

Green Revolution in India

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Introduction

The agriculture sector is now recognized as a critical determinant of the political and economic future of many third world countries. Since the Green Revolution, Scholars of India's political economy have tried to relate economic change to political action and political action to policy and historical change.¹ During the first three five year plans. India's approach to agricultural development was characterized by a commitment to two co-equal, yet often irreconcilable goals:

1. The economic aim of achieving maximum increases in agricultural output to support rapid industrialization and 2. The social objective of reducing disparities in rural life.² Productivity in agriculture is mainly dependent on two sets of factors.

1. Technological and

2. Institutional

Among the technological factors are the use of agricultural inputs and methods such as improved seeds, fertilizers, improved ploughs, tractors, harvesters, irrigation etc, which help to raise productivity even if no land reforms are introduced. The institutional reforms include the redistribution of land ownership in favour of the cultivating classes so as to provide them a sense of participation in rural life, improving the size of farms, providing security of tenure, regulation of rents etc. In other words, the institutional factors,

such as the existence of feudal relations small size of farms, subdivision and fragmentation, insecurity of tenancy rights, high rents etc act as disincentives to the peasantry to raise production.³ They weaken the capacity of the farmers to save and invest in agriculture as also to enjoy the fruits of their labour. Consequently, two schools of thought emerged (1) the socialist believe that the existence of feudal or semi-feudal relations was the real cause of backwardness and poverty in rural India. The emancipation of the peasantry from the bondages of institutional depressors will unleash forces which will automatically raise levels of production in agriculture.² The other school of thought believes that agricultural productivity is purely a technological phenomenon and that it can be raised by the application of superior agricultural methods. Thus whereas, the

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