**How to Deal with Adverse External Conditions that Reduce the Success of Agriculture**

This topic has received insufficient attention in spite of its critical importance. It arises from the tendency of most promoters of agriculture to work exclusively within their field and the reluctance of those engaged in other relevant areas to coordinate their undertakings with the former. However, a way forward can be found, if everybody is willing and able to appreciate two basic facts and allow them to direct their activities.

• Regardless of their extent, plans/projects to promote agriculture ought to constitute an integral part of the national agriculture policy. This unity of purpose is essential in order to ensure their meaningfulness, for the goal of an agriculture policy is to achieve sustainable and adequate nutrition of a country. Such an integration will prevent local plans/projects from either being redundant or being at cross purposes with each other. How this internal harmony of an agriculture policy at different levels of its implementation may be achieved will be taken up below.

• For the sake of brevity, the technical reasons for deprecating the use of term ‘coherence’ in this context will not be given here. Rather, intra-policy harmony will be used in its place. Its lack arises from various policies aiming to achieve individual goals in isolation instead of understanding the basic fact that what they pursue is subordinate to a higher goal i.e., the collective well-being of a nation.

Consider now, industrial policy. The general consensus is that ‘development calls for industrialisation,’ hence, if that process is successfully completed, then, the country is developed and that is the end of it. The questions like, how many people will become jobless by it, what environmental damage it would do, how much arable land was lost owing to it, are seldom considered or discussed. These unsavoury consequences can be seen very clearly around what are described as ‘economic miracle’ cities in many countries.

It will be clear from the foregoing that such lack of foresight in policy design will have an adverse effect on agricultural pursuits of every extent. Some of those are listed below:

• Migration of farm workers and small farmers from agricultural rural areas to cities resulting in a man-power shortage for food production.

• A sudden increase in food demand in cities.

• Loss of arable land.

• Loss of ecosystem services due to environmental degradation resulting in lower yields.

How the requisite intra- and intra-policy harmonies may be achieved requires extensive work in the following areas:

• Convince the national authorities that the purpose of their policies is to promote and advance the well-being of the people as a whole. Each of their policies ought to contribute to one component of their lives required for that purpose. For example, adequate and balanced nutrition is one such component.

• None of those components cannot be successfully met in isolation, for satisfying the needs the other components imply, may act against the success in meeting some other component has it has been described above.

• Therefore, it is essential that the designers of policies and their implementation coordinate their endeavours as closely as possible in order to avoid intra- and inter-policy disharmony.

• This calls for a coordinated holistic action within and among all policy domain.

• Honest and vigilant efforts to avoid intra-departmental revelry, Reductive methodology (redundantly called ‘thinking in silos’), vociferous advocacy of goals dictated by personal interests, etc.

• Enhancement of competence in coordinated and harmonious policy and implementation design.

It may seem a daunting task to achieve the foregoing objectives, but it seems to be the only possible way forward. It is hoped that the following link may prove useful and serve as a model; as it is a generic one, it would be easy to substitute any policy domain to suit one’s particular purpose.

<https://www.slideshare.net/ExternalEvents/a-generic-policy-and-implementation-model-to-address-soil-erosion>

Best wishes!

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