

THE INDIAN AGRI STORY

FIVE PROBLEM AREAS

the **Agriculture** was facing immediately after Independence

- presence of Zamindari Pratha where Zamindars were exploiting the actual tillers(those who were actually cultivating land)
- unequal distribution of land
- The sector was starving of investment
- use of backward technology/method
- low level of productivity and production



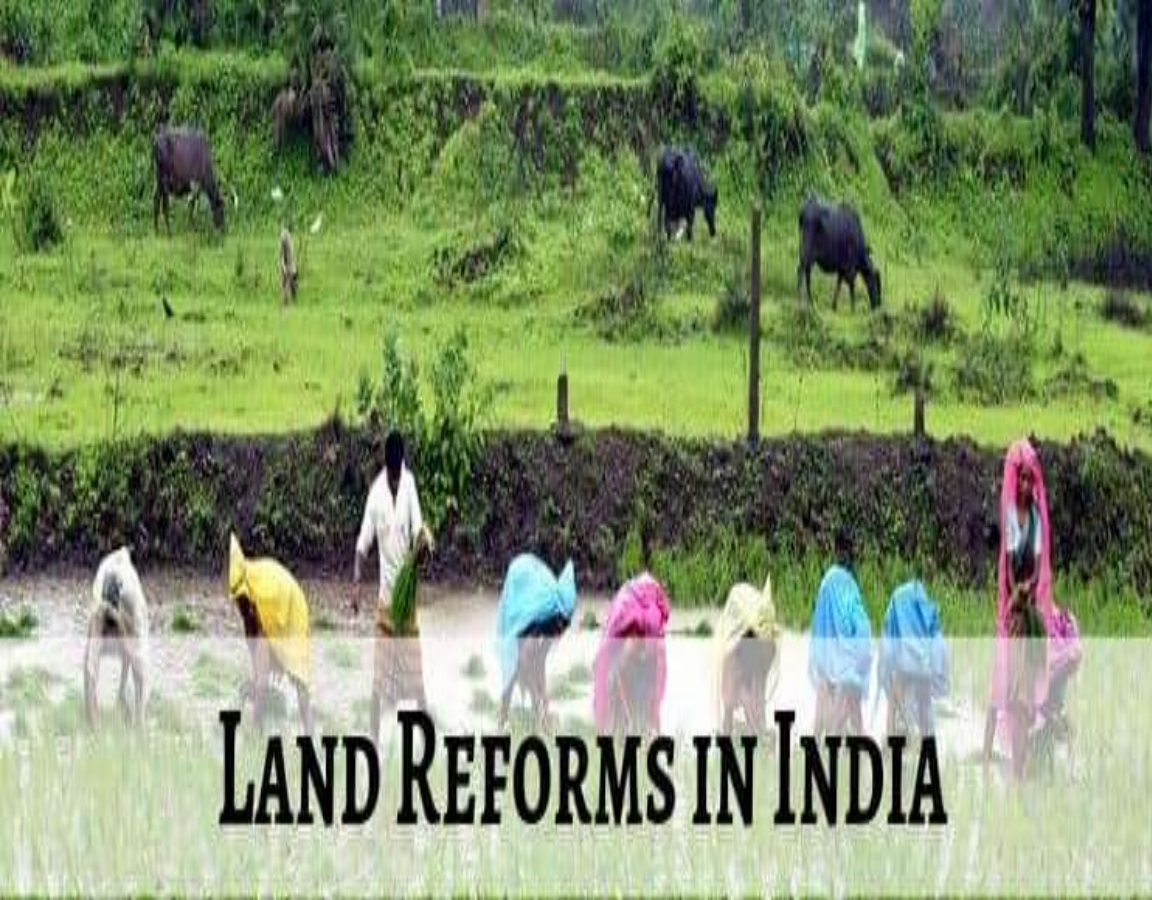
Reforms initiated by Government of India immediately after independence to improve Agriculture



(A)
LAND REFORM
(Institutional Measures)



(B)
GREEN REVOLUTION
(Technical measures)



LAND REFORMS IN INDIA

REASON/OBJECTIVE BEHIND LAND REFORM IN INDIA:-

- 1. Zamindars, Jagirdars etc. were merely collecting rent from the actual tillers of the soil without contributing towards improvements on the farm.**
- 2. This resulted into low productivity and forced India to import food from the United States of America (U.S.A.).**
- 3. So, in order to give incentive to tillers land reform was initiated that means the policy was actually based on the idea that the cultivators will take more interest in increasing output if they are the owners of the land**
- 4. Broadly speaking the idea was to promote equity in the distribution of agricultural land**

Primarily refers to change in the ownership of landholdings.

That means to make actual tillers/actual cultivators the owner of land they are cultivating. This is why this policy of land reform is also referred as policy of "Land to Tiller"

Steps/components of Land reform



Regulation of Rent-

In order to stop illegal extortion in terms of higher rent and to protect farmers from exploitation by zamindars Govt. fixed the rent which generally is not to exceed 1/3rd of crop



Land ceiling -Govt.

decided the maximum size of cultivable land holding that an individual farmer can own.

The surplus land (over and above the max. size decided by Govt.) used to be taken by Govt. to redistribute among landless or actual tillers. the idea was to promote equity..



Consolidation of

Land Holdings -Many small farmers had lands scattered here and there (fragmented lands)and because of that they were suffering from high cost and low productivity. To solve this problem Govt. decided to allot land at one place as replacement of scattered land



Abolition of intermediaries- means removing Zamindars/ Zamindari pratha. the idea was to make actual tillers the owner of landholding and give them incentive to improve productivity.

A Call to Collective Action!
Agricultural Cooperatives for
a Brighter Future



Co-operative Farming

To encourage farmers / tillers to collectively do the cultivation by pooling each other's resources that will increase their bargaining power and also purchasing power.

Impact of Land Reforms

Critical appraisal/evaluation

The general assessment on land reforms in the Indian context is rather negative. For example, the report of the Task Force on Agrarian Relations of the Planning Commission of India (1973) had the following overall assessment of land reforms in India: 'The programmes of land reform adopted since Independence have failed to bring about the required changes in the agrarian structure.'

Abolition of intermediaries is generally agreed to be one component of land reforms that has been relatively successful. The record in terms of the other components is mixed and varies across states and over time.

Landowners resisted the implementation of these reforms by directly using their political clout and also by using various methods of evasion and coercion, which included registering their own land under names of different relatives to bypass the ceiling, shuffling tenants around different plots of land so that they would not acquire incumbency rights as stipulated in the tenancy law.

Positive Side

- The abolition of intermediaries meant that some 200 lakh tenants came into direct contact with the government
- they were thus freed from being exploited by the zamindars.
- The ownership conferred on tenants gave them the incentive to increase output and this contributed to growth in agriculture.

Criticism

- However, the goal of equity was not fully served by abolition of intermediaries.
- In some areas the former zamindars continued to own large areas of land by making use of some loopholes in the legislation.
- There were cases where tenants were evicted and the landowners claimed to be self-cultivators therefore claiming ownership of the land
- Even when the tillers got ownership of land, the poorest of the agricultural labourers (such as sharecroppers and landless labourers) did not benefit from land reforms.
- The land ceiling legislation also faced hurdles. The big landlords challenged the legislation in the courts, delaying its implementation. They used this delay to register their lands in the name of close relatives, thereby escaping from the legislation and retaining their land.
- Except states of West Bengal and Kerala the land reform could not be successful other states because of lack of Govt. commitment.

The Green Revolution in India

Changing Agricultural Traditions

Factors that called for Green Revolution in India-----

- ❑ At independence, about 75 per cent of the country's population was dependent on agriculture.
- ❑ Productivity in the agricultural sector was very low because of the use of old technology and the absence of required infrastructure for the vast majority of farmers.
- ❑ India's agriculture vitally depends on the monsoon and if the monsoon fell short the farmers were in trouble unless they had access to irrigation facilities which very few had.
- ❑ To feed the large population the country was actually dependent on import of food grain.
- ❑ The stagnation in agriculture during the colonial rule was permanently broken by the green revolution.

Primary meaning---

refers to the large increase in production of food grains resulting from the use of high yielding variety (HYV) seeds especially for wheat and rice.

First phase

(approximately mid 1960s up to mid 1970s)

History of Green Revolution in India

these two points therefore are suggestive of restricted benefits of Green Revolution during 1st phase

Green Revolution in India

- In 1965 the government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi decided to major steps on agriculture conditions.
- Thus Green Revolution was applied to the period from 1967 to 1978 basically in the parts of Haryana and Punjab.
- At this stage concern was on Wheat and Rice.
- Dr. M.S. Swaminathan from India led Green Revolution as a Project.

Part 1

- ❑ The use of HYV seeds was restricted to the more affluent states such as Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ❑ Further, the use of HYV seeds primarily benefited the wheat growing regions only.

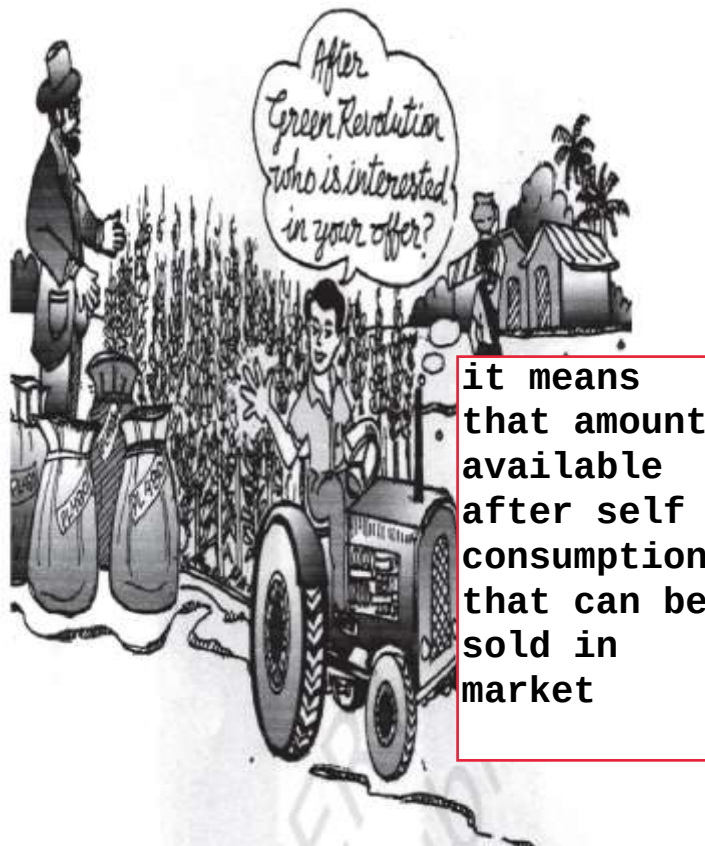
Reason

The use of these seeds required the use of fertiliser and pesticide in the correct quantities as well as regular supply of water; the application of these inputs in correct proportions is vital. The farmers who could benefit from HYV seeds therefore required reliable irrigation facilities as well as the financial resources to purchase fertiliser and pesticide which very few farmers and belonging from only some affluent states had.

GREEN REVOLUTION

Second phase (mid-1970s to mid-1980s)

- ❖ The HYV technology spread to a larger number of states and benefited more variety of crops.
- ❖ The spread of green revolution technology enabled India to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains; we no longer had to be at the mercy of America, or any other nation, for meeting our nation's food requirements.



- ❖ A good proportion of the rice and wheat produced during the green revolution period (available as **marketed surplus**) was sold by the farmers in the market.
- ❖ As a result, the price of food grains declined relative to other items of consumption.
- ❖ The low income groups, who spend a large percentage of their income on food, benefited from this decline in relative prices.
- ❖ Enabled the government to procure sufficient amount of food grains to build a stock which could be used in times of food shortage.

Risk/challenges associated with Green Revolution

While the nation had immensely benefited from the green revolution, the technology involved was not free from risks.

The significant risk/ challenges associated were-----

- ❑ One such risk was the possibility that it would increase the disparities between small and big farmers—since only the big farmers could afford the required inputs, thereby reaping most of the benefits of the green revolution.
- ❑ Moreover, the HYV crops were also more prone to attack by pests and the small farmers who adopted this technology could lose everything in a pest attack.

What government did to mitigate these risks?

Fortunately, these fears did not come true because of the steps taken by the government such as----

- **The government provided loans at a low interest rate to small farmers**
- **subsidised fertilisers so that small farmers could also have access to the needed inputs.**
- **Since the small farmers could obtain the required inputs, the output on small farms equalled the output on large farms in the course of time. As a result, the green revolution benefited the small as well as rich farmers.**
- **The risk of the small farmers being ruined when pests attack their crops was considerably reduced by the services rendered by research institutes established by the government.**

Conclusion--- **You should note that the green revolution would have favoured the rich farmers only if the state did not play an extensive role in ensuring that the small farmer also gains from the new technology.**