



## India's self-sufficient village and self-reliant

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### Introduction

Covid has taught us that when everything shuts down, farmers and farm labour shall be working in the fields, rotating the wheel of the economy by ensuring food security. For the western world, the mantra was globalization and liberalization. Today, they are building their economy on the *Swadeshi* principal of self-reliance. Indian *Sanatan Arthashastra* has adopted indigenous self-reliance for centuries. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has pledged to make India self-reliant in all fields including agriculture, manufacturing and service. One of the objectives is to free small farmers from the clutches of middlemen and commissions agents. We must all work for achieving Aatm Nirbhar India. India is abundant in natural wealth.

- While only 11% of the entire land globally is arable, 56% of our land is arable
- 64 types of soils are available all over the world. India has 46 types of soils.
- We are rich in availability of rain, surface and ground water. We are able to use only 10-15% of our abundant rain-fall. Of the total land area of 328.7 million hectares, about 30 crore hectares is catchment area. There are about 445 rivers in the country, whose length is about two lakh kilometers

Due to excessive water exploitation caused by Green Revolution, today about 264 districts in the country are categorized as *dark zone*, and are facing water crisis. Ground water level is decreasing at the rate of 0.3 meters every year.

- There are 15 types of climate zones globally, and 127 agro-climatic zones, all of which are available in all of India.



- In terms of biodiversity, India has 48,000 varieties of trees, 1500 edible plants and 811 species of domestic and wild animals. We have about 375 varieties of fruits, 280 varieties of vegetables, about 80 types of kandamul, about 60 types of flowers, seeds and nuts.
- We have 77km long coastline and our own economic area of 20 lakh sq km, which offers not only a lot of finishing but also valuable oil, gas and minerals and power generation potential.

## **Agri reforms in India**

There is a need to analyze the reforms in the agriculture sector in the last 70 years, divided into seven-time segments

- First Period - From 1947 to 1968, with expansion of sowing area, increase in irrigation resources and land reform laws.
- Second period - From 1968 to 1980, in which high yielding dwarf varieties, fertilizers, pesticides and new techniques were used, called the emergence period of Green Revolution.
- Third period - From 1981 to 1991, with introduction of MSP, assured government procurement and nationwide system of storage and distribution.
- Fourth Period - Liberalization from 1991 to 1998. Period of globalization in which WTO was established. Major changes were introduced by incorporating industrial, service sector, intellectual property rules as well as the world's agricultural sector into world trade.
- Fifth period - From 1999 to 2004, to promote traditional organic farming, construction of rural infrastructure such as development of roads, electricity, education, health care etc. and remove anomalies in the agriculture sector in November 2004. National Farmers Commission was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr S. Swaminathan. The Commission submitted its final report to the Central Government in October 2006.
- Sixth period - For fulfilling pledge of Modi government to double production as well as farmers income, many schemes including Soil Health Card, Per Drop More Crop Irrigation, New Crop Insurance Scheme, Value Addition and farmers connected directly to marketing
- Seventh Period - 2020, dealing with Covid impact. Extension of action plan to fulfill resolve to build self-sufficient India by constructing self-sufficient villages, keeping in mind the circumstances arisen after the Covid crisis.



## *Low farmer income*

Despite of Green Revolution technology revolutionizing food production, the income of farmers did not increase much. Prosperity that has been achieved in the progress of the country's economy of the country was not distributed equally among the various sections of the economy and society. The rural community did not get its proper share. Agriculture faces many challenges including falling productivity, inadequate and unbalanced use of nutrients especially nitro- gen, low water and nutrient utilization efficiency, erosion of natural resources, lack of water for irrigation etc. Farmers face rising costs of inputs with increasing diseases and pests, and adverse effects of climate change. The Green Revolution ensured India's food security. But it adversely impacted our self-reliant agricultural system based on the principles of soil, water, biodiversity, human health and nature and coexistence.

## *Covid impact*

Covid has taught us the significance of long-term sustainable use of natural resources such as land, water and bio- property based on the principle of co- existence with nature. We must resolve to build self-reliant India by building self-sufficient villages. We need to adopt coordinated farming systems based on the principle of co-existence of nature. This saves the farmer from the burden of loans and unnecessary dependence on markets. In this way, farmers shall be able to make their villages self-reliant and live life with self-respect.

India is a country settled in villages. Without making the village completely self-sufficient, Aatm Nirbhar India cannot be imagined. Hence the nation must focus on creating self-sufficient village to self-sufficient India.