

Glories of Indian Agriculture and the Challenges-A perspective Analysis

Indian agricultural innovations made a landmark in the global scenario in just over 60 years compared to the previous 10,000 years of agricultural development. Before the historic independence the primitive agricultural practices were a serious threat to support the livelihoods of man and livestock from the healthy soils. Sir, Albert Howard 1900-1947 considered as the father of modern organic agriculture-a British agronomist developed organic composting process through mycorrhizal fungi at Pusa in Samastipur in North India in 1905. He published the document "An Agricultural Testament" in 1940 that suggests the methods to restore and maintain soil fertility. Mention of organic farming is made in Ramayana, Mahabharata, Kautilya Arthashastra, Brihad-samhita, Rigveda and the holy Quran. The agricultural productivity was low and the output growth was less than half of the population during the period 1901 to 1946. As a result the per capita income of the rural population was awfully low. The Famine Inquiry Commission in 1945 estimated that about 30% of the people were hungry. The country was always vulnerable to famines due to dependence on rains with uncertain harvests of food grains to feed the vast populations. Frequent famines were the recurrent fortunes until the severe Bengal famine in 1943 when an estimated 4 million people died of hunger in Eastern India. There were 22 famines in 130 years between 1770 and 1900. There were 10 million deaths in 1770 . The food grain production was stagnant for more than half a century before independence from 1891 to 1947.