

Features of New Agricultural Strategy

(i) Development of Agricultural Land:

Special efforts were done during five-year plans to develop agricultural land. Land surveys were conducted. Soil erosion and water logging are in check.

(ii) Plant protection:

The process of protecting the plants against diseases, invasion of pests and insects is called plant protection. Special efforts were made to protect the plants from pests and insects. 14 Central Plant Protection Centres have been working under the control of ICAR Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(iii) Use of High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds:

High Yield Variety seeds are those whose output is more than normal seeds. HYV seeds are used in the production of wheat, rice, bajra and jowar. National Seeds Corporation has been setup for production and distribution of HYV seeds.

(iv) More Use of Fertilizers:

Optimum use of fertilizers has increased the production. Steps have been taken to use cow dung as manure. Use of Chemical fertilizers has also increased.

(v) Increase in Irrigation Facilities:

Irrigation is the lifeline for crop production. During plan period irrigation facilities has increased a lot. Multipurpose projects have developed to increase irrigation facilities. Deep tube wells and lift irrigation schemes were launched to provide better irrigation. In 2004-05 total irrigation area was 546 lakh hectares.

(vi) Mechanisation of Agriculture:

Intensive use of tractors, thrashers and combines is called mechanisation of agriculture. With mechanisation of agriculture it has become easy and time saving. Co-operative Societies, Regional Rural Banks and National Banks provide loan to farmers for purchases of agricultural machinery.

(vii) Improvement of Animal Husbandry:

To increase livestock wealth, intensive cattle development projects have been started. Many veterinary centres have been opened to check cattle diseases. In Punjab, Guru Aangad Dev University of Animal Husbandry was opened in 2006.

(viii) Scientific Cultivation:

Scientific cultivation aims at using superior agricultural technology. It involves the use of quality seeds, proper manure, crop rotation and control of pests and insects. Many agricultural universities are doing their best in the field of scientific methods of cultivation.

(ix) Increase in the Areas Under Cultivation:

The aim is to increase the net area under cultivation. The waste lands are brought under cultivation. Efforts have been made to reclaim the land lying waste due to soil erosion. Area under cultivation can be increased by multiple cropping. It means raising more than one crop during the year.

(x) Package of Inputs:

The main thrust of the new agricultural strategy is the application of the package of improved practices. In other words, it aimed at making the cultivators to adopt simultaneously all the elements needed for augmenting production. The main constituents of the package practices are improved seed, fertilizers, plant protection measures and water use etc.

(xi) Guaranteed Minimum Prices:

The guaranteed minimum prices have been given due recognition as an incentive to agricultural production. Support price policy for food-grains was adopted in 1964 throughout the country. In order to advice the govt. for suitable price policies for agriculture, Agricultural Price Commission was set up in the subsequent years. Similarly, Food Corporation of India was also set up to purchase food-grains.

(xii) Agricultural Research and Education:

Several measures have been adopted in this direction to facilitate organisation and development of agricultural research. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research was reorganised in 1965. Agricultural Universities have been set up in most of the states which were conceived as combining the function of education, research, and extension.