

Rupesh Atram: Role of Agriculture in National Economy

Recent Trends of the Sustainable Development

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Contents

1	Role of IT in Indian Economy	Prof. Sumitra Sen	4
2	Recent Trends in Indian Economy System	Dr. M.P. Rakhunde	8
3	EDUCATION A STUDY	Dr. Ved Patki	11
4	DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY	Dr. Danish Raka	17
5	Indian Economy: A Challenge	Dr. Veera Mandavkar	20
6	RECENT TRENDS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Dr. Meenakshi Shekhawat	25
7	Indian Economy Growth Vs Slowdown	Prf. S.Y. Lakhadiwe	31
8	Recent Trends in India	Prof. N.V. Narule	34
9	Poultry Farms in India	Dr. Suraj Deshmukh	38
10	INFLUENCE OF CHILDREN ON FAMILY PURCHASE DECISION MAKING	Prof. Sakharam Sangle	42
11	CHALLENGES IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT	Dr. Sharayu Bonde	48
12	RECENT EDUCATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES	Dr. Pavan Mandavkar	52
13	Role of E-Commerce	Dr. K.R. Nemade	56
14	Recent trend in Indian Economy: Industrial Sector	Prof. Rahul Sinha	60
15	IMPACT OF CASHLESS ECONOMY	Dr. Pandurang Ingle	62
16	ANALYSIS OF GOODS CREDIT-DEBIT AND BALANCE	Prof. Jawahar Bodulwar	66
17	Very Recent Trends In Indian Economy	Dr. Dasharath Chavhan	71
18	Indian's Recent Agricultural Development	Prof. Dr .Prachi Bonde	74
19	Role of Agriculture in National Economy	Prof. Rupesh Atram	77
20	E-COMMERCE AND BUSINESS	Prof. Snehal Khandekar	79
21	New Technologies: A Review	Prof. Prashant Jawade	85
22	GST AND ITS IMPACT	Prof. Sheetal Raut	91
23	Public Service Sector in India	Dr. Ganesh Laybar	94
24	GROWTH RATE & STATISTICS OF INDIAN ECONOMY	Prof. R.M. Wath	98

Role of Agriculture in National Economy

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Conclusion:-

Thus agriculture occupies a position of outstanding importance in the Indian economy having a high employment potential; it is important in its contribution to national income as a source of food and raw materials, as being vital to international trade, as a yielder of state revenue and as contributing to social and political stability. But too much dependence on agriculture makes the Indian economic unstable and unbalanced and is a major cause of India's appalling poverty.

The importance of Agriculture to India can hardly be exaggerated. It is the very backbone of her economic system and is her premier, national, key industry. In fact, the prosperity of agriculture is synonymous with the prosperity of India. Also, agriculture is assuming even greater importance with the passage of time. Internal demand for food is on the increase as a result of growing population and rising standard of living. Indian agriculture will have to meet the need of more raw materials of a better quality as the economy grows under the Five-Year Plans. Agriculture is important from several points of view.

As a Source of Livelihood :-

Millions of people in India draw their livelihood from agriculture. Some draw their sustenance from direct cultivation, others from the movement of crops and still others from trade in the agriculture products. About 75% of the people depend for living on agriculture, directly and indirectly. Whereas in the West and other developed countries, the percentage of the people dependent on agriculture has been going down and is 10 to 20 %, in India it has remained remarkably stable.

As a Contributor to National Income :-

Out of a total national income the share of agriculture in the national income is bound to go down as the Indian economy grows, as it has happened in the developed countries of the west, yet for a long time to come, it seems the pre-dominance of agriculture is likely to continue.

As a Supplier of Food: -

The inhabitants of the country obtain their food from agriculture in various forms, e.g., cereals, fruit, vegetables, etc. What would have happened to the teeming millions without this source of food can be easily imagined. But we cannot help adding that it is a sorry state of affairs when India has to depend on foreign food in spite of three-fourths of its people engaged in agriculture.

As a support for Industrial Development :-

It goes without saying that industrialisation of India draws its supports and sustenance from Indian agriculture. It supplies the industrial raw materials like cotton, jute, and sugar cane. Prosperous agriculture will provide the necessary purchasing power to the rural masses for the absorption of manufactured goods. It will lay the foundation of many agro-industries, e.g., food processing industries.

Importance in Trade :-

Agriculture products constitute the mainstaples of our internal external trade. Indian agriculture thus determines the volume and composition of trade.

As a Foreign Exchange Earning :-