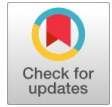


Progressions in Agriculture and Farming Practices: Indispensable in leading to Up-gradations of Rural Communities



Radhika Kapur

Abstract: Within rural communities, individuals are contributing efficiently in promoting better livelihoods opportunities. The participation of the individuals in agriculture and farming practices is regarded as one of the primary occupations of the individuals, belonging to rural communities. The agricultural labourers and farmers are making use of traditional methods and procedures in doing their jobs. Furthermore, there are agricultural labourers and farmers who are making use of modern, scientific and innovative methods and procedures. These are regarded as essential in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Furthermore, it is vital for individuals to hone their competencies, abilities and aptitude. They need to generate information in terms of various factors, which are facilitating in generating desired outcomes. These include, marketing strategies, labour market factors, customer demands and so forth. As a consequence of being well-aware in terms of all these factors, individuals will be well-prepared in carrying out all types of tasks and activities in an adequate manner. In this manner, they will contribute efficiently in leading to up-gradations of overall living conditions. Therefore, it is well-understood, progressions in agriculture and farming practices are indispensable in leading to up-gradations of rural communities. The main concepts that are taken into account in this research paper are, understanding the importance of progressions in agriculture and farming practices; measures to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices and measures to be implemented in improving conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers.

Keywords: Agriculture, Farming Practices, Improvements, Methodologies, Procedures, Progressions, Rural Communities, Up-Gradations

I. INTRODUCTION

In India, more than 70 percent of the population resides in rural communities [10]. In these communities, agriculture and farming practices are regarded as one of the primary occupations of the individuals. The individuals are engaged in these in order to supplement their income and promote enhancement of their overall standards of living. The various activities that individuals are engaged in are, animal husbandry, fisheries, production and so forth. These are regarded as vital in order to sustain one's living conditions in an adequate manner.

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* Correspondence Author (s)

Dr. Radhika Kapur*, Pedagogy and Organizational Culture in Nursery Schools, Delhi University, New Delhi, India. E-mail: radhikakapur2004@hotmail.com

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The agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-informed in terms of different methodologies and procedures. These are to be put into operation adequately in order to do well in one's job duties and generating desired outcomes (Lone, 2014) [3]. These individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of labour market factors. Furthermore, they are required to augment information in terms of customer needs and requirements. These are essential in order to do well in one's jobs and generating desired outcomes. Therefore, possession of adequate information is regarded to be of utmost significance in achieving desired goals.

With advancements taking place and with the advent of modernization and globalization, it is necessary for agricultural labourers and farmers to be well-informed in terms of different types of modern, scientific and innovative methodologies and materials. The utilization of these methodologies and materials would be facilitating in carrying out tasks and activities in a well-organized and satisfactory manner. The individuals need to ensure, they acquire an efficient understanding of the methods and materials. Furthermore, they are required to obtain answers to all types of questions that are overwhelming and clarifying their doubts in terms of different factors. In addition, leading to up-gradation of motivation and concentration levels will be facilitating in doing well in one's job duties and achieving desired goals. The climatic conditions have an influence on agricultural productivity on a comprehensive basis. Hence, individuals are required to make use of different types of methods and materials in such a manner that one will contribute in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Therefore, it is well-understood, modern, scientific and innovative methodologies and materials are essential in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability.

A. Understanding the Importance of Progressions in Agriculture and Farming Practices

In the agricultural sector, there are number of important areas that are taken into account by the agricultural labourers and farmers. These are, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, cropping techniques, irrigation methods, utilization of modern, scientific and innovative methods and materials to enhance production, seed production, seed processing, system of crop intensification, organic farming, weather parameters, crop-weather advisory and so forth.



The agricultural labourers and farmers are required to possess adequate information in terms of these in order to carry out job duties in a well-organized manner (Diakosavvas, 2016) [2][6][7][8][9]. As a consequence, they will render an important contribution in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Soil and water conservation is regarded as one of the vital areas that needs to be taken into account. The various aspects that need to be taken into account in this case are, soil types, soil fertility, fertilizers, soil erosion, soil conservation and watershed management. As a consequence, desired outcomes will be generated. Therefore, individuals acquire an efficient understanding of the importance of progressions in agriculture and farming practices, when information is generated in terms of various aspects. The management of water resources is regarded to be of utmost significance. The productivity will be augmented, as a consequence of putting into operation the irrigation methods in a well-organized and satisfactory manner. The different factors that are taken into account in this case are, irrigation management, types of irrigation, sources of irrigation, crop-water requirement, command area development, water conservation techniques, micro-irrigation, use of irrigation pumps and major, medium and minor irrigation. Furthermore, the utilization of technology and energy sources is essential. The sources of power, mechanical and electrical, wind, solar, biomass, bio-fuels, water harvesting structures, farm ponds, watershed management, agro-processing, controlled and modified storage, perishable food storage, go-downs, bins and grain silos. The techniques of cultivation, propagation, market gardening, gardening and truck farming are required to be put into operation in an adequate manner. The agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-informed in terms of different techniques and methods. Therefore, one is able to acquire an understanding of the importance of progressions in agriculture and farming practices, when management of resources is carried out adequately.

The rural individuals are getting engaged in the task of animal husbandry in order to sustain their living conditions in an adequate manner. The individuals in this case are involved in the rearing of farm animals to produce products such as, milk, eggs, meat, wool, products and so forth. The individuals are required to possess adequate information in terms of different factors, which are necessary in carrying out this task in an appropriate manner. The information includes, fodder, classification of breeds of cattle and so forth. The rural individuals get into the act of fisheries in order to generate income. Furthermore, these are facilitating in sustaining their living conditions in an adequate manner. The livelihood of fisheries is hard. In order to carry this out in a well-organized manner, individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of different types of methodologies and techniques. These are essential in doing well in one's job duties and generating desired outcomes. Therefore, an understanding of the importance of progressions in agriculture and farming practices is acquired, when one is focusing on animal husbandry and fisheries in a satisfactory manner.

B. Measures to be Implemented in Leading to Progressions in Agriculture and Farming Practices

The Government of India has given consideration and is concerned in terms of widespread poverty and unemployment in rural areas. There has been implementation of various

programs, i.e. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). There has been an increase in the contribution of rural non-farm sector towards generation of income as well as employment opportunities. Diversification of rural agriculture towards high value crops or horticulture is referred to an increase in the population of high value engagement in horticulture and other activities. The animal husbandry enterprises, dairy, poultry and livestock are contributing a significant part in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability.

It is due to the fact that landless, marginal and small farmers usually consider rearing of the livestock as an important economic activity (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, 2016) [4]. The agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-equipped in terms of measures to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices. The different types of measures are complicated as well as manageable, these are implemented in less amount of time or can be more time-consuming and these need to be implemented in an adequate manner. These are stated as follows:

C. Generating Information Regarding Various Aspects

The agricultural labourers and farmers are overwhelmed by the problem of illiteracy. When they are engaged in job duties of agriculture and farming practices, they are required to augment their information in terms of various aspects. The agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-informed in terms of different types of methodologies and procedures. These are to be put into operation adequately in order to do well in one's job duties and generating desired outcomes. These individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of different types of marketing strategies and labour market factors. Furthermore, they are required to augment information in terms of customer needs and requirements. It is apparently understood that possession of information in terms of agricultural techniques are necessary in order to do well in one's jobs and generating desired outcomes. Furthermore, these are vital in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Hence, possession of adequate information is regarded to be of utmost significance in achieving desired goals and objectives. Therefore, generating Information regarding various aspects is regarded as one of the indispensable measures to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

D. Utilization of Modern, Scientific and Innovative Methods and Materials

With advancements taking place and with the advent of modernization and globalization, it is necessary for agricultural labourers and farmers to be well-informed in terms of different types of modern, scientific and innovative methodologies and materials. The utilization of these methodologies and materials would be facilitating in carrying out tasks and activities in a well-ordered and efficient manner.



The individuals need to ensure, they acquire an efficient understanding of the methods and materials. Furthermore, they are required to obtain answers to all types of questions that are overwhelming and clarifying their doubts in terms of different factors. In addition, leading to up-gradation of motivation and concentration levels will be facilitating in doing well in one's job duties and achieving desired goals. The climatic conditions have an influence on agricultural productivity on a comprehensive basis. Hence, individuals are required to make use of different types of methods and materials in such a manner that one will contribute in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Therefore, utilization of modern, scientific and innovative methods and materials is one of the significant measures to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

E. Soil and Water Conservation

Soil and water conservation is regarded as one of the vital areas that needs to be taken into account by the individuals in the implementation of agriculture and farming practices. The soil needs to be of good-quality in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. The various aspects that need to be taken into account in this case are, soil types, soil fertility, fertilizers, soil erosion, soil conservation and watershed management. Furthermore, water is regarded to be of utmost significance in enhancing agriculture and farming practices. Hence, the agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-equipped in terms of strategies that would facilitate soil and water conservation. As a consequence, individuals will render an important contribution in doing well in one's job duties and desired outcomes will be generated. In this manner, there will be an increase in agricultural production. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, wastage of resources need to be prevented. The rural individuals need to manage these satisfactorily. Therefore, soil and water conservation is an expedient measure to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

F. Management of Water Resources

The management of water resources is regarded to be of utmost significance. The productivity will be augmented, as a consequence of putting into operation the irrigation methods in a well-organized and satisfactory manner. The different factors that are taken into account in this case are, irrigation management, types of irrigation, sources of irrigation, crop-water requirement, command area development, water conservation techniques, micro-irrigation, use of irrigation pumps and major, medium and minor irrigation. Furthermore, water is regarded to be of utmost significance in enhancing agriculture and farming practices. Hence, the agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-equipped in terms of strategies that would facilitate management of water resources adequately. As a consequence, individuals will render an important contribution in doing well in one's job duties and desired outcomes will be generated. In this manner, there will be an increase in agricultural production. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, wastage of resources need to be prevented. The rural individuals need to manage these satisfactorily. Therefore, management of water

resources is an eminent measure to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

G. Plantations and Horticulture

In plantations and horticulture, it is necessary for the individuals to be well-informed in terms of methods and techniques, which are facilitating in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. The techniques of cultivation, propagation, market gardening, gardening and truck farming are required to be put into operation in an adequate manner. The agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-informed in terms of different types of modern, scientific and innovative techniques, methods and materials. The job duties in plantations are considered hazardous. In other words, there are different types of problems and challenging situations, which are to be coped with. As a consequence of augmenting information in terms of different types of methods and procedures, various types of job duties and responsibilities will be put into operation in a satisfactory manner. Furthermore, individuals will be able to do well in their job duties and generate desired outcomes. In these areas, it is necessary for individuals to take precautions to do well in one's jobs and generate desired outcomes. Therefore, plantations and horticulture is a renowned measure to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

II. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The rural individuals are getting engaged in the task of animal husbandry in order to sustain their living conditions in an adequate manner. The individuals in this case are involved in the rearing of farm animals to produce products such as, milk, eggs, meat, wool, products and so forth. The individuals are required to possess adequate information in terms of different factors, which are necessary in carrying out this task in an appropriate manner. The information is in terms of fodder, classification of breeds of cattle and so forth. As a consequence of carrying out the task of animal husbandry satisfactorily, individuals will get engaged in the production of different types of products. Furthermore, they are required to be well-informed in terms of different types of marketing strategies. In addition, possession of information in terms of labour market factors is regarded as useful on a comprehensive basis. Furthermore, they are required to augment information in terms of customer needs and requirements. These are essential in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Therefore, animal husbandry is a noteworthy measure to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

A. Fisheries

The rural individuals get into the act of fisheries in order to generate income. This is a difficult job, but the possession of adequate information is facilitating in doing well in one's job duties and generating desired outcomes. Furthermore, these are facilitating in sustaining their living conditions in an adequate manner.

The livelihood of fisheries is hard. In order to carry this out in a well-organized manner, individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of different types of methodologies and techniques. These are essential in doing well in one's job duties and generating desired outcomes. The individuals residing in coastal areas usually form the viewpoint that this job would be indispensable to them in bringing about improvements in their financial positions. Hence, possession of information in terms of techniques would be facilitating in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Furthermore, possession of adequate information in terms of different marketing strategies are facilitating in marketing their products. In addition, individuals need to be well-informed in terms of customer needs and requirements. Therefore, fisheries are a notable measure to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

B. Natural Environmental Conditions

In rural communities, individuals are dependent on the natural environmental conditions for sustaining their living conditions in an adequate manner. Hence, they need to be well-informed in terms of factors, which are necessary in preservation of the natural environment. These are, preventing all forms of pollution, i.e. air, water, and land; not throwing any waste materials on land or water bodies; preventing the emission of gaseous fumes into the air; planting more trees; spreading greenery; preventing deforestation; making use of glass bottles and tins; recycling all types of waste materials; introducing the subject of environmental education within schools; preventing exploitation of all types of natural resources and obtaining the resources from the environment only to the extent that is required. As a consequence of acknowledging and implementing all these factors, individuals will render an important contribution in preserving the natural environmental conditions. In other words, in this manner, natural environmental conditions will be more motivating and encouraging. As a consequence, individuals will feel pleasurable and promote enhancement of agriculture and farming practices as well. Therefore, natural environmental conditions are a prominent measure to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

C. Ecology and Climate Change

The climatic conditions have an influence on agricultural productivity and farming practices on a comprehensive basis. The climatic conditions render an important contribution in enhancing productivity. The regions which experience adequate rainfall have more increase in productivity, as compared to the regions, which experience scanty rainfall. The climatic conditions undergo changes. The heavy rains, floods and drought have detrimental effects on productivity. On the other hand, rainfall and pleasant weather conditions are favourable. As a consequence, there is an increase in productivity. The individuals are not vested with any authority in order to bring about changes in the climatic conditions. They need to adjust to the climatic conditions. Hence, individuals are required to make use of different types of methods and materials in such a manner that one will contribute in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Being well-informed in terms of techniques would be facilitating in doing well in one's jobs and

achieving desired goals. Furthermore, individuals are able to manage changes in the climatic conditions in a satisfactory manner. Therefore, ecology and climate change is a favourable measure to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

III. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSIONS

In the agricultural extensions, the main areas that are taken into account are, significance and role, methods of evaluation of extension programs, and roles of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the dissemination of agricultural technologies (Wiggins, 2016) [5]. The agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-informed in terms of different types of methodologies and procedures. These are to be put into operation adequately in order to do well in one's job duties and generating desired outcomes. These individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of different types of marketing strategies and labour market factors. Furthermore, they are required to augment information in terms of customer needs and requirements. The agricultural labourers and farmers need to ensure, they acquire an efficient understanding of different types of pioneering methods and materials. Furthermore, they are required to obtain answers to all types of questions that are overwhelming and clarifying their doubts in terms of different factors. Getting enrolled in training centres will be facilitating in augmenting one's knowledge and understanding regarding various subjects and factors. Therefore, agricultural extensions are a useful measure to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices.

A. Measures to be Implemented in Improving Conditions of Agricultural Labourers and Farmers

The agricultural labourers and farmers are overwhelmed by the social problems of poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment. These give rise to impediments within the course of progression of individuals, communities and nation as a whole. The agricultural labourers and farmers are required to be well-informed in terms of techniques, which are necessary in eliminating these problems. Furthermore, these need to be prevented from giving rise to impediments within the course of promoting enhancement of one's overall standards of living (Chand, Srivastava, & Singh, 2017) [1]. There is a need to be well-informed in terms of different types of measures to be implemented in bringing about improvements in the conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers. These are, augmenting efficiency in marketing of agricultural products; promoting infrastructure development; giving financial resources and credit; initiating training centres; promoting agricultural sustainability and formulation of rural development plans. These are stated as follows:

B. Augmenting Efficiency in Marketing of Agricultural Products

Agricultural labourers and farmers are to be well-informed in terms of different types of modern, scientific and innovative methodologies and materials.



The utilization of these methodologies and materials would be facilitating in carrying out tasks and activities in a well-organized and satisfactory manner. The individuals need to ensure, they acquire an efficient understanding of the methods and materials. Furthermore, they are required to be well-informed in terms of marketing strategies and labour market factors. Agricultural marketing are required to focus on four major goals, i.e. agricultural labourers and farmers should get fair prices; market margins and increase in prices should be within the acceptable limits; the entire process of marketing should be farmer-oriented and provide the producer required marketing freedom and infrastructural facilities should be up-graded in a well-organized manner. As a consequence of achieving these goals, efficiency will be augmented in agricultural marketing. Therefore, augmenting efficiency in marketing of agricultural products is regarded as one of the indispensable measures to be implemented in improving conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers.

C. Promoting Infrastructure Development

Within rural communities, there is a need to put emphasis on promoting infrastructure development. These are referred to power supplies, water supplies, roads and rail network, communication facilities, transportation facilities and so forth. The developments of all types of infrastructure will be facilitating to the agricultural labourers and farmers in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. The main reason being, in order to carry out their job duties in a well-organized manner, they are required to be well-equipped in terms of different uses of infrastructure. In order to market their products, it is necessary for rural individuals to migrate to other regions as well. Hence, when there will be provision of roads and rail network, they will be able to contribute efficiently in marketing their products. In this manner, they will be able to have access to different types of modern, scientific and innovative methods and materials. As a consequence, productivity will increase. Therefore, promoting infrastructure development is one of the significant measures to be implemented in improving conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers.

D. Giving Financial Resources and Credit

The agricultural labourers and farmers will be able to make purchases of various items, i.e. seeds, insecticides, fertilizers, pesticides, tools, devices, machinery and equipment when they will have access to financial resources and credit. In order to do well in one's jobs and lead to an increase in productivity and profitability, it is necessary for individuals to have access to financial resources and credit. In this manner, they will be able to make purchases of various items, which would be advantageous to them on comprehensive basis. The agricultural labourers and farmers, who are poverty-stricken and struggle to make ends meet are to be given financial resources and credit. Landless and marginal farmers need financial resources and credit to promote better livelihoods opportunities. On the other hand, wealthy farmers are able to sustain their living conditions in an adequate manner. They normally do not long for obtaining any financial resources and credit. Therefore, giving financial resources and credit is an expedient measure to be implemented in improving conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers.

E. Initiating Training Centres

Initiating training centres is vital in rural communities. These have one of the major goals of imparting information among agricultural labourers and farmers in terms of various factors. With advancements taking place and with the advent of modernization and globalization, it is necessary for agricultural labourers and farmers to be well-informed in terms of different types of modern, scientific and innovative methodologies and materials. The utilization of these methodologies and materials would be facilitating in carrying out tasks and activities in a well-ordered and efficient manner. Hence, getting enrolled in training centres will be facilitating to the individuals on a comprehensive basis. The individuals need to ensure, they acquire an efficient understanding of the methods and materials. Furthermore, they are required to obtain answers to all types of questions that are overwhelming and clarifying their doubts in terms of different factors. Furthermore, it is necessary to be well-informed in terms of marketing strategies and labour market factors. Therefore, initiating training centres is an eminent measure to be implemented in improving conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers.

F. Promoting Agricultural Sustainability

Promoting agricultural sustainability is regarded as one of the major goals of all agricultural labourers and farmers. In order to achieve this goal, there are number of factors that need to be taken into account, i.e. generating information regarding various aspects; utilization of modern, scientific and innovative methods and materials; soil and water conservation; management of water resources; being well-informed in terms of marketing strategies and labour market factors; generating information in terms of customer needs and requirements; being well-aware of ways of preservation of the environment; making use of natural resources in an adequate manner and preventing exploitation; eliminating air, water, and land pollution and augmenting different types of skills and abilities. Furthermore, it is necessary for agricultural labourers and farmers to inculcate the traits of diligence, resourcefulness and conscientiousness. These are the key in doing well in one's jobs and generating desired outcomes. Furthermore, all types of dilemmas and challenging situations will be coped with effectively. Therefore, promoting agricultural sustainability is a useful measure to be implemented in improving conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers.

G. Formulation of Rural Development Plans

Formulation of rural development plans has one of the primary goals of promoting enhancement of agricultural and farming practices and rural communities. The main objective is to impart information among rural individuals in terms of all types of techniques, which would not only be facilitating in promoting enrichment of productivity and profitability in the agricultural sector and farming practices, but also in sustaining their living conditions in an adequate manner.

The rural individuals are required to be well-aware of techniques, which are necessary in doing well in their job duties and generating desired outcomes. Furthermore, inculcation of the traits of diligence, resourcefulness and conscientiousness are the key in doing well in one’s jobs and generating desired outcomes. Furthermore, all types of dilemmas and challenging situations will be coped with in an efficient manner. These are prevented from giving rise to impediments within the course of leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. Therefore, formulation of rural development plans is a suitable measure to be implemented in improving conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers.

IV. CONCLUSION

In rural communities, agriculture and farming practices are regarded as one of the primary occupations of individuals. Measures to be implemented in leading to progressions in agriculture and farming practices are, generating information regarding various aspects, utilization of modern, scientific and innovative methods and materials, soil and water conservation, management of water resources, plantations and horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, natural environmental conditions, ecology and climate change and agricultural extensions. Measures to be implemented in improving conditions of agricultural labourers and farmers are, augmenting efficiency in marketing of agricultural products; promoting infrastructure development; giving financial resources and credit; initiating training centres; promoting agricultural sustainability and formulation of rural development plans. Finally, it can be stated, progressions in agriculture and farming practices are vital in leading to up-gradation of communities and nation.

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AUTHOR PROFILE



Dr. Radhika Kapur, she is schooling from Loreto Convent, Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from Jesus and Mary College. Masters of Business Administration from YMCA, New Delhi. Ph. D from Delhi University. I have 15 years of work experience in the field of research and writing I have written more than 100 research papers currently working as a librarian in Delhi School of Journalism, University of Delhi.

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