

Session 1: Agri Startups Potential and National Outlook

Art and Science of Innovating in Agri Value Chain

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Agri Startup Ecosystem is evolving. Get up fast! ...

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Order of Presentation

- **1. Brief Historical Account of Agriculture**
- 2. Commentary on Agri-business and Startups
- **3. Current Govt Initiatives in present context**

Prologue

Scientists are responsible for the foreseeable consequences of their research whether good or bad

Opinion: The Dark Side of Science; The Scientist November 16, 2011

AGRICULTURE IS THE SOURCE OF PERPETUAL CREATION ON WHICH CIVILIZATION DEPENDS. --- M. S. Randhawa



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Images : @yahoo Images on-line

Despite many accomplishments of humankind, we owe our existence to a six-inch layer of top soil and the fact that it rains --- Confucius (551-479 BC)

OXFORD INDIA PAPERBACKS

IRFAN HABIB





The Agrarian System of Mughal India 1556–1707 SECOND • REVISED • EDITION

Some take-home messages from history

- 1. MAN CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT BREAD, but he does not live by bread alone
 - More people have died for the sake of their faith and ideas than for bread

2. POLITICAL HISTORY CAN'T BE IGNORED IN A HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE

 There were broad-minded rulers with sympathy for the tillers of the soil; their economy improved and people were happy.

3. INTERDEPENDENCE FOR AGRICULTURE IS A MUST

- Indians domesticated 2 dozen odd crops and British and Moghuls introduced many new vegetable and fruit crops that are integral now
- M. S. Randhawa (1980) A History of Agriculture in India

MECHANIZATION & STORAGE

WATER: A Befitting Tribute

Tractor cultivation in U.P. and Panjab: 1914: **S. Jogendra Singh**



Gola or Gol Ghar for Grains

a domed **granary** built in Patna by **Captain John Garstin**, in 1786 at the order of Warren Hastings, later the first Governor-General of India; following severe drought and acute famine from 1770 to 1780.

Lift Irrigation for irrigating the highlying lands in Panjab: Sir Ganga Ram



At Pentapadu in West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, on 15th May, farmers adorn the statue of **Sir Arthur Cotton** (who conceived and executed the schemes of Cauvery, the Godavari and the Krishna deltas 160 years hence) with a garland of paddy panicles. —Photo: A.V.G. Prasad



Agriculture History



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Domestication

Intensification

- : Era of Settlement
- : Era of Renaissance
- : Era of Green Revolution
- Diversification
- Value Addition
- : Contemporary Era : Recent Era/Modern Biotech Era

Drivers of Agri Intensification & Development

INNOVATION

- Discovery and Development/ Adoption/ Diffusion TECHNOLOGY
- Empirical/ Conventional / Industrial / Genetic Modification / Sensors and Robotics INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
- Pre Uruguay Round / Post WTO

Patented Technology that Revolutionized Agriculture through commercial realm in USA and Europe

INVENTION	INVENTOR	YEAR
Seed Dril (Horse drawn)	Jethro Tull	1701
For sowing in Rows		
Spinning Jenny	James Hargreaves	1770
Cotton Gin	Eli Whitney	1793/1807
Reaper	Cyrus McCormick	1831
Barbed Wire	Joseph Glidden	1873
Peanut Agricultural Science For digging & cleaning of soil	George Washington Carver	1896

EXCLUSIVE USE OF SUCH TECHNOLOGY LED TO SOCIETAL BENEFITS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Generic Technology also led to Revolution in Agriculture through Public Good push in DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Semi-dwarf varieties of wheat and rice brought green revolution
- Hybrids in maize, pearlmillet, vegetables brought radical increases in production
- Hybrid rice development in China brought in yet another way rice crop can out-yield itself
- LED TO MANY AWARDS AND REWARDS, AND OF COURSE SOCIETAL BENEFITS BUT NOT AS MUCH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 Nobel Peace Prize; World Food Prizes, etc.

Innovations in agri-production realm since domestication

1. SEED CULTURES

- Cultivation of GRAINS & VEGETABLES; FRUIT crops came much later
- 2. IRRIGATION
- 3. TILLAGE SYSTEM
 - Domestication of Animals
- 4. SELECTION OF VARIETIES
- 5. CROPPING SEASONS wet and dry seasons; Intensive cropping
 - Vegetables and Paddy in lowlands
- 6. ADDRESSING PEST PROBLEMS; weeds, diseases, insect pests
- 7. POST-HARVEST processing and storage
- 8. FISHING AND AQUACULTURE
 - Early fisherman probably practiced first agriculture

Enterprising in agriculture has vast scope

Primary products	Grains ; Fruits & Vegetables ; Mushrooms ; Condiments & Spices ; Flowers & Ornamentals ; Fodder
Industrial Derivatives	Oils, Cake & Meal ; Sugar, Tea, Coffee, Tobacco ; Fibre: Cotton, Jute, Coir ; Food products/Value added Food products ; Breakfast/ processed/ canned foods (Baby foods ; Aromatic oils ; Flavours) ; Feed Mix ; Nutraceuticals ; Plant based medicines
Agricultural inputs	Seeds & other Planting Material ; Farm Power & Machinery ; Tools & Implements ; Agril chemicals (Fertilizers, growth promoters, pesticides ; weedicides) ; Bio agents ; Hi-Tech nursery ; Sprinkler/ Drip irrigation equipment
Post Harvest Operations	Cold storage; Processing & Value addition Packaging, storage, transportation (secondary operations)
Agribusiness	Commodities, Goods and Services

Technology Push ⇔ Market Pull



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Innovate for win-win networking



⇒⇒ Startups ⇒ Companies ⇒ distributors ⇒ retailers ⇒ farmers ⇒⇒

25 most innovative ag-tech startups @ US\$ 40k mn - Forbes

- 1. AgCode
- 2. AGER point
- 3. Arvegenix
- 4. BluWrap
- 5. Bovecontrol
- 6. BrightFarms
- 7. Clear Labs
- 8. CropX
- 9. Farmer's Edge
- 10.Farmer's Business Network

Vineyard management Nut & Citrus orchard management Cash crop between corn & soybean Patented oxygen management technique extends shelf life of fresh protein Livestock manager using cloud technology Building and operating greenhouses Database of world's food supply retailers - suppliers – healthy food focus Cloud-based software & sensors to boost yield while saving water and energy Hardware + software + satellite imagery + precision tech to manage land variability open data support to small farms to let them compete with large operations

Forbes list of most innovative ag-tech startups – contd.



ARRAY OF AGRI-STARTUPS IN INDIA

~ US\$ 36mn invested in 15 startups in 2017



Stage of Technology to determine Commercialization Approach

- 2. Finished Product but no Interest shown by Industry ⇔ Start Up/ Scientist Entrepreneurship
- 3. Proof of Concept ⇔ Requires scaling up//Large Scale Field-Demonstration Trials/R&D
- Bench Scale Research Result ⇔ Requires Validation and Demonstration
- 5. Intermediary Product with known weakness/ facing known challenge <> Contract Research
- 6. REGULATORY CLEARANCE IS OBLIGATORY in all situations ⇔ Who would seek? ⇔ Licensor / Licensee

Technology Transfer: Gross Idea

- 1. GENERIC TECHNOLOGY ⇔ Agricultural Extension ⇔ Input Market
- 2. BRANDED TECHNOLOGY ⇔ Market Goodwill + Publicity ⇔ Open Market
- 3. SEED TECHNOLOGY (Generic/Truthfully Labeled) ⇔ Demonstration ⇔ Public Sector Sale Windows/ Seed Market
- 4. PATENTED/ IPR PROTECTED TECHNOLOGY ⇔ Production-Distribution/ Assignment/ Licensing [Identification/Validation/ Valuation/ Expression of Interest/ Licensing/ R&D/ Incubator/ Commercial Product/ Market Chain// License Fee/ Royalty]

Agro-IP and Tech Transfer (Gross Idea)



Realm of Law

- Company Formation Laws
- Business Finance Laws
- Tax and Accounting Laws
- Securities Laws
- Labour / Employment Laws
- Information Technology Laws
- Dispute Resolution
- Contract Law
- Tort Law
- Law of Unfair Competition

- Intellectual Property
 - **Rights Laws**
- Environment (Protection) Law
 - Includes Genetic Engineering, Biosafety
- **Biodiversity Law**
 - Includes Access and Benefit
 - Sharing, Biopiracy

https://www.instamojo.com/blog/small-business-laws-india-startup-knowledge/

Unfair Competition

- 1. Making/causing confusion as to the products or services or the production or commercialisation activities of a company or business house
- 2. Misleading the public by making certain allegations or at least indications as regards the method of manufacture of a product, its quality or quantity or any other factor; similarly misleading for services
- 3. Making discrediting false allegations for the products or services or industrial or commercial activities of an enterprise

Unfair Competition

- 4. Disclosing and Unfair use of other's trade secrets unlawful acquisition and use of trade secrets by companies or unlawful disclosure of trade secrets by employees or others
- 5. Free riding/Taking advantage of other's achievements unfair reproduction of copyrighted materials/use of someone's well established trademark
- 6. Comparative Advertisement indicating other's product without mentioning it

Sharing IP & TT experience from ICAR-NAIP BSR



Nano-fertilizers and micronutrients in agriculture







Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur National Agricultural Innovation Project, New Delhi Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi



1. IP Management

- Patent applications
- Copyright
- Trademark
- Plant Varieties
- **2. Genomic Resources**
- 3. Technologies shortlisted
- 4. Technology validation
- 5. Business Planning/ Hand holding/ Investors' Meet / Agreements and Licenses
- 6. Post-NAIP Agreements



2011-2020 is the Decade of Innovation as per the National Policy on IPR



Make in India



- Skill India
- Start Up India

Stand Up India

Capture the Spirit of IP Stimulated Growth

Source: Pers. Comm. (Courtesy Dr. Neeru Bhooshan, 2016)



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National Policy on Agriculture

- Fasten agricultural development
- Promote value addition
- Accelerate growth of agro-business
- Create employment in rural areas
- Secure a fair standard of living for farmers, agricultural workers and their families
- Discourage migration to urban areas
- General improvement in the rural socio-economic conditions
- Techno-regulatory growth

Agricultural Policy: Incentives for Agriculture

- Create favourable economic environment
 - Increase capital formation
 - Increase farmer's own investments
- Remove distortions in the incentive regime
- Improve the terms of trade with manufacturing sectors
- Bring about external and domestic market reforms backed by rationalization of domestic tax structure
- Easy availability of credit and other inputs
- Infrastructure facilities for development of agro-business industries
- Development of effective delivery systems
- Freeing movement of agro produce

Key take away messages ...

- 1. VOLUNTARY CONDUCT is paramount in abiding regulatory matters as per the prevailing law and make both ends meet
 - There is no defined Code of Conduct as such
- 2. The prevailing legislative, policy and executive paradigms should be better harnessed through INDUSTRY—FARMER INTERPLAY and sharing of space in the value-chain
 - Expecting govt. support or subsidy from day 1 of your start up make you a weak businessman
- 3. Cause to widen the scope of agri-business and BRING STARTUPS IN NEW AREAS such as Bamboos, Bio-agents, Farming Systems, Ag Biotech, Climate Smart Ag, Specific Commodities, Secondary Ag
 - Thus effectively contribute towards doubling farmers' income
- 4. Be **COMPETITIVE AND EXPORT ORIENTED** for specific commodities
 - Govt. support may be desirable

