AGRICULTURE DIVERSIFICATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH
ITS IMPACT ON RURAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

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Indian agriculture sector is one of the main source of many poor families in our country. According to the Tendulkar report in our country poverty ratio is 32% and the same way NSS report 27.5% people are below the poverty line and Indian population according to the 2011 reports 121 crores. So in this report above 50% of Indian population depend on agriculture sector. So that reason agriculture diversification importance increases in India to solve food and employment problems. Green Revolution is one of the major steps for better crop diversification in India and also in Andhra Pradesh.

INTRODUCTION:
Agriculture is continue to play an important role for poverty alleviation in India, even in the era of economic liberalization and globalization. Generation of gainful employment and income for the rural poor, strengthening of household food and nutritional security and sustainable use of natural resources shall continue to be the main objectives of agricultural development in the country. And also crop diversification is the major role to play for better production in agriculture sector. More than 70 percent of India’s population lives in rural areas where the main occupation is agriculture. Indian agriculture is characterized by small farm holdings. The average farm size is only 1.57 hectares. Around 93 percent of farmers have land holdings smaller than 4ha and they have cultivated nearly 55 percent of the arable land.

Crop diversification is intended to give a wider choice in the production of a variety of crops in a given area so as to expand production related activities on various crops and also to lesson risk. Crop diversification in India level and also in Andhra Pradesh level is generally viewed as a shift from traditionally grown less remunerative crops to more remunerative crops. The crop shift (diversification) also takes place due to governmental policies and thrust on some crops over a given time, for example creation of the technology mission on oilseeds (TMO) to give thrust on oilseeds production as a national need for the country’s requirement for less depending on imports. Market infrastructure development and certain other price related supports also induce crop shift often low volume to high value crops like spices also aid in crop diversification.

Crop diversification and also the growing of large number of crops are practiced in rain fed lands to reduce the risk factor of crop failures due to drought or
less rains. Crop substitution and shift are also taking place in the areas with district soil problems.

**ANDHRA PRADESH AGRICULTURE SYSTEM:**

Andhra Pradesh State is identified as the “bejeweled rice bowl of India”. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the economy of Andhra Pradesh. Large segment of the population is dependent on the agriculture sector for employment and income. About the population of A.P. lives in rural areas and depends for its livelihood on agriculture and the rural non-farm sector. Expansion of farm incomes continues to be an effective strategy for reducing poverty. Rapid and sustainable growth in Agriculture has been identified not only as a key driver for economic development but also for achieving self – sufficiency and ensuring food security to the people.

Andhra Pradesh over the decades has witnessed gradual transformation of the agricultural sector. The nature of the transformation itself has undergone change overtime. During 1980s, there was a shift in agriculture from traditional cereal based system towards commercial commodities such as oil-seeds, cotton and sugarcane. By 1990s, even though the crop sector sector witnessed high volatility due to consecutive droughts and decelerating crop yields, the transformation continued towards high – value commodities such as fruits, high-value commodities performed impressively and rescued the agriculture sector to a great extent.

Making agriculture viable and profitable, improving incomes in agriculture and allied sectors are of top priority for the State. Andhra Pradesh is set to scale new heights in agriculture during the 12th Five Year Plan with renewed focus on Micro Irrigation, system of Rice Intensification (SRI) cultivation, Micronutrient Application, Development of Dry Land Agriculture, Farm Mechanization, increasing storage capacity and other agriculture related strategies.

Priority was accorded to the Agricultural sector during 12th Five Year Plan period with an objective of shifting the excess labor force from the sector to other non-farm rural sector jo other non-farm rural sectors such as rural industry through skill development to improve productivity. Ensuring food security and and provision of gainful employment continues to be the essential premise of socio economic development Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and other Rural Livelihood programmes

So agricultural diversification help to the better income and employment to the rural people.

**NEED FOR THE STUDY:**

Agriculture continues to play a predominant role in influencing the overall performance of the Indian economy. In spite of the advancement in chemical, biological and information fields, there has been a district slowdown in agricultural growth during the past two decades. By the year 2003-2004 only 35.3 percent of the
net sown area of 140.9 million hectares was utilized for double cropping. Further, even after five decades of planning, crop diversification in favour of remunerative cash crops is quite insignificant which can be understood from the high proportion of area under different food grain crops. Between 1990-1991 and 2006-2007, the annual rate of growth of food grains production at 1.2 percent was lower than that of population at 1.9 percent. The share of agriculture in GDP has registered a steady decline from 36.4 percent in 1982-83 to 18.5 percent in 2006-2007. Extension and other support services to crop diversification have weakened. All these have resulted in poor performance of the sector leading to agrarian distress, manifested through migration, farmer’s subsidies and reduce participation in agricultural activities. Keeping this in view, an attempt has been made to focus on the current status of farmers and the likely strategies to address the constraints to development.

The decade of the 1980’s saw the diversification of agriculture from cereal to cash crops like cotton, oilseeds and also to horticulture and livestock. Thus, the major policy during the period between the 60s and 80s were on achieving self-sufficiency in food grains production, but it lost its flames towards the last part of the 80s. Since 1982-83 the public investment in irrigation, rural infrastructure and agricultural research have started declining and this declining trend dampened the growth perspective in agriculture sector, as a result, some of the positive gains of green revolution got erased and the constraints arising from the patterns of land ownership and unequal access to irrigation water began to surface.

The crisis has been exacerbated further by rapid environmental degradation and plateauing of the existing agricultural technology. These factors impinge adversely on the production potential of the agricultural sector. The slowing down and stagnation of agricultural growth has adversely affected the income and employment of a vast majority of rural people dependent on agriculture. Scanty irrigation facility for the agriculture sector is another cause of concern. Out of the total 190.6 million hectares of gross sown area, only 76.8 million hectares of land have irrigation facilities and the remaining 113.8 million hectares have been cultivated in rain-fed conditions by the year 2003-2004. Unlike irrigated agriculture, rain-fed agriculture is characterized by low levels of productivity. The existing irrigated areas are also experiencing serious water stress as both reservoir and ground water resources are depleting in many parts of the country. The growing demand for drinking water and other needs associated with rapid urbanization and industrialization further increased stress on available irrigation resources.

Soil erosion, water logging and shifting cultivation also cause land degradation. Similarly, excessive and unbalanced use of fertilizers and pesticides reduces soil fertility due to soil nutrient depletion. Among states, there are a few peak achievers in agricultural productivity. In Punjab at Rs.35,087 during 2004-2005 was 7.2 times that of Bihar and 5.3 times that of Madhya Pradesh. The workers productivities in 11 major states are below the national average of Rs.12,371. Thus, regional disparity is another, factor increasing agrarian distress. This is further
exacerbated by the growing differences in workers productivity in agricultural activities and non-agricultural activities. For instance, at an all India level, the workers productivity in non-agricultural activities at Rs.61,432 was 4.96 times higher than that of agricultural activities at Rs.12,371 in the year 2004-2005. All the more, income from agriculture is increasingly becoming inadequate to meet the basic consumption requirements of the farm family and it is more so for marginal farmers.

Since the early 90s, in order to benefit from global trade, some farmers have embarked on the production of remunerative cash crops without adequate knowledge on grades and standards. As big farmers are the most important information source for the common farmers, some of the small farmers are tempted to cultivated high valued commercial crops. Because of the implied investment requirements, these changes have tended to exclude most of the small farmers from participating in market growth. It is a fact that every farmer wants to sell his produce near the top price and when he is unable to achieve the goal of selling his produce, he becomes confused and this confusion leads to frustration. Many a time, when the prices of his produce sinks, he finds it difficult to manage the situation. Further, adverse weather conditions, unstable markets and poor profit margins are weakening the ability of farmers in producing traditional crops. Inappropriate application of inputs mix, ignorance on technical know-how and spurious use of fertilizer and pesticide add price of these crops has brought misery to the farmers in the form of increasing debt burden, distress sale and even, the extreme step of committing suicide. Some such incidents have been recently witnessed in states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. On the overall, agrarian distress is increasing.

In this secondary data crop diversification is useful for better changes at the same way

1. Minimum supporting price to the farmers
2. Agricultural subsidies
3. Credit facilities to the farmers for better crop production
4. Given importance to the crop diversification

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:
Keeping in view the importance of the topic the study is intended to analyze the following objectives.

1. To examine the impact of green revolution on crop diversification.
2. To examine the crop diversification role on rural employment at the state level.
3. To analyze the crop diversification and its impact on crop production level in the study area.
4. To study the government programmes on crop diversification and its impact on crop production.
5. To study the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and its impact on production ad health conditions of the farmers.
6. To examine the impact of green revolution on crop diversification.
7. Analyze present polices and its impact on crop diversification.
8. Identify the major factors for crop diversification in different areas.
9. Identify the previous data and present data to analyze the crop diversification importance.

METHODOLOGY:
The present paper includes brief review on the working of Agriculture Diversification In Andhra Pradesh: Its Impact On Rural Employment And Income. The methodology included secondary data collected from various sources like magazines, journals and various works cited in the internet.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:
India with 70 percent of rural population is mostly dependent on agriculture for employment as well as income for the rural masses. The share of agriculture in GDP is also high. In 1950s the share of agriculture in GDP was around 57 percent and it was reduced 25 percent by 2001 and in 2010 it was 14.1 percent. But, still now agriculture is the main source of employment and it is still remained as the backbone of India. Hence it is very essential to study in depth the present state of crop diversification and its impact on rural employment and income.

The Crop diversification main role to develop food production and employment generation to rural poor. But at the same way more production purpose highly used different types of chemical seeds and its bad impact on human health and also many animals. So to control chemical usage in agricultural sectors and given more important to natural farming.

Eg: AndhraJyothi paper 24-02-2013 impact of green revolution for the farmer’s health and production

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION:
Agriculture diversification mainly helpful to the rural poor because of their better development in financial levels. Agriculture sector people mainly no better employment facilities in rural areas and seasonal unemployment minimum 2and 3 months they have no sufficient financial position to run their families on that time better way to change other jobs so it gives financial stability to the poor. So agriculture diversification gives priority for better livings and financial support to the rural poor. In my view mostly agriculture diversification helpful to the poor families. On that time financial stability is possible to the rural poor. MGNREGP, JRY, and PMRY programmes mainly support to the rural employment programmes.
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