

SECOND GREEN REVOLUTION FOR FOOD SECURITY: ISSUES AND POLICY MEASURES

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ABSTRACT:

Attaining food security to all is a matter of prime importance for India where more than a-third of its population is estimated to be absolutely poor, and as many as one half of its children have suffered from malnourishment over the last three decades. The first green revolution ushered in a dramatic and steady increase in domestic foodgrains production from 50.8 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 252.23 million tonnes in 2015-16. A closer look at the experience in the last decades however indicates a tapering off or decline in both agriculture production and yields. Moreover the growth in production was much less than the growth in population in the latter period, having a serious impact on per capita availability. The share of agriculture and its allied activities in the gross domestic product (GDP) has registered a steady decline from 58 percent in 1951 to 17.4 percent in 2015-16. The performance in the agriculture sector is extremely vital for ensuring adequate availability and access to food. In this context, it is important to review the production/yield performance of Indian agriculture with a view to understanding the trends of per capita availability and identifying the major constraints in achieving physical access to food. The overall objective of the present study is identifying the important key factors having potentials for not only improving agricultural productivity but also for ensuring access to food for all.

KEYWORDS: India, green revolution, agriculture sector.

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