



RECENT TECHNOLOGIES FOR IMPROVING FARMERS INCOME

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To boost the agriculture sector, the Indian Government has set up the target to double the farmers' incomes by 2022. For this the Government is promoting schemes for irrigation, soil quality management, organic farming, crop insurance, co-operative farming, crop rotation, agriculture allied sectors etc.

Technological promotion in agriculture is playing a major role in increasing farmers income. It not only saves time and money of farmers but also keeps them up to date of recent market changes. With the help of technology new drought resistant crops are introduced which can survive in harsh weather conditions. Technology improvement in agriculture sector has helped farmers through a direct link with the market. Introduction of e-haats is connecting farmers directly to the consumers by removing mediators who buy low from farmers and sell at high prices to consumers. Technology has made farming similar to other businesses. Technology improvement is helpful for farmers in the following ways –

- **Farm machinery** – For cultivation of crops, farmers can use tractor and other harvesting technology. This saves farmers time and energy by making farming easy.
- **Advanced transportation** – With advanced transportation, farmers are now able to sell their farm produce in time to the market. Not only national but international consumers can also consume fresh farm products in time with modern transportation facilities.
- **Cold Storages Facilities** – Cold storage technology facility for farmers help in keeping perishable agricultural commodities fresh for many days. This technology helps farmer in the period of bumper crops due to which prices of crops in the market becomes low. Thus providing farmers an economic security.
- **Warehouse facilities** – This technology helps farmers to keep their perishable crops fresh on the way while delivering them to the market. This facilities are used in the food transportation trucks so that perishable farm commodities could be provided fresh to the consumers.

- **Genetically modified plants** – These plants are resistant to pests and diseases. Plants grow in less time in a healthy way, requiring lesser use of pesticides and insecticides by saving farmer economic resources. Farmers get better yields in less time.
- **Irrigation facilities** – As underground water level is going down day by day, conservation of water is a necessity of today. Advanced sprinkle irrigation and drip irrigation helps to irrigate large farms by providing necessary water to the crops which is required for their development.
- **Agriculture mobile app** – Agriculture app provides link to all agriculture related information. the horticulture app, animal husbandry app, crop specific app etc. assist farmers in agriculture and allied activities. Farmers can now directly buy farm inputs through the help of technology.
- Through digital India strategy, the common service centres are providing various electronic services to villages, promoting digital financial inclusion, encouraging rural entrepreneurship and promoting farmers capacities and livelihoods, applying a bottom-up approach to strengthen them socially and economically.
- An electronic National Agricultural Market (eNAM) integrates farmers from agricultural markets online. This keeps farmers up to-date about agriculture produce market related information thus helping farmers bid for the best price across market. Many Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC's) are connected to e NAM in March, 2018. This will provide farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchases.
- Higher MSPs and up gradation of rural hats are helpful for farmers in terms of better access to formal mandis.

Farmers can increase their income by adopting technologies like crop rotation, integrated farming, organic farming, multiple cropping systems instead of following traditional farming methods. Use of latest technology in fields is helpful in maximizing farm output and in it turns farmer income and his living condition. Increased internet connectivity to access information and knowledge can improve farm productivity. Farmers could access, information regarding weather, rainfall, market demand etc. allowing them to grow and harvest on field more efficiently. Mobiles could also connect farmers directly to market to negotiate for better prices. In spite of many developments, agriculture is not much developed as compared to industrial sector. Strong digital infrastructure and innovations in agriculture is

required to modernize farming, farm productivity and farmers income. Inclusive growth can only be achieved through promoting rural and farm economy.

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