

Agriculture for Sustainable Economic Growth

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Abstract

Sustainable growth requires inclusiveness as an essential prerequisite. Agriculture is the largest sector of the Indian economy, employing about 50 per cent of the population. Therefore, it is imperative that any development strategy needs to factor in agriculture for the process to be sustainable. The present chapter discusses two important dimensions of agricultural growth and rural economy – economic and environmental. The chapter is organized as follows. In the following section, the role of agricultural growth in rural transformation in general, and Indian experience in particular, are discussed. This is followed by a discussion on the aspects of agriculture that need to be addressed – attention to small farmers and rain-fed regions – in order to attain inclusive economic growth. The necessary rural policy framework and human capital development that are needed to transfer people out of agriculture are delineated in the next two sections. The following section outlines the environmental and resource aspects of agriculture that need urgent attention. The final section concludes.