



Smart Way to Nutritional Security in India

YASIN JESHIMA KHAN

Division of Genomic Resources, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, India

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In the changing climatic conditions and global scenario, in a continued green revolution; we have already accomplished food security and is legal through food security bill. Whereas, Systematic Management of Agricultural Resources and Technology (SMART) is the only way to nutritional security. India started breathing for agriculture with 30 Crore people (300 million) in the 1950's when we faced a huge food shortage and had to receive food under PL 480 agreement with the United States. Farmers brought us up from a net importer of food grains in 1950s, to an exporter; a huge jump. Whereas now again there is a shortage for pulses and oilseeds though we are having enough of cereals. What went wrong? We do have sufficient genetic diversity, we do have high yielding varieties, we have farmer supporting systems, but we were not SMART enough.

Indian agriculture has registered impressive growth over last few decades with the same momentum of continued green revolution. Recent past has registered highest production levels in horticultural and fishery, animal husbandry products. The food grain production has increased from 51 million tonnes (MT) in 1950-51 to 265.57 MT during 2013-14 highest ever since independence.

Even during 1950's we were the largest producers and exporters of many agricultural produce. At present, we have lost the first places in production of so many crops to our neighbours. It need not to be a monopoly but we should know our potential and at least to maintain the production level rather than giveup.

So wise is the farmer, rich will be our nation. Hence, come on farmers raise up! We are your dependants! Self sufficiency has to be counted from the root level. If not at the level of an individual farmer, it should be from villages. A village should produce its needs starting from solar energy to food grain, milk, vegetables and feeds reducing the burden on transport and transportation loss. There is lack of 'we-feeling' or 'togetherness' in farm villages which cannot be created but can be inculcated in their minds for a better livelihood.

Citation

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