

POSSIBILITIES OF AGRICULTURE IN CHHATTISGARH

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Chhattisgarh is said bowl of rice from agriculture point of view, means rice production in the state is to the amount that excess amount is exported. But if we think of Punjab, it also has excess production, but not only that of rice. There Wheat and Potatoes are also produced in excess. A small state like Punjab and such a wonderful advancement in agriculture.

After all this bowl of rice a name for Chhattisgarh, will continue to satisfy ourselves till what time. Reality is that per unit area production of rice in Chhattisgarh is far behind than Punjab. This may be said in this way. There lived two farmers in a village : one farming on 8 acres of land and the other on 30 acres of land. Owner of 8 acres used to produce 200 quintals of rice whereas that of 30 acres only 250 quintals. The owner of 30 acres was proud of producing 250 quintals – an amount highest in the village.

We, Chhattisgarhies, are also living in the same false proud of producing 250 quintals of rice whereas it is only 200 quintals in the account of Punjab. We take only single crop of rice.

Why it is so? Two states of same country having such a vast difference in agriculture.

Twentieth century is the century of scientific advancements which is nearing to its end. The development in science day by day is almost parallel to advancements in agricultural sciences. But Chhattisgarh is as on it was.

We can recognize the basic reasons of backwardness in agriculture in the state of Chhattisgarh as follows:

1. Chhattisgarh has no assured year – round irrigation facilities, whereas assured irrigation is a must for adopting modern recommended practices of crop production. We cannot think of adopting modern technology in agriculture without assured irrigation. Though, research on wide scale is going on dry farming also, but achievements are very limited Japan has intensive network of canals. In Punjab also the same thing is there. But in Chhattisgarh, here and there only canals have water only during rainy season; a meagre facility-

2. Second need is of regional research in agriculture. It is not like physics and chemistry whose research findings are applicable globally. In agriculture, researches done in Punjab and Kerala and technologies recommended for those regions may not be followed in Chhattisgarh. Even outcome of researches done in Jabalpur region may not suit for Chhattisgarh. Since soil and climatic change take place in different ways from region to region, crops and their cultivation technologies also differ. Even, in the same state of M.P., Gwalior, Jabalpur, Raipur and Bastar regions differ from soil and climate point of view. Generally, technologies developed at Jabalpur are also recommended for Chhattisgarh, which is totally impractical. J.N.K.V.V., Jabalpur recommended for yellow soybean but it was a total failure for Chhattisgarh.

In this way, Chhattisgarh needs a separate agriculture university or a major research station, which can deal properly with problems of region.

Maharashtra has four agriculture universities, whereas in U.P., this number is three. Till few years ago, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh constituted one state with an area less than M.P. After coming new states in existence, each state is having its own agricultural university separately. From area point of view Bastar itself is greater than Kerala, but agricultural research in this region is zero.