

E-Learning Study Material
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Causes of Low Productivity of
Indian Agriculture:-

Indian agriculture does not show high efficiency or productivity, though there is an improvement since independence some important reasons for this situation are given below:-

1. Population Pressure:- Land is limited and has almost reached the level where more expansion in cultivated area is not possible. The growth in population creates immense pressure on land.

Even though Land-human ratio in India is better compared to some of the developed countries like Japan, the Netherlands, Belgium and even China, other factors like very low yields and low levels of

Industrialisation in India. Compound of problems of population pressure on agricultural land.

2. Uneconomic Holdings:- The average size of landholdings in India in 2001 was less than two hectares. One-fourth of the total rural households own less than 0.4 hectare each, while another one-fourth are landless. This creates difficulties in application of modern inputs, adoption of scientific land improvement, water conservation and plant protection measures and in introducing mechanised operations.

These measures alone are capable of securing and stabilising high yields. The tardy progress of land reforms in most states has compounded this problem. Consolidation of land can help ~~and~~ improvement in productivity.

3. Uncertain monsoons and inadequate Irrigation facilities:- With more than half of the gross cropped area being rainfed, failure or inadequacy of rains causes

fluctuations in yields. Even if the maximum irrigation potential is realised, around 86.5 million Hectares of gross cropped area will remain under rainfed conditions. This underlines the need to develop ~~and~~ rainfed agriculture on scientific lines.

4. Subsistence Nature of Farming: -

Indian Agriculture is characterised by its subsistence nature, i.e., most of the produce is directly consumed by the producers, and surplus, if any is generally low. This is because most Indian farmers, being poor use outdated implements and technology and are not able to afford costly inputs. This results ~~and~~ in low level of returns and meagre incomes, which in turn means low savings and low levels of reinvestments. Thus a vicious circle operates and stagnation in agriculture ~~is~~ prevails since long time.