. Study the table and say you subscribe to this statement?
- In which year was a great decrease in food availability?

Picture: 5.3



Victims of starvation at relief centres, 1945

Picture: 5.4



A family migrating from his village during Bengal famine 1943

No famine like Bengal reoccurred in India. But it is a matter of great concern that even today in Kalahandi and Kashipur, in Orissa, there is a famine like situation for years and there are reports that the poor are dying regularly due to starvation. Reports of death have been received recently also from Plamu district of Jharkhand and from Nawada, Gaya and Munger districts of Bihar in addition to other remote areas in the grip of famine. So, for any country, food security is very essential; thought it the food supply could be ensured forever. There is adequate stock of food grains in the Indian Food Corporation (IFC) godowns of central and state governments but what needs to be done is to provide it to the poor.

In order to be self dependent during famine and other calamities, it is essential to improve the condition of the farmers. Special emphasis is required to ensure maximum income to the farmers. An enhancement is needed to the support price given to them as well. The National Food Security Mission should develop such a mechanism that is focussed on the farmers and the poor. To deal with famine and expected natural and manmade disaster, it is essential to strengthen the income of the farmers and poor people. Along with making the crop insurance scheme effective a road map should be prepared for qualitative enhancement in all wings related to agriculture, small scale industries and other trade areas so that the poor farmers could become self dependent.

Governmental and Nongovernmental contribution in Food Grain Security

Even after 61 years of independence about 40 lacs families are such that at least one member of the family has to remain hungry at least one day in a year. Our population, now, is over one hundred crores. Increasing population, unemployment and decreasing food production have making it difficult for the people to get two squares of meals. Proper use of land is a must for providing food to all. The lands remain uncultivated due to various reasons; there is wastage of agricultural produce as well. Theses things need to be taken care of. The role of governmental and nongovernmental institutions can be effective in this regard, as they can provide appropriate advice to farmers and citizens time to time.

Thanks to the positive steps of the government, we witnessed green revolution in the beginning of the seventies; since then famine like situation has not not occurred even in adverse seasons.

Due to production of various crops in the country in the last 30 years, India has become self dependent in terms of food grains. Also, there is no scarcity of food grains even in an adverse situation and availability of food grains has been ensured normally, chiefly because of the carefully prepared food security arrangement by the government.

There are two main constituents of food grains availability - **Buffer Stock** and **Public Distribution System**

Buffer Stock

The food grains, rice and wheat, procured by government through Food Corporation of India (FCI) are to be kept safely in government godowns. FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers of the states having surplus production. Farmers are paid pre fixed price for their produce. This price is called **minimum support price**. The government declares the support price before sowing season to give support to production of these crops . The procured grains are kept in government granaries like Food Corporation of India.

Public Distribution System

The food grains procured by Food Corporation of India are distributed among the poor class of the society through government regulated ration shops.

Picture: 5.5



Farmers making planning to stock produced food grains.

This is called Public Distribution System (PDS). The distribution centre of food grains are called as ration shop. Now the ration shop is almost, in all areas, villages, towns and cities. There are approximately 4.6 lacs ration shops in the country. The ration shops, also known as **fair price shop**, have stock of sugar, food grains, and kerosene oil to use as fuel. All these items are provided

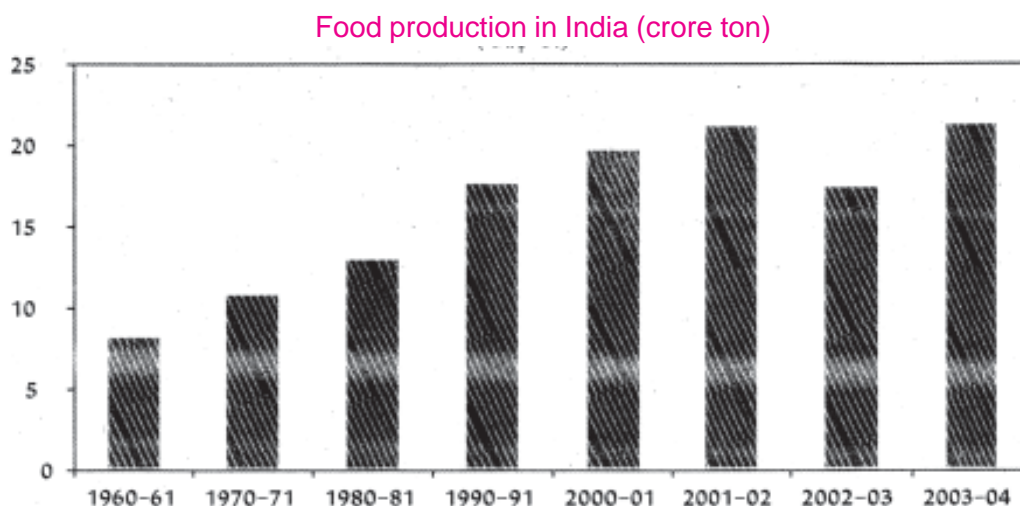
to the people on less than the market price. Any family that holds ration card can purchase a fixed quantity of food items as 35 kilogram cereals, 5 litres of kerosene oil, 5 kg. sugar, etc, per month from their nearest ration shops.

Types of ration cards:

- a. **Antyodya Card** for the poorest among the poor.
- b. **Below Poverty Line Card (BPL Card)** for the people below poverty line.
- c. **(APL Card) Card for Above Poverty Line**, for other people.

Do you know?

Why does the government create buffer stock? It is done to meet the demand in the area of shortage and to distribute food grains among the poor class on much less than the market price. It is also called as issue price. Buffer stock is helpful to fulfil the need of food grains in adverse seasons and during calamities.



Beginning of Rationing System in India:

The rationing system in India began in 1940s under the background of Bengal famine. Due to extreme food grain crisis, before green revolution, rationing system was regenerated in the decade of 60s. Keeping in view the higher level of poverty, in mid 70s according to the report of NSSO (National Sample Survey Organisation/National Sample Survey Office) the already functioning system related to food grain was more strengthened and in 1977-78 Food for Work Programme was launched. Presently, various Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAP) are being carried out and most of them are in the rural areas. PAP increases the food security mostly. The employment programmes supports food security by increasing income of the poor.

National Food for Work Programme:

National Food for Work Programme was launched on 14 November 2004 in 150 most backward districts in country with the objectives of intensifying the supplementary labour employment. This is a programme for the rural poor in need of employment and eager to work as unskilled physical labourers. It was implemented totally as a centre sponsored programme and states have been provided cereals free of cost. Collector, being the head at the district level, is responsible for planning, implementation, coordination and supervision of the programme. In 2004-05, rupees 2,020 crores was allotted in addition to 20 lac ton food grains.



People purchasing commodities on fair price from ration shop

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

Antyodaya Anna Yojana was started in 2000. Under this programme 1 crore people belonging to below poverty line from targeted public distribution system were identified. They were selected through survey of poor families of below poverty line by Rural Development Department of the respective states. All eligible families were provided with

Do you know?

Why does the government create buffer stock? It is done to meet the demand in the area of shortage and to distribute food grains among the poor class on lower rates from market price. It is also called as issue price. Buffer stock is helpful to fulfil the need of food grains in adverse seasons and during calamities.

25 kg cereals at subsidised rates, of rupees 2 and 3 per kg. In April, 2002, the quantity of food grains was increased from 25 kg to 35 kg. Additional 50 - 50 lacs BPL families were included twice in June 2003 and August 2004 and the number of the BPL families in this programme became 2 crores.

Role of Nongovernmental Organisations:

In India, particularly in the southern and the western regions, the nongovernmental organisations and cooperative societies have been playing a very important role in food security. The cooperative societies open fair price shops to sell food grains to the poor. In Delhi, the Mother Dairy has been growing fast in providing milk and vegetables to the consumers on fixed and controlled rates by government of Delhi. Amul in Gujrat and Patna Dairy in Bihar (which is known as 'Sudha') are successful examples of cooperative societies in connection with milk and milk products. They have brought White Revolution in the country. To set up grain banks in different areas, the nongovernmental organisations organise programmes for training and capacity building to ensure food security. Grain bank programme have got recognition by Academy of Development of Science (ADS) as an innovative and successful food security programme.

Summary

- India is an agriculture based country with more than 64% population dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture, which is the chief occupation in Bihar, plays a very important role in the development of the state.
- In Bihar, crops can be divided mainly into cash crops and food crops. The Food crops have been divided into four parts i.e. i. *Bhadai* ii. *Kharif* or Aghani iii. *Rabi* and iv. *Garma*. Rice is the main crop of Bihar.
- Food security in any country is ensured only when all its citizens get nutritious food. All people have capacity to purchase acceptable quality food and do not encounter any barrier in having accessing to such food. The people belonging to below poverty can always be insecure in terms of food while the rich may also be insecure during calamities. A large class of people in India is victim of insecurity of food and nutritious elements. The most affected are the landless and poor family of rural areas, the people engaged in very low income jobs, and in urban areas the temporary labourers in seasonal works. In certain areas of country, comparatively the number of unsecured people in terms of food is very large as- economically backward states with high poverty rate, remote tribal areas and the region that experience natural calamities regularly. With the aim of ensuring food supply to all class of society the government of India has prepared very cautiously a comprehensive system of food security that have two constituents: a. Buffer Stock and b. Public Distribution System. In addition to public distribution system, many other poverty alleviation programmes were started with food security as a component. Some of the programmes are: Integrated Child Development Services, Food for Work, Mid Day Meal, Antyodaya Ann Yojana, etc. In providing security the nongovernmental organisations and cooperative societies are also working in this direction apart from government's efforts.

Exercise

I. Objective Question:

Write a, b, c, or d for correct answer.

1. What is main source of livelihood for the people of Bihar?
 - a. industry
 - b. trade
 - c. agriculture
 - d. none of these
2. The most important source of irrigation?
 - a. well and tube well
 - b. canals
 - c. ponds
 - d. river
3. Wastage in state due to flood?
 - a. of crops
 - b. of human being and cattle
 - c. of house
 - d. all of the above
4. Wastage in state due to famine?
 - a. of food crops
 - b. of human being and cattle
 - c. industries
 - d. none of these
5. Which is called winter season crop?
 - a. bhadaï
 - b. kharif or aghani
 - c. rabi
 - d. garma
6. Which state in India did a horrible famine happen in 1943?
 - a. Bihar
 - b. Rajasthan
 - c. Bengal
 - d. Orissa

7. The contribution of agriculture in national income in previous years
 - a. have increased
 - b. have decreased
 - c. is static
 - d. is variable
8. Which card is useful for the poor among the poorest?
 - a. BPL card
 - b. Antyodaya card
 - c. APL card
 - d. none of these
9. Which is the source of food grain?
 - a. extensive agricultural policy
 - b. import policy
 - c. storage policy
 - d. all of the above
10. Which dairy project in Bihar has been working as nongovernmental organization?
 - a. Patna Dairy
 - b. Mother Dairy
 - c. Amul Dairy
 - d. none of these

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for.....population in Bihar.
2. The.....of agriculture in Bihar is lower.
3. Irrigation has.....importance in agriculture in Bihar.
4. There areflood affected areas in Bihar.
5. Buffer stock is created by.....
6. The.....card belongs to the people below poverty line.
7.is the backbone of Indian economy.

8. The daily requirement of an industrial labour is.....calorie.
9. Thedairy is operational in Delhi.
10. Green revolution was adopted after being impressed by.....

III. Put tick mark (tick) for correct statements and crossed marks (X) for wrong statements.

1. Industry is the most important among the economy of Bihar.
2. The agriculture of Bihar is very modern.
3. There are many flood affected areas in Bihar.
4. Agriculture supplies raw materials to industries.
5. The daily minimum requirement of calorie for a teacher is 2600 calorie.
6. To maintain the quality of food there is need of special attention on the production of maximum calorie possessing food grains.
7. The slogan 'Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan' was given by Lal Bahadur Shastri.
8. Agriculture is an engine of the economy of India and Bihar.

IV. Short Answer Question:

(Answer in not more than 20 words)

1. Give four suggestions for removing the backwardness of agriculture in Bihar.
2. Differentiate between cash crops and food crops.
3. Who are the people that may be most affected by food insecurity?

4. Do you agree that green revolution made India self dependent in terms of food grains. How?
5. Why does the government create buffer stock?
6. What do you mean by public distribution system?
7. How many types are there for ration cards? Discuss.

V. Long Answer Question:

(Answer in 100 words)

1. Discuss the role of agriculture in the economy of Bihar.
2. Explain in detail the food grains and its types in Bihar.
3. What are the impacts on the food supply during calamities?
4. What did the government do to provide food security to the poor? Discuss any two programmes started on the part of government.
5. Write note on the role of the nongovernmental organisations in providing food grains and other related items.

VI. Write Notes:

- i. Minimum Support Price
- ii. Subsidy
- iii. BPL card
- iv. Buffer Stock
- v. Public Distribution System

Answer

I. Objective Question:

(1) c (2) a (3) d (4) a (5) b (6) c (7) b (8) b (9) d (10) a

II. Fill in the blank:

1. majority
2. productivity
3. great
4. so many

5. government
6. BPL
7. agriculture
8. 3600
9. Mother
10. México

III. Correct-Incorrect

1. incorrect 2 incorrect 3. correct 4 correct 5. correct 6. incorrect 7. correct 8. correct

Project Work:

1. What types of crops are grown in your area?
2. Find out, what type of relief are given to the victims of calamities in relief camp?
3. Which are the districts of Bihar that have mostly affected due to increase in water level of rivers? Display it through a map.
4. Have you ever helped the victims of famine in the form of money, food grains, clothes, medicines, etc?
5. Illustrate through a drawing, the ration shops in your area and prepare a list of the commodities received from there.
6. Why are ration shops essential? What commodities have your family purchased by a ration card. Describe it with quantity and price.

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