

R&D in agri

In 2021, the agri exports value reached \$50 billion for the first time. This is due to various initiatives brought out by the government like ODOP, Virtual trade fairs and so on. But still there's a huge scope of improvement if India is to focus on R&D in agriculture.

History of R&D's success:-

Due to efforts of scientific fraternity in National Agriculture Research Centre and farmers we are able to increase food grain production by 4 times, 6 times in horticulture 9 times in fishing. We are able to detect disease and pest surveillance to reduce crop loss. Bio fortified rice to address malnutrition. This was a time when India had one of largest public research funding system in the world.

## Present status

But over a period our efforts to increase the spending on research was not fruitful. Our spending on agri research is just 0.4% of GDP. About 80% of this goes to salaries and pensions, rather to scientific community. Agriculture being a state subject, reforms and policies have not reached grounds.

## Findings

According to ICRIER and Syngeta, if public money is spent through R & D in agri, people brought out of poverty, higher agri GDP growth were 5-10 times large. Even Economic survey finds that each rupee spent on research yields 11% rather on pests, fertilizers subsidies.

## Way forward

To address SDG goals, climate change,  
declining resource capacity, research on  
R & D is must which will lead to  
cluster development in genomics, digital  
agri, climate smart techs, efficient  
irrigation systems thereby increasing GDP.