

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE OF ANDHRA PRADESH: A STUDY

*K. Jagan**

**Doctoral Scholar, Department of Economics, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.*

ABSTRACT

The present paper explores the agricultural bedrock of the state's economy out of the total population, 72.7% live in rural areas seeking their livelihood from Agriculture and allied activities. A large number of people rely heavily on the agricultural field for their survival in order to reduce the poverty level of the region. Rapid and sustainable growth in Agriculture has been identified not only as a key driver for economic development, but also for achieving self sufficiency and ensuring food security to the people. Over the decades, Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a gradual transformation in the agriculture sector. The nature of the transformation itself has undergone the social upheavals. This paper critiques the initial and noteworthy transformation that took place during 1980s was the shift from a traditional cereal-based system towards commercial commodities such as oilseeds, cotton and sugarcane. However, during 1990s, when the crop sector witnessed high volatility due to consecutive drought and decelerating crop yields, the transformation, although continued, was more towards high-value commodities such as fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, poultry and fish,. In fact, the high-value commodities performed impressively and rescued the agriculture sector to a great extent. Finally, this paper reveals that the sustainable Agriculture refers to a range of strategies for addressing many problems that affect agriculture. Such problems include loss of soil productivity from excessive soil erosion and associated plant nutrient losses, surface and ground water pollution from pesticides, fertilizers and sediments, impending shortages of non-renewable resources, and low farm income from depressed commodity prices and high production costs.

KEYWORDS: Agriculture, livelihood, sustainable development, transformation.