

AGRIPRENEURSHIP - A WAY TOWARDS SELF-SUSTAINABILITY

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Abstract: India is a country of **1,27,42,39,769** million people out of which **116** million are seeking job (as per 2011 censes). Out of world's total unemployed youth **17%** resides in India. Unemployment has risen from 6.8% to 9.3% in recent years. With only **83%** literate people if any way is there for total economic development then that is to adopt various Agro-based enterprises. Because availability of electricity is only **1075kw/ person** as compare to **4000 kw** in China and **15000 kw** in developed countries. India is second largest producer of vegetables and **3rd** largest producer of fruits in world and having **3rd** largest railway line track system, **1st** largest in milk & milk products production. All these data clearly states that in Indian context Agro-based enterprises or Agri-prenurship is the best choice for self-sustainability.

Keyword :- Agro-based Enterprises = The enterprises which are based on agriculture and allied sectors.
Agripreneurship - A way towards Self-Sustainability

Introduction: Indian economy is an age-old agrarian economy where still 78% of its population are based on Agriculture and on its allied activities to get their livelihood. After China it's the **2nd** largest country population wise after China where still 225 million people starve in night. Only 4% of total world's land comes under its geography and availability of ground water is only 325 cubic km for irrigation purpose . But it accounts **1st** position in milk production that is **18%** in world, **2nd** in vegetable production and **3rd** in fruit production. India's processed dairy segment has grown due to increased demand for more diversified dairy products. Sources believed that continued growth will largely depend on an enabling business environment, consistent supplies of high quality fluid milk, and an improved cold chain. According to the NIDDB, the total dairy cooperative processing capacity is approximately **43 million** liters per day; however, only **77 percent** of total capacity is used. Total private sector processing capacity data are unavailable; however, the NIDDB believes it could be as high as 73 million liters per day. As per 2011 census 116 million Indians who were either seeking or available for work, 32 million were illiterate and 84 million where literate. Among literates, unemployment rates were higher among the better qualified, highest of all among the 7.2 million people with a technical diploma or certificate other than a degree. Overall, India's unemployment rate grew from 6.8 % in 2001 to 9.6 % in 2011, based on official Census data. Unemployment grew faster for illiterates than for literates. In Toto, India had just 56 million graduates and post-graduates in 2011 and 12 million with a technical certificate or diploma equivalent to a graduate or post-graduate degree. Rate of unemployment is higher among rural mass especially among women. In total GDP Indian share of industrial output is 27 % and although our economy is Agriculture based but it accounts only 17% in total Percentage of Agriculture sector has gone down from **23% to 17%**.

Why Agrobased Enterprises:-

- Agricultural & Horticultural products are locally available
- These small scale industries do not require huge infrastructure & complex scientific technologies.
- These small scale Industries are economically viable & ecologically sustainable too.
- These enterprises do not require huge expenditure.
- These technologies are easily adaptable.

Bihar is on lowest position in terms of literacy percentage ie only **63.82 %** its population of density is **382/sq km**, but due to its huge population availability of land is only **37 hectare/** due to less no of industries ie 3345 at the end of 2013. Per capita income is also at the bottom even lesser than its bifurcated state Jharkhand ie only **24,681** (2011-12) as per census. Although the land is loam and sandy loam very fertile due to Gangetic plains, water level is also not bad in the state, people are also very intelligent but something is lacking deeply which forces out rural mass to migrate in other states as labour.

The enterprises which can be adopted are as follows:

Beekeeping: Due to its wide area of flora and fauna there is an immense scope of honey production and bee-keeping in the state. This is such a growing venture where even as illiterate men/women can start their own. The country has exported **38177.08 mt.** of natural honey to the world for the worth of Rs. **705.87** crore during the year 2015-16 to United States, UAE, Morocco & **Bangladesh APEDA** report.

If a person is keeping a box with 5 frames then in 1 year around 10 kg honey he/she will get and if 1 kg honey is of Rs. 300/kg then he will get Rs. 3000/- in a year. But to get profit at large scale one should always keep minimum 10-15 honey bee boxes to get maximum benefit. Production of honey from farmlands can be a secondary activity for farmers as it requires less time as compared with other activities

and can be carried out by women in a house. On an estimate, about 80 percent of honey is used directly in medicines and 10 percent is used in Ayurveda and pharmaceutical production (Gol, 2006). Studies found that apiculture is an excellent, esthetic livelihood generating hobby. It has a potential market with environmental responsibility and worldwide medicinal and nutritional recognition. Apiculture requires less investment and easy-to-learn (Rangarao, 2009). It also helps in pollination of crops and increases seed setting in many crops.

Horticulture based Enterprises: Bihar is largest producer of vegetables viz Potato, Onion, Eggplant, Cauliflower. Bihar is known for its Shahi Litchi, other fruits grow are Mango, Guava, Citrus, Banana, Papaya, Ber, Pineapple & Makhana. Flavour of its spices, red Chilli & Corriander spreads all the country. Major flowers which have been popularly grown are Marigold, Gladiolus & other creepers. One can get self employment by growing nursery of all these plants and selling them on higher price. Now a days we are dependent on Calcutta to get it. Not only that unemployed youth can sale flowers by preparing different kinds of boques, and for other decorative purposes too, (like in marriages & other occasions).

Mushroom – Production: Mushroom is highly nutritious and is having its medicinal value too. Mushroom is a fungi which can be grown even in plastic carrots, bags on bamboo tracks in thatched houses etc. Raw brown me contains 92% water, 4% carbon, 2% protein and less than 1% fat. A 100/gm mushroom provide 22 calories and are rich source of Vit. B such as riboflavin, niacin and Pantothenic acid, Selenium 37% daily value and Copper 25% and a moderate source 10-19% daily value of Phosphorus, Zinc, Potassium. Now a days in hotels and marriage parties also there is a huge demand of Mushroom Soup, Mushroom Pulav, Mushroom Vegetable. Mushroom pickles are also in demand. 1 Kg mushroom costs Rs. 200; if one is producing 10 kg then 2000/month return will come.

Vermi culturing: As cattle rearing is a common feature of rural India its waste as dung and other agriculture. Waste can be mixed with particular worms and these agriculture wastes can be connected into the best produce. This vermicompost is highly nutritious as compare to other normal manner. By using it farmers can get self employment and their annual income will also multiply due to gross double agriculture production. Earthworms are one of the major soil macro-invertebrates. The role of earthworms in the soil is to improve soil fertility and soil health. Vermicompost increase water-holding capacity of the soil, promotes crop growth, helps in more production more, and improves food and fodder quality (Nagavallemma et al. 2004).

Animal Husbandry: India ranks 1st in milk and milk product production. Livestock management and cattle rearing has been the part of our day to day life. Rearing of improved breed and their proper's management can give a good return to the farmers. Not only that a different ventures of producing milk products can also be started by the unemployed male & female. As our population is increasing day by day there will be high demand also, so this is also one of the major venture for self employment and self sustainability.

Establishment of /Dal Making & Spices grinding: Dal making & Spices grinding machine can give a good return to the villagers. People can collect raw turmeric, Coriander, Red Chilli from local farmers and get it grinded and packed at their onion and then it can be marketed very easily. Dal making machine sattu making machines are also rarely found in the village. Sattu, Dal, Spices are the items which are always in demand.

Fruit & Vegetable Preservation: Another major small industry which can be started very easily is production of various fruits and vegetables preserved items viz – Potato Chips, Potato fingers, Potato Pappad, Mango & Litchi Squashes, Jam, Jelly Marmalade, Mixed vegetable, Tomato pickles, Tomato sauce catchup etc.

Fish Production: Despite abundant aquatic resources in terms of about 3,200 km of rivers, 100,000 hectares Chaurs and floodplain wetlands, 9,000 hectares of oxbow lakes or Mauns, 7,200 hectares of reservoirs and 69,000 hectares of ponds and tanks, fish supply is short of demand in the State of Bihar. Development of the resources with the adoption of the available technologies can bridge this gap, by at least doubling the production from the present level of 2.6 lakh tonnes. **Conclusion:** In nutshell, it can be concluded that there are a lot many new endeavours where immense scope is there to get self employment. When people will be self employed their economic status will also enhance automatically and in this way they will get a self sustainable state.

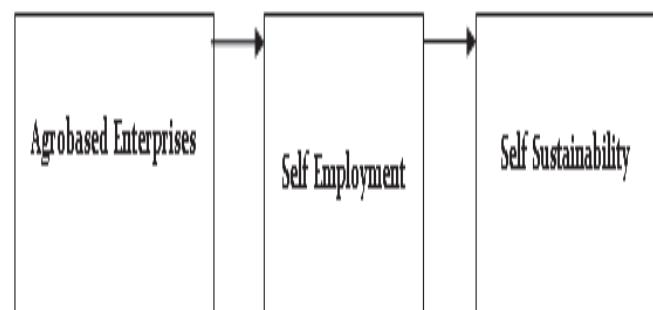


Fig 1

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