



## THE ROLE OF ECO SYSTEM IN REDESIGNING THE RURAL ECONOMY

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### ABSTRACT:

Everything on earth tends to function in cycles in terms of physical, biological, social, and economical change. This is one of the most fundamental principles of science. All long term trends eventually reverse themselves and move in opposite directions during times of fundamental ecological or societal change. We are living through such a time of change, within agriculture, within rural communities, and in the larger human society. Though change is inevitable it should not affect the eco system and ensure the smooth flow of livelihood. The current transition is being driven by questions of sustainability. We simply cannot continue to extract and exploit. At present it is a necessary to find ways to meet the needs of the present without compromising the future as we are rapidly depleting the natural and human resources of the earth to a greater extent. Consequently, we must shift from an economy of reliance on non renewable sources to reliance on renewable sources. Today it is a must to shift from a wasting, discarding, disposing society to a conserving, reusing, and recycling society.

**KEYWORDS** – physical, biological, social, and economical.

### INTRODUCTION

Current declining performances of agriculture and its negative side effects have been experienced worldwide and to be specific in underdeveloped countries and developing countries like India. As a result, the notion of 'sustainable agriculture' and 'sustainable rural development' have emerged. A serious thinking is going on from different corners such as social thinkers, reformers in India for the sustainable rural development.

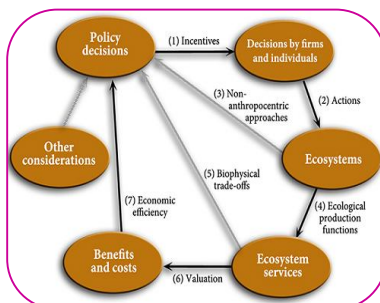
Nowadays modern concept like group farming and traditional methods like organic and family farming with latest technology are emerging that give prominence to low-input, resource-conserving farming systems, and emphasize the multifunctional role of agriculture.

This paper emphasizes the importance of regaining the Eco system and suggests some innovative concepts to regain the Eco system and also identify the ways and methods for the revival of self sustained rural economy.

### FAMILY FARMING

India, being a predominant agricultural based country family farming is a traditional concept.

Family farming protects biodiversity and the environment. It contributes to maintain the population in rural areas and preserving historic cultural values like maintaining forestation, preserving the agricultural land. To attain a sustainable future, family farming needs the involvement and commitment of all bodies – farming organisations, research centres, educational institutions, the media, development agencies and public authorities. By family farming all the members of the family get full time job. This full time coordination bring a sense of togetherness in the family besides the economic benefit. Though they market their



production, a part of their own fresh farm products is consumed by the family itself. Family farms occupy a wide range of rural environments, landscapes and territories particularly by making use of fragile areas that are unsuitable for industrialized farming and with the aid of good irrigation system.

At present, most of the developing and developed countries focuses on family farming as it provides an enormous benefits for sustaining the rural economy by eradicating hunger and poverty, by providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment in rural areas. In current scenario family farming provides a sense of belonging, satisfaction and pride in particular.

### ORGANIC FARMING

In recent years Organic farming is followed as one of the best options for environmentally sustainable agricultural production. In the organic approach to farming, the agricultural holding is perceived as a single and complex organism whose multiple component parts like soil minerals, organic matter, micro-organisms, insects, plants, animals and humans interact in a dynamic and coherent state of equilibrium producing sufficient yields. Though still a small-sized business, organic production is quickly gathering momentum in many countries - agricultural sector. Farmers and their associations have managed to attract the interest of growing numbers of consumers and citizens, thus establishing precious alliances with groups and individuals and developing a market that is still rapidly expanding. Organic supporters come from all professions especially from the IT Sector and socio-cultural backgrounds, thus ensuring that the ideas and energies underpinning organic farming are now part and parcel of a broad range of activities and interests. Therefore, the organic movement is increasingly seen as a very important container of social and environmental diversity and an ideal context for fostering synergy between human and natural energies. Organic food production and consumption patterns meet the demands of an ever greater number of modern-day citizen-consumers, who are not only interested in eating well and healthily but also in re-establishing a long-lost contact with the countryside and the world of farmers, in contributing to the preservation of the natural values, the typical products and the distinctive features of rural areas.

As organic farming systems have lower impacts on the environment than comparable conventional systems and with less environmental impacts, organic farming refers back to the habits and traditions of our farming forefathers, deriving information from their wisdom and profound knowledge of the agricultural system and their mechanisms. Thus, apart from the valuable natural resources, organic methods may contribute to conserve and revive local styles of farming, conveying modern, innovative meaning and purpose to the tradition.

### DECENTRALISATION

Sustainable economic development must be ecologically sound, socially responsible, and economically viable. It must respect the basic principles of nature and nature is inherently diverse and dispersed. Thus, in the new sustainable future, the population will be more geographically dispersed. The big cities are relics of industrialization; masses of workers had to be gathered in central locations to work in the factories and offices of large industrial organizations.

Contrary to popular belief, it would not be more energy efficient to concentrate population in a few large metropolitan areas in the future. Too much of anything in one place solid wastes, chemicals, gasses, animals, people, inevitably creates environmental and social problems. Such problems cannot be avoided and their mitigation invariably requires large amounts of increasingly costly energy. The solution to pollution is dilution. The logical response will be population dispersion not the urban sprawl of today but instead dispersion of densely populated rural communities integrated into the new energy-efficient transportation network.

Therefore, decentralisation may give solutions to problems as uneven distribution of benefits, serious deterioration of farmers socio-economic conditions, dangerous human erosion due to displacement and marginalization effects, and to progressive disempowering of local institutions and individuals and

finally; significant environmental degradation. Decentralisation of facilities by restricting the accumulation of infra structure in urban areas is a need of the hour.

### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CREATION OF LOCAL ECONOMY**

Things of nature are interdependent; relationships are mutually beneficial. Mutually beneficial relationships among people are relationships of choice, not necessity. Sustainable communities of the future, urban and rural, will have their own local economies. These communities will not be self-sufficient but locally owned and operated businesses will be capable of meeting most basic day-to-day needs of the community

Sustainable communities of the future will be neither independent nor dependent; they will be interdependent. They will form mutually beneficial relationships of choice with other communities and with outside investors, rather than relationships of economic necessity. People will deal with people in other communities that they personally know and trust. Communities will not be forced to submit to economic exploitation but will engage in relationships that are mutually beneficial. The new communities will be economically sovereign.

Perhaps most important, the social relationships among people in communities respect the principles of human nature. Positive human relationships must be built upon core human values such as honesty, fairness, responsibility, respect, and compassion.

Sustainable community development is a dynamic, living process. Community members of the future will devote time and energy to the community, as well as to their own endeavour. They will nurture the children of the community, as well as their own, for the long run benefit of the community. Each generation of leaders will nurture the next generation of leaders, each generation committed to the long run sustainability of the community. Community members will understand that it is in their own enlightened self-interest to help sustain a desirable quality of life for the community as a whole, both now and in the future. They will not focus solely on their own success, but will help each other succeed, so the community can meet the needs of the present without compromising opportunities for those of the future

Local community should be encouraged and enabled to contribute to the planning and implementation of the development process. Hard work, autonomous efforts and integrated, collective initiatives are required for a successful management of ecosystems and farm enterprises. As a consequence, community farming indirectly teaches people to have a more conscious connection with nature and society resulting in a pro-active attitude and a participatory approach in the growth of their own business and community.

### **STRENGTHENING THE SELF HELP GROUP**

Transformation” through “Empowerment” is the big concept behind the success of Self Help Groups. In a country like India where majority of the people are living in rural areas, the concept of rural development by strengthening the Self Help Group assume great significance. As Self Help Groups have been able to organize and marginalize the rural resources together for the development of the rural areas through common efforts it is possible to build a sustainable rural economy. The participation of women in the Self Help Groups provides tremendous contribution towards the development of self-reliant, self-confident and social empowerment among the members of the Self Help Groups contributing towards the process of rural economic development in the region by regaining the eco system. As the involvement and actions of Self Help Group in developing the rural economy is considerable nowadays, Strengthening the self help group by activating the existing structure of eco system surely Revamp the existing agricultural system.

### **INTEGRATION AND CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES**

The strong co-operation between the local community and other individual and collective actors with different, though converging, interests and competences is an important distinctive feature which represents a successful, model of integrated rural development. The concept of sustainable rural

development conciliates adherence to the market together with rules that safeguard the equilibrium and stability of rural and agricultural systems, thereby proposing itself as a conservative process of change. Adequate conservative strategies do not necessarily act as an obstacle to change and growth; on the contrary, they can help to avoid the erosion of the rural comparative advantage and limit unwanted transformations. Through the conservation of local distinctive features, the development process can sustain itself in the long term, given that it becomes well-rooted in the area in which it takes place, through the use and enhancement of local resources, thereby contributing to identity construction and preservation but also capable of generating income and development. Apart from preserving local productions, amenities, and cultural identity new business options and jobs are created.

In the era of modernization, rural economic development requires a strong co-operation and the integration of farmers' practical experience with experts' scientific knowledge to study ecosystem mechanisms on the land and plan a rational use for it. Also everyday difficulties allow farmers to understand the relevance of integrated and collective action to guarantee an environmentally sound agriculture and viable economic development.

### REORGANISING THE EXISTING POLICY

Lack of policy support is a big challenge to the revival of eco system. While multiple programs exist to support the production, the main problem is to encourage growth that consists of better quality, not growth that encourages more quantity.

Policy makers, too, have progressively acknowledged the valuable potentials of farming, which are instrumental in solving delicate matters such as environmental protection, preservation of rural values, reorientation of agricultural produce back to the market, the safety and quality of food. Such issues are strategic for the achievement of sustainable rural development in which the recent eco regulation has explicitly recognized the role of farming in rural economy.

As on today individual and collective empowerment strategies should be adopted and new policies should be designed for national and local institutions, which are called to use public resources to catalyze action in the private sector and in local communities. In this respect, some critical points have to be considered which includes: the diffusion of a pro-growth attitude, the building of a well-organized partnership of local leaders and actors, the emergence of private and local authorities, entrepreneurship, the stimulation of indigenous talents, the awakening of local solidarity, and the mobilization of voluntary efforts. Existing policies should be reorganised to focus on participation and a bottom-up approach, which harnesses the creativity and solidarity of rural communities.

Management approaches must be inclusive, negotiated and flexible, empowering local people to manage ecosystems in "their own" landscapes, to the benefit of current and future generations. Perceptions of ecosystem values are changing, policy-makers and other decision-makers must rapidly address the direct and indirect drivers that threaten ecosystems.

### CONCLUSION

Current government administrative structure should give priority to irrigation management for water storage, water distribution, technical support to farmers, fixing right price to the production, simplifying the Crop insurance facilities and concentrating the cold storage. Attention should be focused on the value added services like cottage, dairy industries to support the rural economy.

This article is an attempt to make some innovative concepts to regain the eco system. This is possible by the revival of self sustained rural economy. A revival is a time of change. Revival give us an opportunity to pause and reflect on our lives and then to renew, revitalize, recover, and restore our souls and the collective soul of our community.

This article will explore the potential of rural economy to contribute to sustainability by recasting their relationships with the increasingly contested carbon based economy. By driving concepts from a variety

of theoretical strands, it is appropriate to consider rural economy as a distinctive one for fostering the eco system.

It is necessary to ascertain how the sustained changes in rural economy have been driven by a combination of “ pull” forces from external economic development and “ push” forces from local areas, leading to a shift in rural household economic activities.

This article also reveals that economic growth should be pursued along with the improvement of human welfare and the conservation of natural resources.

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