

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings!

India is principally an agro-based country. Agriculture, with its allied sectors, is unquestionably the largest livelihood provider in India. Most of the industries also depend upon this sector for their raw materials. Steady investments in technology development, irrigation infrastructure, emphasis on modern agricultural practices and provision of agricultural credit and subsidies are the major factors contributed to agricultural growth in India.

Indian agriculture has undergone a rapid transformation in the past two decades. The policy of globalisation and liberalisation has opened up new avenues for agricultural modernisation. This has not only led to commercialisation and diversification, but also triggered various technological and institutional innovations owing to investments from corporate entities.

More and more of prime agricultural land is getting diverted to non-agricultural uses in India due to huge demand of industrial and infrastructural development. Sometime, due to huge loss the farmers are selling their agricultural land at good prices to the industrialists and promoters. If it is continued for a long time then supply of food grain will face a real threat.

Though there is a positive growth of output and productivity in the agricultural sector but it is not enough for the growing population in India. There is a huge difference between population growth rate and the growth rate of production of all principal crops. As per record in India the population growth from 2001 to 2011 was 17.64 % where as growth rate of Principle crops was only 2.76% only during this period.



On the other hand average life expectancy in India has climbed to 65.5 years in 2011 from 42.3 years in 1960 which leads to excess demand of food intake and would also cause food crisis in near future if production cannot be increased substantially.

During the last few decades the availability of food grains remained more or less stagnant. Per day net availability of cereals and pulses in 2011 to an Indian for cooking, comes out to be 453.6 grams. The level of per capita net availability of food grains per day is lower than the minimum

nutrition requirements of 594 grams per day, as specified by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

CMAAs can provide their professional knowledge in agriculture sector in the following cases:

- Raising agricultural productivity per unit of land
- Minimizing inputs costs
- Subsidy management
- R & D cost analysis
- Resource mapping
- Price setting
- Marketing Strategy building
- Supply Chain management

This issue presents a good number of articles on the cover story theme 'Agriculture and the Indian Economy' by distinguished experts and authors. We look forward to constructive feedback from our readers on the articles and overall development of the journal under this section. Please send your mails at editor@icmai.in. We thank all the contributors to this important issue and hope our readers enjoy the articles.