

“A CASE STUDY ON PRIVATIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE STATES OF ODISHA AND CHHATTISGARH”

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ABSTRACT:

Agriculture is one of the main sources of income to India's GDP. Though agriculture constitutes the primary sector of India, the drawbacks it faces limits agriculture from generating revenue up to its full potential. This research paper has come up with a business idea to address this issue. We suggest a business model in which the private companies will either buy the land of the farmer or then provide them with all sort of funds and materials required for the production of crops through organic mean, this will provide the farmer a fixed income which will help them to survive in the present condition where inflation is higher. Secondly the private companies will not take the land and will provide all materials and requirements to the farmer which will help them to produce more and without any risk of the crops or any damages.

Keywords:

Business model, Private companies, Inflation, Risk of loss.

INTRODUCTION:

India is an agriculture-based country where more than 50% of its population are engaged in this occupation. Agriculture is one of the main sources of income for the people in India. It contributes 17-18% towards the GDP of the country, and hence always termed as the backbone of the country. India stands fifth in the world for the agricultural export. India is the largest exporter of rice, spices, mango, guava and many more. Spice export of the country has reached the milestone of \$3.6 billion.

Importance of agriculture is known to everyone when our second Prime Minister Mr Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the slogan of “JAI JAWAN JAI KISAN.” Agriculture is always considered as one of the important profession in India. Current situation of agriculture is very stable and it's going hand to hand with technology. There are many advanced technology used by the farmers and there is full support from both the governments i.e. central and state. There are many steps taken by the government in promoting agriculture like there is a university in Himachal Pradesh, there are many schemes for the government. Agriculture is one of the sectors which generate employment opportunity for the concerned people. Jobs like truck drivers, laborer's, grass cutters, technicians and many more job opportunities.

There are different types of agriculture practiced in India and those are:

Nomadic herding – in this type of practice people rear their animals on a natural pasture and then move to other place with their animals in search of natural pastures.

Livestock ranching- it is similar like nomadic rearing but the farmer settled in one place and rear the animals for the commercial purpose.

Shifting cultivation- under this system, the forests are cleared and cultivation is done on the land until it loses its fertility. Once the land becomes unfertile farmer shift their cultivation to a new location in the forest.

Commercial grain farming- this type of farming is done where there is less rainfall and the majority of the crop produced in this type of farming is wheat.

Specialized horticulture – under this method of farming fruits and vegetables are grown on large scale. This method came into existence because of the huge demand of fruits and vegetable in the urban area of the country.

Dairy farming- this is method of farming which is supported by two factors one is close proximity to the market and the other is temperate weather, this is the fastest growing type of farming in the current world.

Commercial plantation- this is done in small area but it is of commercial value and their prices are also high in the market. Crops like tea, coffee, palm oil and rubber are the main production and they yield a huge amount of profit to the farmer.

There are three crop seasons in India and that are-

- Rabi crops- this type of crop is sown in the month of October and November, and is harvested in the month of April and May. They required warm climate for germination of seeds and cold climate for the growth. Examples are Barley, Potato, Onion, Oats and many more crops.
- Kharif crops- this type of crop is sown in the month of June and July, when the monsoon starts. They are also regarded as monsoon crop. They are harvested in the month of September and October. They require lot of water and also warm weather to grow. Examples of Kharif crops are rice, maize, jowar, bajra and many more crops.
- Zaid crops- this type of crops are sown in the month of March and June, they are early maturing crop and hence require less time for harvesting. Examples of crop are watermelon, pumpkin, muskmelon and many more crops.

Categories of crop in India-

Food crops – rice, wheat, maize, millet and pulses etc.

Cash crops - sugarcane, tobacco, cotton, jute and oilseeds etc.

Plantation crops- tea, coffee, rubber and coconut etc.

Horticulture- fruits and vegetables.

Problems in Indian agriculture are as follows-

Small and fragmented holdings- India is very famous in the world for its population and this is now a great problem of the country as there are no barren lands available which can be used for residing, so there is dilemma of using the agricultural land for farming or residing. Farmers who are having land is also not that much that they can produce a large amount of production, they hold very small part of land.

Seeds- for having large production of crops we need good quality of seeds, and this seeds are not available for all the farmers because of high cost of purchase. Technology support is also costly for most of the farmers in India and hence on an average there is a low-quality production of crops.

Manure, fertilizers and biocides- farming has being done for years and years without even caring for its replenishment. This has result in depletion of soil and has decreased the productivity of the crops. Subsidy available on chemicals had increased the use of such chemicals and thus resulting in damage of such soils and decreasing the quality of the product. Organic fertilizers were considered as the purest form of manure but there is a huge cost involved in organic farming and thus farmers end up using such chemicals.

Irrigation- proper use of irrigation helps in generating more amounts of crops. There are few problems which were the results of faulty irrigation and those are salinity, water-logging and alkalinity.

Lack of mechanization- small and medium farmers use huge labor force for the process of farming which is a waste, they don't use even a small or little mechanization process.

Soil erosion- it is a natural calamity caused by wind and water and can only be reduced but cannot be eradicated.

Agricultural marketing- there is no proper connection of rural India with urban India, this give rise to middlemen and local traders who buy the crops from the farmers at throw away price. Farmers don't get enough profit to sustain in such a developing country with an inflation rate of 4.74%.

Inadequate storage facilities- there are no proper storage facility in the states where the farmers can store their crops from getting spoiled. Because of this problem the quality of the crops also decreases and resulting in less income for the farmer.

Scarcity of capital- all farmers in India are not rich, most of them falls below poverty line and hence they don't have enough capital to go for technology and higher seeds for quality and large production.

Inadequate transport- there is no metallic road link between village and city which becomes a major issue in the rainy season and creates a lot of problems to the farmers.

Advantages of privatization in Agriculture

Reduces the economic burden of the government by taking the full control under private sector.

Efficient extended services can be provided to the farmers such as warehouse facilities, fertilizers etc.

Specialized services will be made available to the farmers if any required by them.

Cost reduction to the farmers.

Each and every thing required by the farmers to produce crops are provided to them and they will not find it difficult to produce crops.

Disadvantages

- Hindrance to free flow of information.
- Contacts in between farmers and private agencies may decline.
- Lack of financial security to the farmers

Private extension agencies in India

- Agriculture consultants (PAN Horti, Green Plus-Agro)
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras (600 KVKs)
- Farmers Association (KMGA, MGGA)
- Producers Cooperative
- Input Companies (Seeds, Fertilizers)
- NGOs
- Mass Media

Need for the Study:

The study on the privatization of agriculture will help in providing the farmers with all the tools required by a farmer in order to grow the crops and moreover, it will help in minimizing the wastage in the production as well as selling process and it will save time as well. Even the farmers will be able to get the MSP set by the government i.e. according to the recent interim budget it is 50% return on the input cost and also the payment be done immediately and they will not be hold for payments. One of the most important things will be that the farmers will be educated about the government schemes and subsidies and the benefits will be explained to them and they will be duly supported to take the utmost benefit out of it. Finally, the role of the middlemen will get reduced as there will be a separate company who will be looking after the entire process of farming.

Objectives of the study: -

- To find out the possible ways of reduction in wastage of crops produced.
- To identify the awareness of correct market price among the farmers.
- To identify the services and facilities required by the farmers for efficient and quality work.

Scope of research:

The area of research is in the Sundargarh district of Odisha and Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh. As these two districts carry similar type of agricultural activity and it was preferable for us to get to know the problems in generalized manner from these two states. Information was collected from the farmers of both the district.

Crops grown in these states are rice, maize, oilseeds and many more. Both the district have similar climatic condition and both the states are equally economically developed. Government in both the states are different which will help us in studying the government support to the farmer and the schemes launched by them to promote agricultural activity. However, the study is restricted to the farmers engaged in producing Rabi, Kharif and Cash crops.

Review of literature: -

It appears that the economic benefits of privatization activities promoted as a panacea by many public and private sector managers, are on average modest at best, while the social benefits are often mixed and uneven. Moreover, it seems that the role of privatization as a means of reforming the public sector has expanded internationally in scope and at such a rapid pace, that in many cases, the importance of objective and balanced measures of its overall effectiveness and impact on the affected communities need to be reexamined. Recommends that those responsible for planning of future privatization activities should refocus the present economic emphasis and strive for a balance of economic and social performance to improve long-term benefits for all sectors of the affected communities (Prizzia, 2001). The external and internal factors that impact agricultural development, especially focusing on Pakistan. The article deals with meagre agricultural services in developing countries, the pros and cons of extension services, as well as the degree to which research and development can benefit this sector. Besides, the paper also talks about how various agricultural policies need to be reformed and implemented according to farmer needs (Mumtaz Ali Baloch, 2017). The state of natural resources is influenced by agricultural technologies. Growth in the agricultural sector should be sustainable such that resources like soil and water do not diminish in quality and can be used for future purposes as well. The paper also highlights the growing link between farmer suicides and the increasing costs of external inputs (Shiva, 2008-09). The services rendered as the part of privatization of agriculture are Information, Input supply, Infrastructure, Technical services, Marketing services, Enterprises, Consultancy. The modes of payment in which the farmers can be paid are: Fee according to the number of visits: The farmers will be paid according to the number of times they visit the working area that is in the daily basis. The excess profits can be shared: If the sale of the crops has yield good money and if sufficient amount is left even after meeting all the costs than that residual amount can be shared with the farmers. Customs service fee: The remuneration will be according to the work done by them or by the nature of the work done by them. Membership fee: The remuneration will be according to the fees set by the organization to be paid to an individual (Hodge, 2000) the opinion Of Farmers on Privatization of Agricultural. This research focuses in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The data was collected on interview basis from 100 respondents to study the opinion about privatization in agriculture. The finding of this research article concluded that farmers prefer privatization. The research covered areas like crop management and Identification of pest & disease & their control, different new variety of seeds, source from where farmer get loan, storage facility available with the farmer, transportation system (Kumari). Privatization of agricultural advisory services and consequences for the dairy farmers in the Mantaro Valley, Peru. The finding focuses on live stocks input which lead to increase in the cost of production. They also discussed about the use of mobile phone for technical support for all procedures. They also discussed about the consequences faced by the small farmers due to privatization and the use of chemical given more important and it may lead to environmental and economic concerns (G. Faure).

Methodology of study-**Sources of Data:**

This research paper is based on the primary as well as secondary source of data. A questionnaire was circulated in the form of Google sheet. The information was collected through the agent in both the states. The agents were the part of an organization which look after the development of the city. Moreover, certain articles and journals were reviewed to collect data.

Sample size:

Sample size for this study is 48.

Sampling technique used:

Simple Random sampling method is used to select the responses for further studies. The sample is strictly according to the scope of the study.

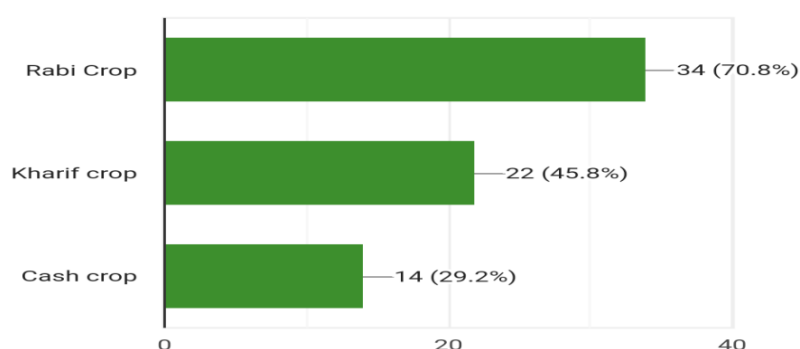
Statistical tools used:

Frequency table and pie charts have been used for the analysis of the responses. Sources of such charts and tables are Google form and SPSS.

Limitation of the study: -

Problems in study are:

- Restricted to only two districts namely Sundargarh (Odisha) and Raigarh (Chattisgarh).
- Farmers were selected based on only 3 types of crops grown by them i.e. Rabi, Kharif and cash crops.
- Data collected was on the form of Google forms and many of the farmers were not willing to fill that form and there was a lack of formal interaction which may lead to biasness in the data collection.

Analysis and Interpretation: -**Table No. 1****Types of crops grown in the states**

(Sources: Primary data, Google Form)

There are mainly three types of crops grown according to the weather conditions and seasonality, namely Rabi crops (November-April), Kharif crops (May-September) and cash crops.

From the data collected it is concluded that people in these states prefer producing Rabi crops as the climate of these states are more favorable, the other reason for producing more of Rabi crops is that it is one of the staple foods of majority of the people.

Table No.2

Awareness of government schemes and subsidies among farmers.

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | strongly agree | 1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| | agree | 16 | 33.3 | 33.3 | 35.4 |
| | neutral | 18 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 72.9 |
| | disagree | 13 | 27.1 | 27.1 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 48 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

(Sources: Primary data)

There are many numbers of schemes and subsidies available to the farmers as an incentive to continue their cultivation process without any halt and difficulty in obtaining and procurement of raw materials and money to finance their activities. Moreover, there are different types of schemes available with different schemes attached with it. The farmers can take any scheme which they find of utmost benefit and convenient to them.

Some of the schemes are as follows:

- Soil Health Card Scheme
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)
- Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)

These are some of the schemes which government provides to farmers in order to encourage them and help them in their cultivation process. Government apart from such schemes provides subsidies to the farmers which is mostly in the form of cash or cheap supply of raw materials to the farmers or providing to them the tools and equipment's which would help them in their cultivation process.

According to our survey conducted and on the basis of our sample size:

- a. Around 27.1% of the farmers are not at all aware of the government schemes. This shows that there is an immediate requirement for government to educate the farmers and spread awareness about the schemes and subsidies which they can avail and get benefits out of that.

- b. Around 37.5% of the farmers are not very clear about the schemes available and in which scheme they should opt to in order to get maximum benefit. There should be more and more awareness programs so that the farmers are knowledgeable about the schemes and get maximum out of the schemes.
- c. Around 35.4% of the farmers agree to the fact that they are fully aware about the schemes and subsidies available by the government and they regularly get benefits from it. Although it is a very good thing that 35.4% of the farmers are aware of the fact but still it's very small in number.

If the entire process of agriculture is privatized than all the farmers will be educated and will be regularly be briefed about all the schemes which they can opt for to get benefits out of it. This will motivate the farmers and help them to carry on the cultivation process very smoothly.

Table No.3

Beneficial for the farmers in terms of accessibility.

| | | Frequenc y | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------|---------------|---------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 20 | 41.7 | 41.7 | 41.7 |
| | No | 25 | 52.1 | 52.1 | 93.8 |
| | Partially | 3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 48 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

(Sources: Primary data)

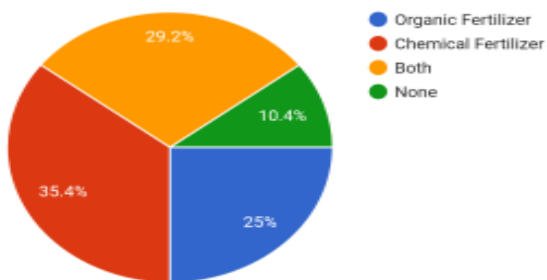
There are a significant number of farmers who don't even know about the schemes which are made available by the government and hence they are not able to get benefits out of it. Out of our data collected:

- a. Approximately around 52% of the farmers are not able to get benefits out of the schemes. Possible reason might be the ignorant of the fact that the scheme exists or they might think it to be quite complicated to avail such services, or some might feel afraid of losing their money or it might be bit difficult for them to avail such schemes. What so ever might be the reason but there is a large amount of population which is not able to avail such schemes. The farmers must be assured that the scheme is quite helpful to them and that they won't lose any money out of it. This will help them to gain trust and opt for such schemes.
- b. Approximately around 6.3% of the farmers partially agree that they are able to get benefits but either they are not satisfied by the services provided by the scheme or they are not able to easily avail such schemes.
- c. Approximately around 41.7% of the farmers agree to the fact that they are able to get maximum benefits out the schemes provided to them by the government.

If the privatization model is opted then the fact that the farmers are able to get the benefits will be totally taken care of and they will not be left ignorant of the schemes and subsidy programs.

Pie chart No.1

Fertilizers used.



(Sources: Primary Data)

There is a possibility of using either organic or chemical fertilizer. But some of the farmers either use both chemical and organic fertilizers or they don't use fertilizers at all. As compared organic fertilizers are more expensive than chemical fertilizers.

As per the survey it was found that majority of the farmers use chemical fertilizers in their production process. The reason behind that may be that organic farming incur a huge amount of cost to them and moreover they get chemical fertilizers easily.

Table No.4

Awareness of crop insurance amongst farmers.

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 12 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| | No | 28 | 58.3 | 58.3 | 83.3 |
| | Partially | 8 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 48 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

(Sources: Primary data)

Crop insurance is purchased by agricultural producers, and subsidized by the federal government, to protect against either the loss of their crops due to natural disasters, such as hail, drought, and floods, or the loss of revenue due to declines in the prices of agricultural commodities. The two general categories of crop insurance are called crop-yield insurance and crop-revenue insurance.

According to our survey

- a) 25% of the farmers are aware of the crop insurance and might be they have it.
- b) Approximately 58% of the farmers are not aware of the crop insurance

c) And around 17% of the farmers are partially aware of this insurance.

If privation happens then every crop will have the insurance coverage in order to protect the crops and also the interest of the farmers. Moreover, the farmers will be given the insights relating to the benefits of the insurance.

Table No.5

Do you have a proper storage and Warehouse facility.

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 18 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 |
| | No | 12 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 62.5 |
| | Partially | 18 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 48 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

(Sources: Primary data)

Storing and warehousing the finished items are very important as these are the perishable items and they won't sustain for a longer period of time. They need to be kept very carefully in order to protect it from getting rotten.

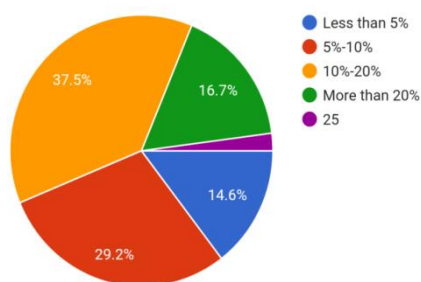
As per our survey:

- a) 37.5% of the farmers have proper warehouse facility.
- b) 25% of the farmers don't have proper warehouse facility and they totally rely upon immediate sale of the items.
- c) Approximately 37.5% have partial warehousing and storage facility.

If privatization comes into action then a proper storage and warehouse facility will be provided with all the necessary equipment's to keep all the items fresh so that it can sustain for a longer period of time.

Pie chart No.2

Normal percentage of wastage in production of the crops.



(Sources: Primary Data)

From our research survey we conclude that the wastage is about 10-20% of the crop produced by the farmers. Very few farmers incurred wastage of 25% and about 16.7 % incurred more than 20% waste. 29.2% of the farmer suffers loss of 5-10% of their crop. So by this we conclude that the average wastage is between 5-20%.

Table No.6

Procurement of loans by the farmers for the purchase of raw material.

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Un organized sector | 28 | 58.3 | 58.3 | 58.3 |
| | organized sector | 18 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 95.8 |
| | Both | 1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 97.9 |
| | Dost | 1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 48 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

(Sources: Primary data)

Farmers need loan in order to finance their day to day requirements of farming or to buy certain equipment's or to finance their household requirement or what so ever may be. Moreover, money is the main thing to start anything or to purchase any equipment's. So, they need loan because they don't have abundant money with them to finance their activities.

There are mainly two sectors from where they obtain loans which are:

- Unorganized sector: Taking loans from non-financial institutions such as money lenders, relatives, friends etc. are known as getting loans from un-organized sector. There are many benefits as well as drawbacks to it. The basic benefits are availability without any huge amount of paper work and a major drawback is the rate of interest and security.
- Organized sector: Taking loans from financial institutions such as bank are referred to as getting loans from organized sector. The benefits are lower interest rates and security and the drawback are the amount of paper works which they have to fill.

According to our data:

- 58.3% of the farmers opt for un-organized lending as because they find it convenient to get it from there. Sometimes they opt for un-organized lending because they don't know the benefits of the organized lending or maybe they simply don't want to go there and adhere all the policies and procedures.
- 37.5% of the selected farmers opt for organized lending maybe because they are aware of the benefits which they get from organized lending and which is a good option to opt for.
- 4.2% of selected farmers opt for both the type of lending. The reason behind this might be the purpose and amount of loan. They get loans from where they find it convenient and beneficial

A majority of farmers opt for un-organized lending which may not be beneficial for them. Hence if privatization model comes into action the farmers will then be educated and they will be asked to opt for organized lending. All the arrangements will be taken care of by the company itself. This will help in reducing the burden of the farmers and will provide better benefits to them.

Table No.7

Delay in crop collection ordered by the suppliers or Middle Man`s.

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | strongly agree | 8 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 |
| | Agree | 25 | 52.1 | 52.1 | 68.8 |
| | Neutral | 10 | 20.8 | 20.8 | 89.6 |
| | Disagree | 5 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 48 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

(Sources: Primary data)

Delay in crop collection is one of the major problems faced by the farmers. Crops are very perishable in nature and hence can't be stored for a long time period, and if the finished items are not picked at time then it will get spoiled and will be of no use. Moreover, if there is delay in the collection of the goods, and if it gets a bit rotten then also suppliers won't pay them the agreed amount because of the poor quality.

According to our survey

- Around 68% of the farmers face this problem of delay in collection of crops.
- And, around 32% of the farmers don't face this problem

If privatization comes into action the crops will be immediately collected from them as and when they are ready. The farmers won't face any problem regarding collection of crops and moreover they will be paid immediately. The spoilage will hence get reduced by significant amount.

Findings of study:

- 70% of the farmers rely on Rabi crops and then followed by kharif and Cash crops (Table No.1).
- It was found that the awareness of crop insurance amongst the farmers is very low (Table No.4)
- It was found that the farmers are facing problem in storing the crops and waving of the risk involved in procuring the crops (Table No.5).
- It is found that the farmers are facing problem in seeking loan from the organized sector (Table No.6)

- It was found that the farmers use more of chemical fertilizer over organic fertilizers as because organic farming is costly process for most of the farmers (Pie chart No.1)
- It can be seen that most of the farmers are also unaware of all the schemes available to them and amongst those who know about the schemes are not able to get benefit out of it (Table No.2,3).

Suggestions:

- To overcome such problems the idea of privatization comes and it will be in away such that there will be a private company looking for all the needs and requirement of a farmer.
- All the necessities will be provided to the farmers including land, physical equipment's, water supply and electricity, Raw materials, warehousing facility etc.
- The only thing they need to do is give away the produce and take their share of money. The produce will then be directly sold in the market which will reduce the number of middlemen's and also the fare price will get realized.
- There are two ways in which a farmer can opt for:
 - i) All the things will be provided by the company except for the land. The farmer will have to use their own land in order to cultivate the crops. Apart from it all the things will be taken care of by the company itself.
 - ii) All the things including the land will be provided by the company. Only thing the farmers are supposed to do is that they have to cultivate the crops rest the entire thing will be taken care of. Farmers can opt for any of the above ways according to their convenience. Wastage and sales part will be closely taken care by the company. The equipment's and other tools will either be purchased or hired according to the nature of tools and the benefits to the company.

Conclusion:

From the above research it can be concluded that there is a need for privatization in agriculture sector. There are a lot of problem prevailing, which is needed to rectified as soon as possible. Government already had given a lot to try to it, but despite of so many schemes and opportunities there are many farmers who are not able to get maximum benefits out of it. Hence, there is a need of a company who particularly looks after it. If there is a particular company who looks after it then it will be quite easy to reach the farmers and make them aware of the subsidies and schemes available for them to avail and get benefits.

Moreover, there will be a better working condition for the farmers where they will be provided with all the tools and equipment's needed for the farming to be done. The farmers will not have to face any problem relating to storage and sale of crops. Their work will be to grow crops and they will get their share of profit and above this they will enjoy all the schemes of the government.

This will reduce the number of middlemen's which prevail in the market place and hence will lead to reduced prices and will eliminate the problems arising due to such middlemen. The burden of the government will also be reduced as because the private companies will be taking care after it.

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