



## Current Requirements of Indian Agriculture

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India is one of the world's leading producer of agricultural commodities in the world. Whether we look at Cereals, Pulses, Oil seeds, Fruits, Vegetables etc India is either highest producer in the world or among top 5 or top 10 producers in the world. India requires such high production of Agricultural commodities because India is second most populated country after China in the world. Although China has controlled its population growth to a great extent but in India Population of the country is increasing at a very fast rate. currently Indian population is believed to be around 1.28 Billion but correct population figure will be available in the year 2021 when Population Census will take place. But to feed such a higher population we have to take some necessary steps such as;

### Increasing Productivity of Agricultural Commodities

India has very high production, but our productivity is very low when compared to global leaders. In most of commodities our productivity is lower than World's Average. Although we are currently self-sufficient in our food requirements, but this may not be true in near future as population is increasing but our land resources are fixed and there is very little or no scope for further expansion instead of which, our Agricultural land is decreasing due to establishment of Industries, expansion of towns and cities and building of homes and other infrastructures. So, in order to prevent situation of food scarcity similar to Pre-Green Revolution Era in the country Productivity has to be increased.

### Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses

Post - Harvest losses are inevitable and can't be stopped but various steps can be taken to reduce them. Post - harvest losses takes place in all the commodities but they are very high in Horticulture Commodities. Almost 30-40% of fruits and vegetables are lost every year. India wastes fruits and vegetables every year equivalent to the annual consumption of the United Kingdom. there is no point of increasing Production if we are destroying so much of our produce. Instead of which if we reduce our current losses far

more products will be available to the common people. So, in order to prevent Post Harvest losses various steps must be taken like increase in mechanisation in Agriculture, better transportation, Better storage structures etc. Reduced losses mean more availability of Food commodities to people which will result in lowering in prices of them which will lead to availability of them to poor section of the society. ultimately food and nutrition security may be achieved.

### More emphasis on Agro processing industries

Reduction of post - harvest losses is beneficial in case of most of Field crops but in case of Fruits and Vegetables, it is not sufficient as production of Fruits and vegetables is higher than Export and domestic consumption of the country and also they are highly perishable in nature. So, we have to look some other methods to preserve them. for that purpose, role of Agro processing Industry become very important. in most of developed countries almost 50-60% fruits and vegetables are processed and, in some countries, it increases to almost 80%. But in India only 2-4% fruits and vegetables are processed. So, Processing of Agricultural and Horticultural commodities must be increased in order to prolong their shelf life.

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