



## THE DECLINE OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE: A LEGAL AND POLICY ANALYSIS

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**BEST CITATION** – TANYA REJI, THE DECLINE OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE: A LEGAL AND POLICY ANALYSIS, *INDIAN JOURNAL OF LEGAL REVIEW (IJLR)*, 5 (2) OF 2025, PG. 27-36, APIS – 3920 – 0001 & ISSN – 2583-2344.

This article is published in the collaborated special issue of Amity Law School, Amity University, Mumbai and the Institute of Legal Education (ILE), titled “Emerging Trends in Law: Exploring Recent Developments and Reforms” (ISBN: 978-81-986345-1-1).

### Abstract

India’s economy is predominantly agricultural-based, and half of the country’s population makes a substantial contribution towards the sector. However, due to various factors like socioeconomic, environmental, and policy-related issues have contributed to the sector’s continuous decline in recent decades. The reasons and effects of this decline are examined in this research study, and have also emphasized the laws and policies that govern and regulate India’s agricultural sector. The study will also be exploring important topics such as farm earnings, over-reliance on monsoons, and the increasing rate of farmer suicides and agricultural hardships. The study will be analyzing the current policies and legislations, such as the land reform law, agricultural subsidies, and the minimum support price concept. The study will be examining the Contended Farm laws of 2020 and their reasons for getting repealed, and how it has affected the farmers’ welfare and agricultural sustainability. The study will be a combination of doctrinal research and policy analysis, wherein the study would be identifying the problems and weaknesses in the legislative framework. The study has also referred to the environmental regulations and climate change that have aggravated the agricultural problem. The study will be compared with agricultural reforms that have been adopted in other countries in order to understand and make reforms in India also. The research paper delves into establishing reforms that will help in recovering the agricultural sector in India by analyzing and addressing the issues, laws, and policies of the agricultural sector in India.

Introduction- Agriculture has always been the driving force of the Indian economy, giving employment to the people and contributing significantly to the GDP of the country. But the sector has been consistently on the decline over the past decade, which has led to concerns regarding economic stability, rural jobs, and food security. Indian agriculture, which was once a thriving sector, is now, in recent years, being confronted with numerous issues like land degradation, climate change, poor policies, and many more.

Indian Agriculture keeps on changing and is developing over time from the old farming methods to the green revolution, which has helped in increasing the crop yields. However, practices like monoculture cultivation, excess usage of chemical inputs, resource scarcity, etc, have led to bad outcomes like barren soil, water loss, and many other problems. The farmers are still facing troubles and getting low incomes, debt hikes, inadequate market support, and

numerous other reasons, which have been causes of agrarian distress and farmer suicides.

There have always been talks about the acts and rules governing Indian agriculture. Although the government has enacted various laws and schemes to help farmers, including the APMC Act and PM-Kisan Plan, most of these initiatives have failed to provide sustainable and effective solutions. To ensure the viability and stable growth of the industry, there is a need to reform

the laws and policies to address the long-standing issues in the industry. The research paper focuses on analyzing the reasons for the decline of Indian agriculture from a policy and legal viewpoint, understanding the major issues, understanding existing laws, and providing possible reforms that can help in bringing back the agriculture sector. The research paper will concentrate on the possible steps that can be taken by India to revive the agriculture sector and to increase the productivity and ensure that farmers practice sustainability.

**Historical Background-** According to the shards of evidence, Indian agriculture was found to have existed in the North-west Indian subcontinent since the Neolithic period (8000-6000 BCE), which indicated the cultivation of plants, crops, and animals. India was among the largest producers of foodgrains.<sup>27</sup> We even traded in agricultural produce, and Indian products would be sent to other countries through established trade routes. During the Mughal Empire period, the agricultural sector had grown, and productivity was high.

**Impact of Colonial Policies-** The policies brought in by the British greatly affected Indian agriculture. The British forced on developing and converting the agricultural industry into a profit-driven industry, so only cash crops would be grown. The British grew many crops for export instead of consumption. They emphasized producing cash crops such as tea, cotton, sugarcane, jute, and Indigo. The two major cash crops that were cultivated on a large scale were sugar and cotton.<sup>28</sup> The policies made by the British Government made most of the farmers landless, farmers lost their lands as a result of numerous taxes being imposed, indebtedness, and hence they could not cultivate traditional crops. This had affected the livelihoods and numerous small farmers experienced a decrease in their incomes, and this eventually resulted in them falling into debt

and poverty. The permanent settlement (zamindari system), Ryotwari system, and Mahalwari system altered the conventional land ownership system, and this pushed small-scale farmers into heavy taxation, indebtedness, and landlessness. This pushed most of the farmers into poverty. The British were simply focusing on making profits and strengthening their economy, and had not invested money in the development of rural infrastructure.

Land fragmentation and small landholdings – Owing to the generational breaks and inheritance rules, land under cultivation has fragmented, leading to lowered farm productivity and economic inefficiency. The primary causes of land fragmentation are, first, the tradition of dividing the lands among the heirs in India, which leads to fragmented and unprofitable plots, and farm lands were too small to support sustainable farming. Secondly, small farmers are more stressed due to the mounting division of available land caused by the rise of the rural population. As compared to other rich nations, India has been unable to implement land consolidation proposals, and many farmers have been left with land in inefficiently small holdings. It is difficult to establish a correct value for the land that needs to be consolidated together which is a hindrance for bringing the small farm lands together. Space constraints are firstly the problem of small land holdings, and small farms struggle to implement modern methods of farming. At the time of independence of India, the agricultural industry was facing a critical downfall, characterized by food scarcity, reduction in land, soil degradation, poverty in rural areas, and many other issues. This created an urgent need to initiate primary reforms after independence in order to restore the agricultural industry. One of the first steps taken in the legal framework existing at that time was to abolish the Zamindari system by introducing the Zamindari Abolition Act in 1950. The zamindari system was also known by different terms, such as jagirdari, malguzari, and were middlemen who were the controllers of lands

27 K.S.S Seshan, Dipankar Prakash Rai, Certificate History and Civics (published in 2021, Oswal)

28 K.S.S Seshan, Dipankar Prakash Rai, Certificate History and Civics (published in 2021, Oswal)

and farmers. The zamindari system was removed by making changes to the right to property under articles 19 and 31 of the Constitution of India<sup>29</sup>. This act allowed the government to take over about 172 million acres of land, which were comprising of estates of middlemen, and also all forests, mines, minerals, waterbodies, etc. The zamindars challenged this change and hence were allowed to retain land for their personal cultivation by paying land revenue to the government. This decision to let the zamindars retain their land resulted in a reduction in the efficiency of this act. After the introduction of the abolition of the Zamindari Act, bonded labour was prohibited and penalized.

The first 5-year plan was introduced by the government in the year 1951. This plan emphasized on managing the available resources to the best and tackling the problem of scarcity of resources in India. The land ceiling laws were an idea that was proposed in the first five-year plan. These laws were introduced with the intention of applying a limit on the total land area held by a person or persons. There were many benefits to the introduction of these laws, and every state had its own framework and regulations, which were implemented and followed. One of the primary benefits was that the government took extra land from large landowners and gave it to small farmers and farmers who had no land, and this had a positive effect on the lives of small farmers. The cons of these laws were that they created many small land holdings, which were insufficient and not economically viable. Another primary con was that many lands were being sold to family members just to escape from these laws.

APMC- In India, the agricultural market is governed by the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) laws. The APMC Act was introduced in 1972. The state governments created APMCs with the idea of making sure that there is a fair market for the agricultural

produce. The APMCs provide a license for buyers, agents, and private markets, and in this way, the trade is regulated. They provide space and facilities for setting up markets for the farmers. As per the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2018-2019), the APMC laws were not effective and needed changes. Some of the issues found by the committee were unnecessary commission charges and fees. There was a lack of competition as new market players were not allowed to enter easily into the markets.

Problems in Pricing systems and Market- A farmer's income and overall growth depends on the farm prices and market conditions. The MSP, or Minimum Support Price, serves as a guidance to the farmers as it guarantees that a minimum amount of money will be given for their produce in agriculture. The MSP price covers only 23 crops as listed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP).<sup>30</sup> The Food Corporation of India is the primary agency that is responsible for obtaining the produce from the farmers. But due to unavailability, lack of awareness, and issues in procurement, most farmers do not get any sort of benefit from alternate crops that are not required under the MSP pricing system. When the government stated that MSP is calculated on the basis of full cost and not on actual paid out cost along with the family labour, the actual cultivation cost is not properly shown and due to this many farmers are selling their products at a lower price than it is worth which is ultimately leading to losses and debts. One of the drawbacks of MSP is that there is no legitimate backing for the prices, and also, there is no law that requires these prices to be implemented. Due to this, the government is not obligated to pay MSP.

Environmental and Water laws- One of the greatest threats to Indian agriculture is climate change. Climate change does affect crop yields, water supply, and total agricultural output. Any alteration in the rainfall trend has a

29 Ishika Sareen, Sanchit Malik, "Abolition of Zamindari system in India: A legal analysis", 2021, pg. 3434- 3441.

30 T. Haque and P.K. Joshi, "Price Deficiency payments and Minimum Support Prices: A study of selected crops in India", 2018, pg-53-60.

significant effect on Indian agriculture, as farming is reliant on the monsoon. While that is going on, irrigation problems continue to lower the agricultural productivity, which makes the industry more susceptible to climate change.

Severe heat in growth periods has been contributing to a reduction in rice and wheat yields. According to the reports, the government is estimating a reduction in rice yield by 20% by 2050, and the situation will deteriorate further by 2080 if precautionary steps are not taken at an early stage (Mint newspaper).<sup>31</sup>

Secondly, warmer temperatures lead to increased evaporation of water, making irrigation an issue. Hailstorms, cyclones, and unseasonal rains spoil the crops and disrupt farms. The yields are also reduced because of the rise in insect attacks, which is a result of climate change.<sup>32</sup> In India, over 60% of irrigation is based on groundwater extraction, and this depletes water tables at a fast rate<sup>33</sup>. India has a vast network of canals, but its effectiveness is hindered by inefficiency, water theft, and poor maintenance.

India wastes water because several farmers continue to implement flood irrigation. Though drip and sprinkler irrigation are efficient methods, they are not utilized due to their high costs and people's lack of information regarding such irrigation methods. There are some measures that have been taken recently, including raising the application of sprinklers and drip irrigation to enhance efficiency and conserve water. Traditional water-saving techniques like farm ponds and check dams have been revived. There is a need to cultivate agricultural crops that are heat and drought-resistant, and to practice mixed farming and agroforestry.

The Environment Protection Act was introduced in 1986 and is an elaborate framework that deals with environmental protection and also the improvement of the environment, including the agricultural sector. The act allows the central government to formulate strategies to improve the quality of the environment, which includes air, water, and soil. The government regulates the use of harmful chemicals in the form of pesticides, fertilizers, etc, in the agriculture sector. The act also allows the government to regulate pollution and ensure that any waste from the farms does not contribute to pollution, which refers to air, water, and soil. This act has a negative impact on the agricultural sector as the farmers are obligated to follow the environmental regulations, which forces them to buy new pieces of equipment and alter their farming ways to ensure that their farmlands do not contribute to the pollution. Due to this, the incomes of the farmers also take a backseat and make it difficult for them to do sustainable farming. 2020 Controversial Farm Laws and repeal- There were three farm laws passed by the government in 2020, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essentials Commodities (Amendment) Act<sup>34</sup> which aimed at opening up the agricultural market. According to these laws, farmers were permitted to sell outside the APMC mandis, encouraged the implementation of contract farming. Although these laws were intended to open up market access, issues related to exploitation by private companies, MSP Loss, and deregulation resulted in mass protests. Following the continuous strong demonstrations, these laws were repealed in 2021, which essentially highlighted the need for consultation with the farmers and participation of farmers in the policymaking process. The Indian agricultural policy has evolved to meet the needs of the economy and the farmers.

31 Dharendra Kumar, "Govt study predicts significant decline in yields of rice, wheat and maize by 2080 due to climate change", (India, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2024)

32 Sandra Skendzic, Monica Zovko, Ivana Pajac Zivkovic, Vinko Lesic, Darija Lemic, "The Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural insect pests", (2021), pg-440.

33 Rajni Jain, Prabhat Kishore, Dharendra Kumar, "Irrigation In India: Status, challenges and options", (2019), Vol 18 issue 4, pg-354-363.

34 Amit Kumar, Amaresh Jha, "Repeal of Farm laws and end of Farmers protest", (2022), Vol. 6, No S1, pg-2539-2552.

Even though series of reforms have had their benefits, their impact has been limited by implementation challenges, regional inequalities, and the absence of proper planning. Policies that are farmer-oriented, open, and ecologically sustainable will be needed in the future in order for the agricultural sector to become more profitable and sustainable.

**Compensation Laws-** The government of India had introduced a scheme named as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in the year 2016 under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.<sup>35</sup> The scheme is meant to provide insurance to the farmers in case of any kind of damage or loss of crops due to nature's act. The scheme can only provide insurance on crops where the information is available. However, this scheme has several limitations, and some of them are that in certain states, the prices of subsidies are high and beyond the gross premium, which has ultimately put state budgets under stress. The claims are settled late because of not being able to fetch the correct yield records and the particular farmer's details. There are no proper guidelines for assessing the crops and the damage. There is also an issue of awareness, and many farmers not having knowledge about the scheme and its functioning, which can make it difficult for farmers to reap the benefits out of it.

**Challenges in Legal Help in Agricultural sector-** India has established a proper framework for legal help however the rural population of India which includes the farmers are unable to avail of legal help as there is limited knowledge regarding the laws. Majority of the rural population have a hindrance of language and literacy in understanding laws related to agriculture. Although legal aid is available there are no insufficient laws which address agricultural issues regarding land disputes, farm loans, tenancy disputes etc. There is also an urgent need for better qualified and trained

lawyers who are ready to give free legal services to small farmers. The existing legal framework consists of various intermediaries and authorities which complicate and lengthen the process and this makes it difficult for farmers to seek legal help. The existing laws are not effectively implemented. The possible steps that can be taken towards mitigating these challenges include creating awareness among the farmers with the help of NGOs and providing information through various channels like media, village panchayats etc. There should be easy access to legal aid clinics in rural areas. Law colleges as well as law firms should be encouraged to offer assistance free of cost to the farmers. The government should consciously increase the funding to help with improving the infrastructure and providing better resources for legal help.

**Agricultural Decline Impact-** The decline in Indian agriculture has impacted the farming community and the economy of the country. Direct and indirect employment, agriculture, the backbone of rural India, feeds a considerable segment of the population. The stagnation and structural issues of the sector have also had a great impact. The rise in rural unemployment is one of the most immediate consequences of agricultural decline. Farmers and agricultural workers are forced to seek alternative sources of income as agriculture becomes non-profitable. Due to the absence of non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas, there is a surge in migration towards urban areas, often in search of low-paid, insecure work in the unorganised or construction sectors mostly. Apart from changing the rural family composition, the distress migration leads to crowding and increases pressure on cities in the form of increased need for urban services, housing, and infrastructure.

Without any social safety net, current migrants are generally staying in below-standard conditions and are being exploited. Most farmers are now dependent on credit, often in the form of illegal moneylenders, due to declining farm output and uncertain incomes. A

<sup>35</sup> Vikas Kumar, Meena Rani, "Assessing the Performance of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in India", (2023), Vol 8 Issue 2, pg-27-32.

vast majority of small farmers cannot repay the loans due to high pricing and increasing input costs, leading to a debt trap. This financial hardship has contributed to the farmer's mental pain and despair, and has ultimately led to many farmers' giving up their lives and which is a sad indicator of Indian rural distress. National food security is also being affected by India's declining agricultural performance. There is worry with feeding the increasing number of people amid the decline in foodgrain production.

Most of the farmers these days are planting only cash crops instead of traditional food staple crops due to the increased levels of cost involved in agriculture. Shortages and price hikes of food can be the outcome of this shift, especially for poorer families. India's rural-urban economic gap has increased due to the stagnation in the agricultural economy. The rural people still depend on agriculture and allied industries even though services and industries have developed faster in urban areas. The potential for inclusive growth is ignored by this imbalance, which increases social and economic inequality. Most farmers have turned to non-sustainable methods such as overexploitation of groundwater and chemical fertilizer application in order to sustain production. These have led to long-term ecological imbalance, water shortages, and land degradation. Agriculture itself is facing threats to its sustainability due to the decline in environmental knowledge and sustainable agriculture.

India is slowly losing its diversified farm practices, which are closely related with local cultures and traditions. The indigenous knowledge, diversity of seeds, and sustainable practices are being lost as the new generations are drifting away from cultivating agriculture as it becomes a less feasible industry.

Indian Government Policies and Reforms in the Agricultural Sector - The Indian government has made significant contributions to the country's agricultural sector through institutional reforms,

regulations, and subsidies. Several programs had been implemented to help farmers, improve farming practices, and ensure guaranteed market access. Agriculture is a highly important sector in rural employment, food security, and economic stability. Nevertheless, because of geographical variations and implementation challenges, the effectiveness of these interventions has been sporadic. The programs that were implemented are as follows-

- Green revolution and institutional assistance- The 1960s Green Revolution was the initial program that was implemented in the agricultural sector<sup>36</sup>. With an objective to improve agricultural production and reach self-reliance, the program allowed the use of chemical fertilizers, irrigation facilities, and hybrid varieties of seeds. There has been a progressive transformation in some of the states, such as Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, because of the program, yet the benefits had not accrued equally, and large-scale employment of inputs is interfering with the fertility of and eroding soil along with water deficits. The government also established institutions to develop and organize the agricultural sector, like the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which was formed for the distribution and procurement of the products. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development was formed to supply rural credit, and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research assists in carrying out research and innovation.

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana(PMKSJ)- This was a government-initiated program that was launched in 2015, and its key objective is to raise "more crop per drop" by improving the irrigation coverage and encouraging water efficiency. There are many delayed PMKSJ projects, limited awareness among small farmers and the high cost of micro-irrigation systems keep their use and implementation low.

<sup>36</sup> Kathryn Sebbly, "The Green Revolution of the 1960s and its Impact on Small Farmers in India", (2010), pg-1 to 25.

• PM-KISAN( Direct Income Support)<sup>37</sup>- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi was launched in the year 2019 and gives small farmers a sum of Rupees 6000 in a year in three installments. The primary objective of this direct cash transfer scheme is to essentially give money to the farmers without having middlemen. There are those critics who have criticized this program, have said that certain farmers are left out of this program because of registration issues, old records of land, or ignorance of the program. The sum provided is deemed to be insufficient because of the increased prices of farm inputs, irrigation, and units of equipment. This has still placed the farmers in jeopardy of debts and financial charges.

• Agricultural Infrastructure Fund- The Agricultural Infrastructure Fund is a financial strategy that was established into being in 2020 with the aim of supporting the development of post-harvest management like the processing facilities, warehouses, and cold storage. This fund was created to increase the value chain and reduce the post-harvest losses. The implementation of this scheme has been slow due to complex procedures.

• Electronic National Agriculture Market( E-NAM)<sup>38</sup>- The E-NAM is an online exchange portal that has been established in order to bring APMC Mandis online and establish a single national market for farm produce. It aims to bring about a clear and fair price for the farmers and the traders. It aims at using digital platforms for the payments . However, the usage of this portal is still low, especially among small farmers who have limited access to digital technology and computer systems.

Agricultural Policies in Other Nations:  
Comparative Analysis

The United States of America- Farm Bills and Mechanisms of Subsidies- The US Farm Bill <sup>39</sup>is a complex framework of legislation that governs the federal programs for food and agriculture every five years. It includes direct payments and crop insurance subsidies, conservation programs, promotion of agricultural innovation and research, and the implementation of nutritional programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The extensive application of crop insurance and technology to safeguard farmers against unpredictable markets or climate change is a strength of the U.S. Model. The U.S. Department of Agriculture spends heavily on agriculture research and innovation.

Comparison with India- There are few, scattered crop insurance schemes such as the PMFBY (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana), and their implementation and settlement of claims are weak. India repeatedly depends on unplanned relief initiatives and random introduction of loans, but the United States has institutionalized and does it in terms of long-term planning.

European Union- Common Agricultural Policy is a significant policy that has been developed by the European Union and is also ranked as one of the costliest policies, since it takes up 30% of the European Union budget. The overall objectives of this policy are to be in a position to ensure farmers have a guaranteed income, to promote ecologically friendly behaviour, to enhance rural development, promote animal welfare, and still sustain the hygienic level of food quality and production. The policy assists in ensuring that the farmers receive direct financial support, as well as pay attention to maintaining biodiversity. The policy also facilitates innovation within the agricultural sector.

Comparison with India- India had also implemented a similar scheme, the PM-KISAN scheme, which was responsible for providing direct money to farmers, but the scheme was

37 Nishali Balasingh, "A study on Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi", (2023) pg- 1 to 11.

38 Prasanta Kumar Swain, Chubamenla Jamir, Michael Dinerstein, Sapna Narula, "Impact of Development of National Agriculture Market(E-NAM) on Farmers", (2022), Vol 92(12), pg- 1484 to 1489.

39 Nadine Lehrer, "US Farm Bills and the national interest: An historical research paper", (2018), Vol 35(4), pg- 1-9.

significantly implemented on a smaller scale and not based on protecting the environment. The agricultural policies of the country are not as well-connected as the EU policies.

There needs to be uniformity in the policies, and the implementation should be effective. The key takeaways India can implement in its Policies- India must implement and follow a strong policy system and develop it in terms of future aspects. India must also adopt and implement elaborate and well-structured insurance policies, and must also increase their coverage. Policies that are developed must be based on sustainability and conservation of biodiversity. The agricultural infrastructure must be upgraded, and the market must be made easily accessible to all farmers. Fragmented landholdings must be resolved through a cooperative framework.

Potential Solutions available for India- To rejuvenate the Indian Agriculture and ensure its long-term sustainability, a multiple aspect strategy must be adopted. First and foremost, there is an urgent need to reduce land fragmentation, and land consolidation and reforms need to be encouraged. Small farms can be in a better position by connecting with markets and getting resources through models of cooperative farming. Secondly, different sources of revenue should be created, such as the interrelated industries like agro-processing, dairy, and fishing. The Farm-to-market needs to be developed, and after-harvest losses need to be decreased through investment in rural infrastructure, including cold chains, warehouses, and rural roads. Thirdly, there is a need to concentrate on climate-resilient activities. This would include the improvement in crop diversity, promotion of organic agriculture, incorporation of water-saving strategies, and taking up insurance schemes that will prove to be effective practically. It is also crucial to improve the agricultural education and extension services so that farmers can effectively take up and implement modern technology and sustainable strategies. Lastly, the policymaking process must be open,

accessible, and inclusive, including farmers, local government authorities, and civil society. Wherever the farmers are practicing and on any size of land, the government should make an effort to invest to in trust, openness, and accessibility in its agricultural programs and ensure all farmers have the necessary legal protection and safety concerning their rights and interests. Farmers need proper training with respect to the latest techniques, technologies used for having a better yield. Lack of training can make farmers victims of pest infestation and diseases, which will result in a poor output and thus affect their income. Many farmers in India are unaware of the latest schemes introduced by the government with regard to agriculture, and thus, the government should undertake the task of spreading awareness and knowledge about the latest schemes and make them easily accessible for them. Research and Development plays a crucial role in the agricultural sector, and the government needs to increase its spending in this field. Hence, these are some of the possible solutions that can be adopted and implemented by the governments.

Conclusion- India's agricultural failure is the outcome of several reasons, including market inefficiencies, environmental concerns, government failure, and past neglect. Agriculture has lost its significance in national GDP and policy objectives. However, it is the backbone of the Indian economy and the primary source of livelihood for a considerable segment of people. Though the complexity is there, the issues can be controlled and solved. Along with offering means of livelihoods, Indian farming can be made more vibrant in order to define the benchmark of a more equitable and sustainable rural economy through participatory reforms, responsible policies, and a human-centred orientation.

There is an absence of an integrated law which would be dealing with the agricultural sector, and this has created a gap in the legal system, and every place has a different set of rules and regulations governing the agricultural sector.

The government had introduced the land ceiling laws to improve the land holding system and ensure there is correct ownership over the lands; however, these laws were not effectively implemented and did not work favourably. No legal guarantee or support is being provided to farmers with respect to their produce and interests, although there have been acts introduced such as the APMC act, but the act has never worked favourably and in the interests of the farmers. Thus, there is an urgent need to address and provide them with the necessary protection, which will ultimately help in the growth of the sector. The three farm laws that were introduced in 2020 ultimately got repealed, and this itself shows that there is a lack of faith in the government from the farming communities, and there is a need to maintain fairness and transparency in the laws that are established.

The laws that were introduced to govern compensation, provide insurance against crops, give financial support, and ensure environmental stability were all insufficient and need to be changed and made agricultural-centric. The agricultural sector was more affected due to the existence of fragmented landholdings, fewer irrigation sources, climate change, and the lack of awareness and knowledge about laws among the farmers. The judiciary has been under the burden of resolving the cases for quite some time, and thus, there is a delay in providing justice and completing the legal processes in time.

Henceforth, the legal system should be changed and empowered to bring back the agricultural sector in the country. There is a need to create elaborate and simple laws that should be focusing on providing legal support, transparent price systems, and environmental sustainability in a way that could be practiced by the farmers too. There must be uniform legal rights to be introduced, especially for small and weak farmers. The legal system should also incorporate digital technology to make the agricultural sector more developed and rich. Therefore, the development and growth of

agriculture should be seen as a significant issue and be resolved with a systematic and legally sound approach.

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