WEL-COME

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Green revolution in India

Green Revolution

Background

The world's worst recorded food disaster happened in 1943 in British-ruled India. Known as the Bengal Famine, an estimated **four million** people **died of hunger** that year alone in eastern India (that included today's Bangladesh).

With the partition of India in 1947 and a consequent influx of refugees, the demand for food increased. Also, this rise in demand could be attributed to population growth. At the same time, the domestic food production was not sufficient to cover this surge in food demand. Therefore, at that time there was a pressing need to make India self-sufficient in food. This led to the Green Revolution in India.

The term "Green Revolution" is applied to the period 1967 -1978. Between 1947 to 1967, efforts at achieving food self-sufficiency were not much successful and were largely concentrated on expanding farming areas.

However, Green Revolution focused on increasing yield. Therefore, in India's context, the introduction of high-yielding varieties (HYV) of seeds, increased use of fertilizers, mechanized farming, and irrigation after 1965 are collectively known as **Green Revolution**.

This resulted in increase in production of food grains, especially wheat and rice, thereby making India self-sufficient in food grains.

The program in India, was started with the help of the United States-based Rockefeller Foundation and was based on high-yielding varieties of wheat, rice, and other grains that had been developed in Mexico and in the Philippines. Dr. Norman Burling was the father of green revolution (witnessed in 1943) in Mexico. He was also the guiding force behind India's green revolution (1960's). Of the high-yielding seeds, wheat produced the best results. Production of coarse grains- maize, bajra, jowar, millets and ragi, as well as pulses did not benefit from the green revolution.

Three basic elements of Green Revolution

(1) Continued expansion of farming areas;

(2) Double-cropping (having two crops per year);

(3) Use of High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds.

Advantages of Green Revolution

1) The Green Revolution resulted in a record food grain output of 131 million tons in 1978-79. This established India as one of the world's largest agricultural producers. India also started exporting food grains.

2) Yield per unit of farmland improved by more than 30 per cent between 1947 to 1979, when the Green Revolution was considered to have delivered its goods.

3) Crop area under HYV varieties grew from seven per cent to 22 per cent of the total cultivated area during the 10 years of the Green Revolution.

4) Industrial growth in fertilizer, pesticides, fungicides and other chemicals created new jobs and contributed to the country's GDP.

5) India paid back all loans it had taken from the World Bank and its affiliates for the purpose of the Green Revolution. This improved India's creditworthiness in the eyes of the lending agencies.

6) Good crops as a result of green revolution lead to economic prosperity of the farmer.

Limitations of Green revolution in India

1) The fruits of Green revolution were mainly witnessed in Punjab, Haryana, Western U.P. and some select districts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Further, its success has been limited to wheat, rice, and maize. India has failed to extend the concept of green revolution to all crops or to all regions.
2) Indian agriculture – still a gamble of monsoons;
3) Use of HYV seeds and higher agricultural output requires heavy investment in seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and water (tube wells), and farm equipment (tractors, harvesters etc.). These investments are beyond the capacity of small and medium farmer. Therefore, the green revolution has mainly benefited large capitalist farmers.

Thank You