
Socio-Economic Development of Agricultural Labors in India and Europe

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Introduction

The European Commission's rural development policy is one of the two pillars of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It helps meeting the challenges faced by rural areas and contributes to their sustainable development. Support is provided for rural development programmes defined at national or in some cases regional level, which for a certain number of years (now: 2007-2013) set out the measures to be undertaken and the funding allocated to each of these measures. In its early days, rural development policy was essentially sectoral (dealing mainly with agricultural structures), with limited territorial aspects. Agenda 2000 established rural development policy as the second pillar of the CAP and brought rural development under a single regulation to apply across the whole of the European Union for the period 2000-2006. In addition to agricultural restructuring, it now also addressed environmental concerns and the wider needs of rural areas. The guiding principles were those of decentralization of responsibilities - thus strengthening subsidiary and partnership - and flexibility of programming, based on a 'menu' of measures to be targeted and implemented according to Member States' specific needs. In 2003, the mid-term review of the CAP added four new measures to promote quality and animal welfare, and help for farmers to meet new EU standards. It also strengthened rural development policy by providing more EU money for rural development through a reduction in direct payments ('modulation') for bigger farms. In September 2005, the Council of Ministers adopted a rural development regulation for the period 2007-2013. Since then, rural development has been implemented through one fund, one management and control system and one type of programming. The aims of the policy have been simplified and clarified around three clearly defined economic, environmental and territorial.

- (1) Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry;
- (2) Improving the environment and the countryside; and
- (3) Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity.

Rational Behind the Study

Europe and India have very good agricultural base. The economy of both the countries is based on Agricultural and Agricultural Labors. It is must to highlight and deal with Socio-economic problems of agricultural labors in Europe and India

Agricultural Production in India

Direct government efforts at agricultural improvement remained almost non-existent for a very long time, except for a few experimental farms and some paltry taccavi loans from the 1870s. The single major exception was large-scale canal irrigation in the Punjab, western U.P. and parts of Madras. It is interesting that investment in irrigation was conspicuously absent in permanently-settled eastern India, no doubt because there the government could not hope to benefit very much from improvements in cultivation. Irrigation was accepted as a limited but real benefit by nationalist historians, but the recent work of Elizabeth Whitcombe on the United Provinces has thrown considerable doubt on even this aspect of British rule. British canals, it seems, were often less suited to local conditions than traditional kaccha wells, and sometimes caused swamps and excessive salinity. In addition, the benefits went entirely to the minority of better-off cultivators, since canal rates were pretty high, while the encouragement through irrigation of crops like sugar, cotton and wheat led to a decline in the production of millets and pulses, the poor man's food. At the same time, there were some positive gains in areas like the Punjab, where Virgin lands were put under cultivation through canals constructed by the British. The colonial structure as a whole, to quote Daniel Thorner again, constituted a 'built-in depressor' for India's agrarian economy.

The Impact of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar's Economic Thoughts on Indian Economy could be evaluated Under the Following Main Heads:

- 1) Agriculture or land reforms.
 - 2) India's Currency (Monetary) Problems.
 - 3) Problems of Public Finance.
 - 4) Views of Taxation policy.
 - 5) Nationalization of Industries.
 - 6) Strategy for economic development.
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- 7) Democra state Socialism.
- 8) Miscellaneous economic Problems.
- (a)Free Enterprises Economy.
- (b) Population Control - Family Planning
- (c) Economic Upliftment of Indian Women.
- (d) Concept of Human Capital.
- (e)Opposition to Hindu Economy

Agriculture or Land Reforms:-

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had made in-depth study of Indian Agriculture, wrote research articles organized Seminars and Conferences in order to solve the problems of agriculture and farmers, also led farmer's movement. His thoughts on agriculture are found in his article "Small Holdings in Indian and their remedies"(1917) and also in "Status and minorities"(1947) and his other writings. The reforms suggested by him are included in the manifesto of the "Swatantra Majdur Paksha"and the Scheduled caste Federation. He recognized that small subdivided and fragmented holdings of land is the actuate problem of Indian agriculture associated with many evil affects. It has resulted in various disadvantages, as difficulties in cultivation and utilization of resources increasing cost, low productivity, inadequate income, Low standard of living etc. According to Dr. Ambedkar Productivity of agriculture is related to not only with the size of holdings but also with other factors such as capital, labor and other inputs, Therefore first of all the concept of "Idea of Economic holdings should be made clear". If capital labor etc are not available in adequate and quality even a large size holdings may become unproductive, or its productivity may be low on the other hand small sized holding becomes more productive if these resources are available in plenty.

Europe Agricultural System

What's new in farm structures and agricultural production methods?

First findings from the 2010 Farm Structure Survey and the Survey on Agricultural production methods. Every ten years, EU Member States carry out the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) in the form of a harmonized agricultural census and transmit the data to Eurostat, the European Statistical Office, which publishes them in aggregate form in its public database. This census is an important reality check since it encompasses all agricultural holdings above a certain threshold in the EU Member States, so that 98% of utilized agricultural area (UAA) and 98% of all livestock are covered. In 2010, the census was accompanied by the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods (SAPM) – a one-off addition on farming practices and agri-environmental measures to the more structure-oriented list of variables in the normal FSS.

In this year's edition, we have continued to use 2007 data for most of those indicators that rely on the farm structure survey. This is not only due to the lack of a complete data set for 2010 results, but also to a number of **methodological changes**, which require some adjustments in the analysis. New survey thresholds in 2010, various Member States (Germany, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) used survey thresholds which were above the common threshold of 1 ha of UAA. This is justifiable since due to structural change, average holdings have become larger and even with the new thresholds, 99% of the total UAA and livestock are covered by the surveyed holdings. However, the changes make it difficult to compare certain indicators (e.g. the number of holdings) with previous years. Inclusion of common land² the 2010 agricultural census includes common land used for grazing in the total UAA. For some countries, this leads to significant changes in the area counted as UAA (e.g., Germany, France, Bulgaria, Hungary, Ireland, Greece, the United Kingdom), which needs to be taken into account for all land-based indicators. Use of geo-coordinates for the location of the holding until 2010, the location of a holding was determined through the code of the local administrative unit (LAU 1 or LAU 2) in which the holding is situated. This has now been replaced by the latitude and longitude coordinates within an arc of 5 minutes. As a consequence, the classification of holdings according to whether or not they are in a less-favored area (LFA), which is defined at the level of LAU 2, is difficult and not yet available.

New Variables

The Agricultural Labor Force – Who Are the People Working in Agriculture?

Describing the agricultural labor force is tricky, for various reasons. Agriculture is still dominated by family farms, where family members provide labor input at different times of the year, not

always in a regular manner. Since family members contributing to farm work don't always receive a salary but rather participate in the profit made by the holding, the exact number of hours worked is not always recorded. Secondly, many farmers and farm workers pursue agriculture as a part-time activity, making it difficult to verify the number of hours worked. Thirdly, agriculture is characterized by seasonal labor peaks, where large numbers of workers may be hired for a relatively short period of time. And finally, these seasonal workers are not always declared to the public authorities and may therefore be absent from official statistics. Methodological variations further complicate the matter: labor can be measured in number of persons employed, in annual work units or in numbers of days or hours worked. Different data sources therefore present divergent results which need to be reconciled. Despite these obstacles, the following section attempts to provide an overview of the main characteristics of the agricultural labor force, based on the most recent data available. The most commonly used sources of statistical data on labor use in EU agriculture are the National accounts, the Farm Structure Survey and the Labor Force Survey.

Main Characteristics of the Agricultural Labor Force

According to the Farm Structure Survey 20075, more than 26 million persons worked regularly in the EU agricultural sector. As pointed out in this figure includes people who worked part-time, and in the case of family members, possibly only worked on the farm for a small share of their time. Nonetheless, it shows that a large number of people are involved in agricultural activities, which deserves some scrutiny – who are these people and what is the nature of their engagement in agriculture? In fact, a number of indicators in this study look at various aspects of agricultural labour, which are brought together in this section.

How Old Are Europe's Farmers?

The farming population in the EU-27 is rapidly getting older. For each farm holder younger than 35 years ("young farmers"), there were 9 farmers older than 55 years ("elderly farmers") in 2007. This situation is slightly more pronounced in the EU-15 than in the EU-N12. While Poland reached the highest value of 0.35 young farmers for each elderly farmer, Portugal had the oldest farming population with only 0.03 young farmers for each elderly farmer. On average, young farmers make up 6% of all farm holders, with the highest share in Poland (12.3%), followed by the Czech Republic (9.8%), Austria (9.7%) and Finland (9.1%). On the other hand, elderly farmers account for 55% of farm holders in the EU-27. These shares are highest in Portugal (73.4%), Bulgaria (70.3%) and Romania (67.5%), as well as in parts of Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio-economic development of Agricultural labours in India and Europe.
2. To highlight on the social and Economical agricultural system in Europe and India.
3. To find out the different agricultural labors system and Wage payment Act in India and Europe.
4. To find out the socio-economic problems of agricultural labors in India and Europe.
5. To study and analyze the socio-economic development and problems of agricultural labors of different types of labors for India and Europe.

Research Methodology

To complete this study following research methodology adopted. To generate the data, both the types of data is used i.e. primary and secondary data

A. Collection of data

1) Primary Data

Primary data is collected through different questionnaires, for this purpose two different questionnaires were framed, one for agricultural labors and another for governmental officials.

2) Secondary Data

Secondary data is collected through the news paper, magazine, research papers articles, books, government reports, and related websites.

Selection of Samples

Selection of samples is generated from the farmers from India and Europe as per convenient sampling methods.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

1. The present study is geographically limited to the select European and Indian farmers only.

Further Scope of the Research

This study is limited to Europe and India. The researcher can go for some other countries for the study and analysis purpose for other countries also.

Concluding Remark

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