

Food Security, Sustainability and Markets: Understanding the Protest of Farmers against the Laws

SAROJ RANI¹, SONAL BABBAR², SOUMYATA KATIYAR³ AND SHAIIVY PULAK⁴

¹Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, srani@maitreyi.du.ac.in

²Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, sbabbar@maitreyi.du.ac.in

³Student of BA Programme, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, soumyatak@gmail.com

⁴Student of BA Programme, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, shaiivypulak22@gmail.com

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to analyse the New Farm Bills 2020 and their opportunities and challenges on food security and sustainability. This study also examines the impact of farmer agitation on long-term food security and sustainability in India. According to the UN committee Food security means all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their food preferences for a healthy life. Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations and it is being considered as part of the long-term dimension in the assessment of food security and comprised of three pillars: economic, environmental and social. Likewise, in India, the ongoing agitation by farmers on the borders of Delhi provides an opportunity to flag concerns about various aspects in the agriculture sector, including these three pillars, food security and risk coverage for farmers. This project consists of an overview of the interrelationships between food security and sustainability based on a non-systematic literature review and informed discussions. Primary research is being conducted through interviewing the farmers through open-ended questionnaires. Many farmers hesitated to disclose their identities and farmers of states other than Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are not much aware about this policy.

Keywords: Food Security, sustainability, agro-ecosystem, society etc.

Historical Perspective

After gaining independence in 1947, India was a nascent country, struggling with massive food shortages, and it was considered critical that the supply of essential items like food grains, edible oil, kerosene, pulses and other important commodities be not left to the vagaries of the market or seasonal output. The need for price regulation was keenly felt as well.

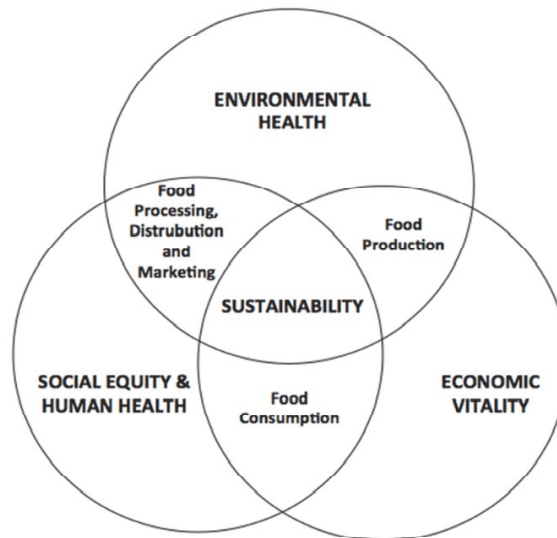
Accordingly, in 1955, the ECA was enacted by the Parliament to empower the Central government to control production, supply and distribution of certain essential commodities in the interest of the general public. In effect, maintaining adequate supply of essential goods at a fair price is the crux of the Act. NITI Aayog officials, the object of ECA, 2020 was to ostensibly benefit the farmers, and to increase India's food export. Importantly, neither the Economic Survey nor the NITI Aayog was quoted as saying anything in favour of the consumers and how to ensure that consumers avail fair prices in food and other essential commodities. Fifty-five years since the APMCs were introduced, the country's farmers are still receiving a low share of the consumer's rupee as indicated by Reserve Bank of India study covering mandis in 16 states, 16 food crops and 9,400 farmers, traders, retailers. The provision of MSP alone will not ensure farmers to draw a greater share of the consumer's rupee because supply is greater than demand. The APMCs still don't issue formal receipts which are supposed to mention the price, quantity or quality of the produce. Further, due to interlocked markets, farmers are forced to sell to those middlemen who they have borrowed money from, starting off a vicious circle of exploitation in times of distress sales. As the formal institutions of credit, banks have played a significant role in protecting small farmers' interest in particular. The continuation of institutional credit, although assured in the laws, will become difficult with increasing contract farming. Contract farming promotes informal credit through farm inputs, land development and technical advice. During the final payments, all costs are subtracted and only the balance given. The presence of formal banking institutions will help the farmers stay out of captivity and act independently, focusing on balanced investments and returns. Gender inequalities are another concern with contractual farming. Few women have land ownership or bank accounts for taking up contract farming. Even as women continue to be significant contributors to agriculture production, their inability to exercise contracts and receive funds will completely marginalise their role with decision-making processes. The MSP also called, Minimum selling price that acts as a safety net for farmers when they sell a particular crop. These crops are procured by government agencies at a promised price to farmers and the MSP cannot be altered in any given situation. The concept of MSP, therefore, protects the farmers in the country in situations where crop prices fall drastically. Wheat and rice are among the top crops that are procured by the government at MSP from the country's farmers. A total of 22-23 crops are procured under MSP. The MSP is set by the central government for select crops, based on

recommendations it receives from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The CACP is tasked with determining the MSP, which is somewhat based on a formula derived from the Swaminathan Committee, which was a government-formed panel to resolve issues faced by farmers. It is somewhat strange that the concept of minimum support price, an important aspect for boosting farmers' income, finds no mention in any law even if it has been around for decades. While the government does declare the MSP twice a year, there is no law-making MSP mandatory. What this technically means is that the government, though it buys at MSP from farmers, is not obliged by law to do so. As a matter of fact, there is no law which says that MSP can be imposed on private traders as well. The CACP had earlier recommended legislation to iron out a concrete MSP law for farmers, but it was not accepted by the Centre. The fact that there is no law safeguarding MSP worked in favour of the government. While farmers have been allowed to sell their crops to any entity including private corporations, they have demanded a written promise on MSP from the government as they are afraid that corporations will start exploiting them in the absence of a minimum support price. Agriculture sector needs reforms in many areas to bring efficiency. That's why the present government brings these three laws. Why has the government taken this step in a hurry even during the pandemic period without much discussion with the farmers' representatives and opposition parties.

Introduction

India is a country where more than 50% of people are engaged and highly dependent on the agricultural sector. Farming depends upon the geographical condition, the demand for a product, labor, and level of technology. Modernity in agriculture is supposed to make sure productivity growth without imposing any threats to the natural environment and the well-being of animals, reduced impoverishment in rural areas as well as to ensure food security growth in the profitability of farms improvement to the efficiency of the natural resource. Above challenges will be addressed by the need to implement efficient environment friendly production Tech and relevant legal instruments which obliged agriculture producers to protect the environment and farmers. According to the UN committee Food security means all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their food preferences for a healthy life. Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations and it is

being considered as part of the long-term dimension in the assessment of food security and comprised of three pillars: economic, environmental and social.



From this Venn diagram, it can be understood how sustainability depends on environmental health, economic vitality, social equity and human health comprising food consumption, food production and processing, distribution and marketing.

On the other hand, Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs and requirement of the present generation without compromising the ability and needs of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of sustainability as mentioned above is composed of three verticals: economic, environmental and social which refers to profit planet and people respectively. According the United Nations, food security is defined as meaning that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. It is well-known that the three farm bills were passed in the Parliament without any substantive debate, especially on the impact of the ECA, 2020 on the consumers, including the poor and vulnerable communities who are excluded from the PDS, owing to Aadhaar mismatch or other exclusion issues. Since the Amendment Act itself does not state the rationale for such policy change, one has to rely on the statements made by the ministers. These three farm bills are as follows:

I. LAW : The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020: This proposed legislation seeks to give farmers the right to enter into a contract with agribusiness firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters, or large retailers for the sale of future farming produce at a pre-agreed price.

II. LAW: The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020: This proposed legislation seeks to give freedom to farmers to sell their produce outside the notified APMC market yards (mandis). This is aimed at facilitating remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels.

III. LAW: The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020: This proposed legislation seeks to remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onion, and potatoes from the list of essential commodities and will do away with the imposition of stock holding limits on such items except under 'extraordinary circumstances' like war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity. Farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce under this Act.

Farmers believe that these three laws are not favourable in their interest but these are favourable for corporate house that's why, tens thousands of farmers from the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana are now in a grinding standoff with Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, demanding the repeal of three market-friendly laws. Taken together, the contentious reforms will loosen rules around the sale, pricing and storage of farm produce - rules that have protected India's farmers from an unfettered free market for decades. The following act of Parliament received the assent of the president on 24th September 2020. For nearly a week, the protesting farmers, joined by their families and friends, have braved water cannons and tear gas and choked the capital's borders. They have set up camps, cooked and slept in the open in the bitter cold. This protest is unique. It is not driven by politics or religion. In fact, politicians are reacting to it. At the heart of the protests is the fear that the new laws will result in the dismantling of the system under which the government procures key crops from farmers at a minimum support price. The government, for its part, says that these laws will allow any buyer to purchase crops directly from the farmer, thereby eliminating the middleman. Creating a pan-India open market, the authorities contend, will encourage competition and actually ensure higher prices for the farmers. But

so far, the government has done nothing to guarantee a fixed minimum support price, which is why the protests have continued. Contract farming will give corporations an entry into the agriculture sector. Recently, a provision made in Gujarat allows non-farmers to be given the status of a 'farmer', resulting in the possible misuse of this law. Farmers don't want that this should be repeated in other states too so they are protesting but this Farmers Protest can lead to other challenges in the Agricultural Sector. So, there is a need to take urgent measures to solve this issue otherwise it will aggravate the problem of food security and Markets further.

Literature Review

Kumar has explained that the experience from the state of Bihar suggests that repealing the APMC Act did not persuade private entities to set up agricultural markets. This saw the number of mandis remaining stagnant, and with poor agricultural market density combined with negligible public procurement, it led to a lower price realisation by farmers in the state. Lang and Barling, (2012) has stated their perspectives on what is meant by food security, concluding that "the core 21st-century task is to create a sustainable food system. This requires a more coherent policy framework than currently exists, a goal thwarted by competing solutions for policy attention and policy failure thus far to integrate the complex range of evidence from as well as environmental and economic sources into an integrated policy response."

Waltner (1996), David Waltner has stated that sustainable development, the more general term from which it springs, sustainable agriculture is a complex concept that has been interpreted (as a philosophy) and applied (as a set of techniques) within various environmental, social, and economic contexts. He has said that "sustainable agri- food systems are those that are economically viable, and meet society's needs for safe and nutritious food, while conserving and enhancing natural resources and the quality of the environment for future generations". Ranjan, (2021) has stated that, "The ongoing farmers' movement in India is proving to be path-breaking in more ways than one. It has unambiguously challenged the political economy of the present Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-Bharatiya Janata Party regime and has, to a limited extent, broken the control of the RSS ecosystem on the political narrative of the country. It has also followed the path of earlier movements such as the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests, to present an antithesis to the ideological hegemony of the current ruling arrangement. Though this agitation has had its limitations

like earlier protests, it has given hope to the strata of society opposed to the rechristening of Indian nationhood and political system.”

The conceptual edifice of Sathe’s view of the farmers’ struggle figures in an article written by another senior teacher–scholar, Ashutosh Varshney (2020). He says: “In the political economy of development, the concept of ‘agrarian transition’ captures what is at stake.” This concept is indeed fundamental to the ideology of developmentalism. It entails the belief that economic growth will follow a universal trajectory, involving change in land use after a certain stage of “development.” The social and political costs of the so-called “agrarian transition” are ignored or condoned. How these costs might trigger a different trajectory of history in certain conditions is regarded as much too speculative. Ideas suggesting new forms of social organisations and patterns of prosperity are also labelled away as activist fantasies.

Farmers fear that the laws portend a total hollowing out of the state-regulated procurement at mandis. To this day, mandis signal prices with regular announcements of MSPs, and if they are weakened any further than they already have been, farmers will be fully exposed to debilitating price pressures. As Balbir Singh Rajewal, president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Indian Farmers’ Union) explains, farmers are protesting not because the existing system is fair, but because it is being replaced with an even more inscrutable system that will further disadvantage them. The real agenda behind the laws, farmers allege, is to facilitate corporate control over agriculture and food, and Reliance and Adani Group, two of India’s largest business houses, perceived to be close to the present government, have especially incurred the farmers’ wrath.

Objectives

- To understand the farmers’ three laws which are passed by the Government.
- To analyse the effect of farm bills on food security.
- To assess its impact on Markets and sustainability in India.
- To understand the farmer bill 2020 and examine the Farmers protests and the consequences on sustainability and food security.

Hypothesis

1. Implementation of New Farm bills 2020 can create problems for the Mandi system and Minimum Support Price, and food security in India.

2. If the protests of Farmers took place for a longer period it will be a problem for production of agricultural products.
3. New Farm Bills are more favourable for the corporate houses rather than the farmers.

Research Methodology

This study is an overview of the interrelationships between food security and sustainability based on a non-systematic literature review through the secondary Data. For Secondary Sources Books Journal and Newspapers are consulted. Some Government Sites are also visited to collect primary data. Primary research is being conducted from the farmers through open ended questionnaires. More than 50 farmers are approached through telephonic interviews and field work. These farmers are consulted from five states: Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.

Data Analysis

Bihar

The APMC act has been repealed by the government of Bihar in 2006 in order to encourage the private players to the agriculture market. It was with the intention of providing more options to the farmers to sell their produce. It is observed that these policies were already implemented in Bihar in 2006. Now, the Mandi system has been abolished in Bihar and private players are playing a pivotal role in buying and selling of agricultural produce. The experience from the state suggests that repealing the APMC Act did not persuade private entities to set up agricultural markets. This saw the number of mandis remaining stagnant, and with poor agricultural market density combined with negligible public procurement, it led to a lower price realisation by farmers in the state.

It is interesting to note that the government also does not negate the importance of public institutional support in ensuring remunerative prices for agricultural produce. According to the Bihar government, the channel of Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) is a better alternative for public procurement than APMC. The PACS are primarily village-level cooperative credit institutions in India. In the case of Bihar, marketing of agricultural products is one of the significant operations of PACS. PACS has a mandate to collect foodgrains from society members, from where the state and central agencies procure and make

the payment. The PACS has its own drawbacks, with delayed payments, slow procurement and a severe scarcity of readily available storage: facility. Moreover, a significant portion of households dependent on agriculture in Bihar, who are landless, cannot be the member of PACS and there is a limited possibility for them to sell their produce to PACS. Even with the presence of PACS, public procurement of agricultural produce is quite negligible in the state. The procurement by the public agencies in the state was not more than 15% of total production. This is in stark contrast to states like Punjab and Haryana, where share in public procurement is at least 70%–80%. That's Why the farmers are protesting against the implementation of these laws. Government should immediately roll back these laws.

As per interviews: As we discussed with the farmers through telephonic conversation, this study observed that these farmers are against these new farm bills. There are many factors behind the protest.

Baban Ram, a farmer of Bihar has been selling paddy, wheat, potato and onion to the local traders right after the appeal of APMC act in Bihar since 2006. He has one bigha of land where his whole family do the farming. Farming is the only livelihood of his family. This year he had been offered 1800 quintal for his paddy. On being asked he told,

“I was expecting at least Rs 3000 for my produce which ‘Bazar Samiti’, a local government body, could have provided but the long-going process of the samiti abstained me as well as other farmers from selling their produce. So, we sell our produce to private players only against which we get the instant payment for our produce along with the doorstep transportation facility.”

Baban did not have any knowledge regarding the new farm bill. He had heard a little about the farmer's protest in Delhi. If he had any knowledge about these laws and the farmers' protest against these laws, he would have definitely been a part of this protest.

Urmila Devi, a farmer from Bihar works on 10 kattha of land, as a tenant. She, along with her husband, produces potato, onion and wheat on the land. On being interviewed she told ”local traders come to the field while harvesting and auction for the produce, we then finalize the deal with the highest offering. The trader pays us instantly against our produce along with the transportation facility. The money is then divided in the ratio of 2:1 between us and the landowner. Urmila did not know anything about the farm's law. She had only heard about the farmers' protest. She works as a tenant on the lands which are

often called ‘ ‘money-batta’ ‘मनी-बट्टा’ in their local language. Urmila also mentioned that she does know much about the business because these are generally managed by her husband only. She only helps her husband.

Sanjeet Sikriwal, a farmer from Bihar has 10 bigha of land where he does the farming on his own. he produces paddy, wheat, gram, pulses and potato on his land. he sells his produce to the families in his locality and the rest is used by his family only. on being asked about the reason, “why are the farmers selling their crops to private traders and not to the government-formed markets, even when the government-formed markets such as PACS pay more? He answered “no one in Bihar wants to sell his crop to the government-formed market, say, PACS, because the process is very long and time taking. one has to submit a large list of documents. Once the produce is purchased, the seller has to transport it to the warehouse. Also, the payment gets delayed by six months to one year, and the whole sowing season gets wasted. if a farmer won’t receive his payment on time’ how would he buy seeds for his next sowing?”

Sikriwal is a literate farmer and he was able to answer most of the questions. Although he had a little knowledge about the new farm bill, he was aware about the widespread farmers’ protest on delhi borders.

Outcome of Bihar Farmers

Farmers of Bihar are not satisfied with the price policy for their produce. 60-70% of the farming land goes with contract farming, which they spell “मनी-बट्टा’ [Mani-batta] in their local language. They are not aware about their rights and private players are exploiting them by providing them lower prices for their agricultural produce.

Punjab

Ravinder Singh, a resident of Punjab has taken part in the protest and visited Delhi many times. During the interview, he answered the questions in an informative way. He explained that “the government will abolish the mandi system gradually. Secondly, the private players will now enter the market. Likewise in Bihar, farmers will get less price for their produce. Private players will not only offer less price but, they can reject the crops on the basis of quality also. Also, the Government is abstaining the farmers from burning the stubble without suggesting any substitute for the same.” It is understandable from his statement that the private sector may exploit the farmers. But, if the

government amended the law mandating MSP, would it be negotiable then?” He answered “No, the government will retreat after two years, like in the case of Maharashtra, the government has retreated after a few years.” It was clear to observe the loopholes of the bill from the vantage point of the farmers so, the next question was relating the bill with the consumers, the most integral part, as. Is it, the corporate will practice hoarding and sell it costly, later on?”. Singh answered instantly, “Yes, definitely this will happen. Even that, the government has asked the farmers to use less water for paddy irrigation (paddy crops need large water supply). It is not possible to grow good quality paddy, without ample water irrigation. the conversation concluded with this last question, as, “If the situation remains the same, would we have to import the paddy? Is it not an attack on India’s food security? Ravinder Singh had an answer for that too. It was “Yes, the time is not far when we have to import the paddy from another country. And, if this happens, the food security of the country will be severely affected. If the farmers will not get the right price for their produce, “Our children will be able to study, only when we, the farmers, will get the right price for our produce. The private players will buy the produce at a really low price, from the farmers and sell it to the consumers, which is costly. So, along with the farmers, consumers will also suffer.”

Gurmail Singh of Punjab has been selling his seed potato and table potato to the traders of West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, UP and Andhra Pradesh for the past 15 years. “Nobody is stopping me from selling the crop in any mandi of the country and to anyone in the country so I am already enjoying this freedom. So, what is new for me in these laws?” asked Gurmail Singh, who grows potatoes on over 100 acres of land, along with wheat and paddy which he sells in the government *mandis*. From Gurmail Singh’s statement it has been observed that the farmers are selling their produce to the other states as well.

Akashdeep Singh, a young farmer and trader from Parveznagar village in Kapurthala, said, “I have been selling my produce like muskmelon, watermelon, green peas to Rajasthan, Kashmir, Gujarat, Delhi and other states for the past over five years.”

Haryana

Kuldeep Singh proclaimed that these regions are the main hub of agriculture activities and major crops are grown here, such as wheat and Paddy. It is going to be affected the most after the implementation of these new farm bills. As

they are exploited by private players, he wants the government to remove the concept of private companies by imposing MSPs on major growing crops. He sells their produce at APMCs only and finds it more reliable though he can't spare enough money for their family and their savings are zero. This strong statement was "I don't want the private companies to interfere in the agriculture thing unless MSPs are introduced.

Varsha Dahiya, her only source of income is farming, a resident of Haryana, thinks that the selling price is already very less and if private companies will capture the market, it will deteriorate her situation. She is also not willing to do contract farming as they took their freedom and exploited them in many ways.

Suraj Gahlayan, a native farmer of Haryana, reported his problem that they don't get enough profit. He believes that corporate houses will exploit the farmers. He has also taken part in the protests and visited Delhi many times. His Grandfathers and grandfather's brother and their kids all are engaged in farming only. Their source of income is only from the agriculture produce only. the commercialization of the crops can result in food insecurity. The essential crop that are grown in the country like wheat and paddy would be swop up by the produce like mushroom and saffron. Consequently, the basic crop has to be imported from the other countries. Also, the farmers will be offered less price for their produce and the consumers will have to pay a lot more.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh is known for rice cultivation and called "rice bowl" of India located at the central east of India. The government of Chhattisgarh offers co-operatives to the farmers of the state by providing loan facilities to the under-privileged peasants.

The reason behind Chhattisgarh farmers' reluctance to join the movement is perhaps the fact that it completes its Kharif procurement by paying the minimum support price between December and March. Farmers receive their money in their accounts within 7-15 days of selling their crops in the mandi. They are happy to sell in mandis around their village.

Jitendra said, "There is a high difference between the prices of mandi and private players. Current rate of paddy is Rs 2,500 at mandis but, in private, we get 1,000-1300 for the same product. Mandi also provides us a loan at the time of sowing, the money is being paid by us at the end at the interest of 1.5%. We prefer to sell at mandis only."

In spite of the bureaucracy, the Chhattisgarh mandi system procures 80% of the total paddy produced in the state. As in Chhattisgarh, the government commenced the distribution of good grains at nominal price of Re1kg to 48 lakh poor families through fair price shops. Under Chhattisgarh, Food and Nutrition Security Act 2012, the blue ration card holder families of priority category will be provided supply of food grains such as rice and wheat under Antyodaya scheme. These grains are collected from mandi and sold to poor families below BPL through Sarvajanic Vitran Dukan.

Current government gives Rs 2,500 per quintal in place of the Rs 2,100 (Rs 1,800 as MSP and Rs 300 bonus).

More crops reached the mandi because of the attractive MSP of Rs 2,500 – a figure arrived at adding Rs 650 under the Rajiv Gandhi Kisaan Nyay Yojana to the current MSP of Rs 1,850. After personally interviewing the farmers, the difference in the selling price of mandi and private players is around Rs1,500 per quintal.

Farmers generally keep 20% of their produce for seed and consumption, so that would mean that very little reached the free market, which in any case could not match the Rs 2,500 procurement price. The going market rate is still not more than Rs 1,500 for the best paddy.

Most of the farmers are computer illiterate. As he said, “The people at the computer keep making mistakes, for which we have to suffer. Corruption rate is high,” said Mankuram, a farmer from a village of Chhattisgarh, who admits to often not understanding the paperwork. “The government has been trying to buy less from us by imposing restrictions on quantity and deliberate reduction of sown area through patwaris,” another farmer from Amdi village said.

Uttar Pradesh

Sandeep Katiyar from Kanpur, UP is a native farmer who expressed his sadness towards the new farm bill 2020. He reveals that APMCs are very far from their localities which consumes much transportation cost, so they willingly have to sell to private players by which they don't earn much profit and money is not debited in their accounts by private parties on time, sometimes it even took 2-3 months. He strongly put his points by saying “We already are selling to private players and battling with our situation. Government should pass a law to protect the interest of farmers by fixing a price of specific crops rather than inviting more private companies. This act will perhaps force us to leave this occupation.”

Awdhesh Kumar, an experienced farmer from UP who is 80 years old, has shared his experience by saying, "I have sold my crops to private mandis as well as to other states too. Private companies give least price to the crops. Seeing the corruption, government servants bribe farmers all the time to ensure government policies that are our rights." About contract farming, he is clearly not willing to enter, he says, "Once, I did a contract with a Potato Chips Company, it only approved large sized potatoes and I had to sell other smaller sized potatoes at very low prices, which was basically a deal to lose."

Conclusion

It appears to be clear that there was some drawback in previous farm laws that is why the government wanted to bring the reforms to it. but it is observed that the private sector has become the master player of the market. Although the private sector can bring efficiency to the market, it can impact food security, negatively. Also, there exists the fear of the profit-making behavior of the private sector. The private sector has its own advantages like it can encourage the storage facility. The work effectiveness can be improved. As seen in the case of Bihar the payment method can become smooth and instant. But the farmers will be offered less price for their produce and the consumers will have to pay a lot more. Eventually, the major loopholes of the private sector can prove to be a threat for the country like the commercialization of the crops can result in food insecurity. The essential crops that are grown in the country like wheat and paddy would be swapped up by the produce like mushroom and saffron. Consequently, the basic crops have to be imported from other countries So, in future it can be a liability for the government. There is no denying the fact that reforms are the most needed requirement of the hour. But these reforms should be based on a public-private partnership model in the agriculture sector while keeping the interest of the farmers in mind.

Recommendations

1. The PPP model can overcome this problem.
2. Rural infrastructure such as warehouses, cold storage facilities and processing units are insufficient or simply do not exist. This widens the distance between rural farm and urban table, resulting in wastage. the PPP model can overcome this problem.
3. They should provide research and development as Europe is doing for their farmers. The PPP model can overcome this problem. There is a huge disconnect between farm and market. On one hand, there are excess buffer

stocks of food grain in the warehouses, while on the other, consumers often face a scarcity of staple vegetables like onions. PPP model can help in bridging the gap between farmers and market.

4. No parties have framed policies to address problems like the falling water table, pesticide overdoses and increasing soil erosion. PPP model can solve the problem of water, pesticide overdose and avoid soil erosion.
5. The farming sector is under deep financial stress because the price at which produce is sold does not match the sector's growing requirements for investment. The falling per-capita land holding with each successive generation is exacerbating the situation.

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Annexure

Link of the google form that has been used for the interview, it consists of questionnaires.

Survey: Farm Bills 2020

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UfKdIiBU-NIQP5vG7qK2BYP7t3A5xSvskolSXw8grwkedit?ts=60dff98e>