

Do you think Crop Diversification is compulsory for doubling the income of farmers in India. Explain?

India is a country of villages, 78% of population stay in villages of India. Agriculture is a primary activity and it provides more than 50% employment, bread & butter to various families who are directly or indirectly dependent on farming. However, due to various reasons 10 farmers suicide daily in India. One of the main reason for such suicide is low income from farming.

Reasons of Low Income

- ① High input cost - Farmers need to invest more in farming, but he receives less return.
- ② Climate changes
Extreme weather events - Change in climate, El Niño and drought or heavy rainfall has increased the pain of farmers. Eg: less rain in 2017-18
- ③ Invasion of weed or swarms - increase in swam attack has destroyed lot of crops, leading to huge loss.
- ④ Traditional farming method - Many small scale farmers are still unable to buy tractors & Modern Advance Equipments.
- ⑤ Focus on wheat & rice - As Govt. gives MSP on 22+1 crops, FRP for sugarcane farmers have bound themselves with MSP related crops.
- ⑥ Irrigation related constraints.

Need of Crop Diversification

Crop diversification is addition of new crops or cropping systems to agricultural production on a particular farm taking into account the different returns from value-added crops.



- Increase in income of small farmers - At present 70-80% are farmers having land less than 2 hectare. To overcome this existing cropping pattern's must be diversified with high value crops. Eg: Mera Patti - Meri Vivasat Scheme.
- Economic stability - It can better tolerate the ups & downs in price of various farm products.
- Mitigate Adverse climate - Sudden adverse weather conditions like rainfall, drought etc. can be tackled by mixed cropping.
- Balance Food Demand - Most of population in India suffers from malnutrition. It can help balance demand of nutrients, ensure food security.
- Conservation of soil can be done by crop diversification introducing legume in rice-wheat cropping system.

As rightly predicted by M. Swaminathan Committee, crop diversification with right application and Govt's Aid income of farmers can be doubled easily.