

Public Private Partnership

A new hope from Union Budget 2019-20

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INDIAN agriculture has marked its presence at the global level. India ranks either first or second in terms of total production of rice, wheat, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables in the world. However despite this, there is fluctuation in growth of Indian agriculture. This signifies that, agriculture sector is important, nevertheless it still needs support.

The sector needs huge fillip for multiple reasons, viz. productivity in all major crops have stagnated, need for significant improvement in agriculture infrastructure, land holdings continue to be fragmented, and risk mitigation options still needs to reach beneficiaries. Added to these are the new challenges attributable to climate change.

The implication of these issues on agriculture is complex and would have to be dwelt with series of mitigation and adaptation measures. It is in this context, there is a need for newer approach to strengthen Indian agriculture, where the synergies of both the public sector and the private sector are harnessed for the benefit of farmers.

Need for a new partnership models in the agriculture.

- *World must produce more:* The world's population has grown over two times with 7.6 billion people in 2016 from 3.4 billion in 1965. Nearly 65 million people are expected to be added to the world's population during 2016-2050.
- *Changing food habits:* Increasing urbanization and per capita income and access to a larger variety of food groups have influenced food consumption in many countries.

During 2010-2050, the demand for staple food is expected to rise faster than global population i.e. nearly 50%. The demand for food increases with growing population and incomes in developing countries, the composition of diets will tend to head towards more nutrient-dense foods.

- *Increase in demand for global food, feed and fibre:* The overall food demand is expected to increase in the range of 59% to 98% by 2050.

Realising the challenges and opportunities in the Indian agriculture sector, the government of India has accorded highest importance to alleviate the status of agriculture. In this regard, government has come up with numerous schemes and flagship programmes that focus on improving Indian position in the production of food grains, commercial and horticulture crops. The agribusiness companies too are ready to be a partner and driver of sustainable solutions for Indian agriculture. However, the private sector cannot accomplish these goals alone. Partnership among stakeholders and effective government leadership in particular, is critical to success.

The private sector has increased their engagement with farmers through contract farming for value addition and direct procurement for retailing. The operations span across a variety of crops and almost all the regions and have brought significant improvements in the productivity, farmers' returns and reduced wastages in the supply chain. A right policy framework to broad base these initiatives into a nationwide system is

very much needed.

FICCI believes, that to put Indian agriculture on a high growth trajectory, first and foremost step is to reframe policies and allocate budget that encourages more participation from private sector.

- *Special Fund* should be created for agriculture extension, which could be utilized in a PPP mode for delivering extension services with defined quantifiable outputs.
- *Farmer Producer Organisations:* Farmers' bargaining power could only be enhanced by aggregating agriculture produce. A special financial support needs to be given to these FPOs to develop their own warehousing/cold chain facilities. Private sector should also be involved in handholding such farmers/FPOs.
- The Upcoming budget should have a special focus on deploying technology that could strengthen Agri statistics to reduce information arbitrage on data on sowing, crop condition, prices and stockholding.
- There is a serious disconnection between what farmer is producing and demand side situation in the market. Market information system should be strengthened in the country to develop farmer-consumer linkages. Farmers must be trained to use such market information intelligently and private sector should be encouraged and incentivised to broadbase their efforts in developing strong market information service.
- Introduce a national law to promote ease of doing business in agriculture, especially for smooth and uninterrupted movement of



Agri commodities across the country.

- Development of framework to promote private sector investment in agriculture. This will lead to better integration of markets and producers.
- Announcement of a stable medium term policy on external trade in Agri commodities is vital. This will increase the share of Indian farm

products in global trade.

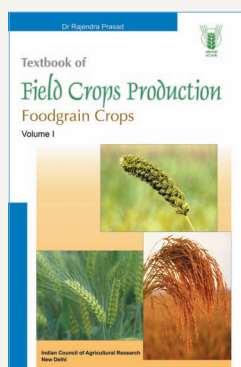
There is an urgent need to raise the productivity figures for India to be globally competitive in agriculture. Measures such as developing Public-Private Partnerships in Research and Education with focus on raising crop productivity, creation of regional centers of excellence and permitting co-locating industry Research and

Education with public institutes should also be taken. There are immense opportunities in Agriculture sector. However, to unleash the true potential of the sector a concerted efforts by all partners is crucial.

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Textbook of *Field Crops Production* – Foodgrain Crops

(Volume I)



The first edition of Textbook of Field Crops Production was published in 2002 and there has been a heavy demand for the book. This book is now being brought out in two volumes. The chapters cover emerging trends in crop production such as System of Rice Intensification (SRI), export quality assurance in the production technology of commodities like Basmati rice, organic farming, resource conservation technologies, herbicide management etc. Good agronomic practices must judiciously inter-mix the applications of soil and plant sciences to produce food, feed, fuel, fibre, and of late nutraceuticals while ensuring sustainability of the system in as much possible environment and eco-friendly manner. The advent of hydroponics, precision farming, bio-sensors, fertigation, landscaping, application of ICT, GPS and GIS tools, micro-irrigation etc. is in the horizon. The textbook covers both the fundamentals of the subject and at the same time inspire and prepare both teachers and students for the emerging frontiers.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

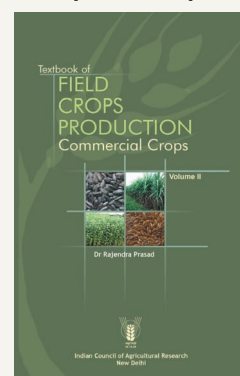
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Textbook of *Field Crops Production* – Commercial Crops

Availability of high-yielding varieties/hybrids and increased irrigated facilities have resulted in the development of production-intensive cropping systems in several parts of India, and this has catalyzed further agronomic research based on the cropping-system approach. Many changes have also taken place in the crop-production technologies. And this necessitated the revision of the earlier publication brought out in 2002. The revised textbook is in two volumes: First is covering Foodgrains and second is on Commercial Crops.

The discipline of Agronomy has no longer remained mere field trials without application of discoveries emanating from the related disciplines of Genetics, Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Plant Biochemistry, etc. The future Agronomy Landscape will face challenges of climate change, transboundary issues, TRIPS and other trade-related barriers, biotic and abiotic stresses, consequences of biotechnology and genetic engineering and increased market demands in terms of quality assurance, customized food crops, global competition, ecosystem services on land and social equities etc. The Agronomy must measure up to these futuristic challenges with well-defined metrics and methodologies for performance. The advent of hydroponics, precision farming, bio-sensors, fertigation, landscaping, application of ICT, GPS and GIS tools and micro-irrigation is in the horizon. This revised edition in two volumes covers fundamentals of the subject and at the same time will inspire and prepare teachers and students for the emerging frontiers.

(Volume II)



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