

# Effective Governance and Policy Reforms on Sustainable Development: Vision and Accomplishments on Vikasit Bharat@2047

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## ABSTRACT

Legal and judicial reforms are immediately essential to address the massive pendency and capacity issues in Indian courts, which hinder access to justice. Several archaic and obsolete laws have already been repealed and many others are in the process of being weeded out. The recently announced umbrella scheme on “Modernisation of Police Forces” to strengthen law and order and modernize the police is a welcome stimulus. A part of police reform is intrinsically linked to legal or judicial reform, which would result in efficient criminal justice dispensation. The major challenge facing the judiciary is the huge backlog of over 2.7 crore pending cases. There are also significant capacity issues. Ease of doing business in India is severely constrained by the inability to enforce contracts or laws, lengthy and costly litigation and arbitration processes, and archaic legislations. Although we have the Arbitration Law of 1996, which is in tune with global principles, it has not yielded desired results in terms of lessening the pressure on courts. Nor have the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms been utilized adequately. The World Bank “Doing Business Report” 2018 ranks India at 164 in ‘Enforcing Contracts’; though an improvement of 8 positions, it is clearly not an acceptable situation. Police reform until recently had been stuck due to various reasons. Police/law and order is a state subject, falling under List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. In a federal set up like ours, this makes policy reform a rather sticky issue. After accounting for vacant positions, there are only 137 police personnel per 100,000 citizens (17.3 lakh in all). The UN recommends 222 police personnel per 100,000 citizens. Create a policy environment that enables income security for farmers, whilst maintaining India’s food security. Encourage the participation of the private sector in agricultural development to transition from agriculture to robust agri-business systems. Promote through government policies the emergence of ‘agripreneurs’ so that even small and marginal farmers can capture a higher share of value addition from ‘farm gate to fork’. In this context this article highlighted on effective governance and policy reforms on legal, judicial and agriculture sectors in sustainable development of transition Indian society.

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**KEYWORDS:** Agriculture, Courts, Environment, Judiciary, Legal, Police, Policy and Transition

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Legal reforms:

Create a repository of all existing central and state laws, rules and regulations

The centre and state(s) need to create repositories of laws, rules, regulations and government orders.

Alternatively, a three-tier repository system can be considered in line with the system of governance enshrined in the Constitution.

Repeal redundant laws and introduce a new initiative to remove restrictive clauses in existing laws

For the first time since independence, as many as 1,420 redundant laws have been repealed over the past four years. An identical process should be followed by all states.

A new programme to repeal unnecessarily restrictive clauses and procedures in existing laws should be started. It will enhance both ease of living and ease of doing business indices.

Consider the following changes in criminal justice and procedural laws

Introduce changes to procedural laws in line with the principles and thinking behind the Commercial Division Bill.

Change from the present litigant driven outlook to one led by an effective judiciary in line with global practice. To begin with, a review of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908, may be considered.

The Commercial Court, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015, need to be amended to provide for pre-institution mediation and settlement by using the services of agencies created under the Legal Services Authorities Act. The amendment can be on the lines of the provisions of Section 89 of the CPC, under which Courts can refer disputes to one of the alternate dispute resolution mechanisms after a suit is filed. It is also necessary to fast track the consequential amendments in the respective provisions of the CPC once the Act has been amended. Reduce the criminalization of violations, and move towards compounding of minor offences:

Sixty eight per cent of under-trials in jail are awaiting trial. The under-trial waiting time needs to be drastically reduced. It is also necessary to move towards community service and other non-imprisonment based punishments.

It is necessary to re-examine the procedure for initiating criminal proceedings, arrest and bail. Summary proceedings and plea bargaining should be reorganized and implemented so that criminal cases can be settled in a time bound manner.

Reform forensics and ballistics testing by outsourcing to accredited laboratories

### **Create a law-abiding society**

It is necessary to inculcate respect for the rule of law among citizens. The process should start at the school level and can be

Effectuated by mandatorily introducing innovative programmes with well thought out content and activities.

Introduce incentive and sanction-based models of motivation to ensure that citizens abide by the law. The following measures may be considered:

Prohibitive penalties should be imposed to check traffic violations, civic violations including littering in public, first time petty offenders, etc.

Use of advanced technology is an essential pre-requisite to check these violations of the law; person-to-person direct interface should be minimized to eliminate corruption. There is a resource constraint, then additional resources may be allocated for this critical purpose. A time line for implementation of necessary amendments should be stipulated. Such amendments should also have stipulated and binding time limits within which reports, such as ballistics and forensic reports, need to be submitted. Review and sunset clauses in legislations may also be considered. Continuing legal education in selected areas should be made mandatory for lawyers and judges and rules of professional conduct and ethics need to be drawn up and implemented. Greater sensitivity on the part of government officials to citizens' needs can help reduce the number of litigations/disputes. This will require an attitudinal reorientation among government officials through sensitization programmes. Future prospects of employees can be made contingent on their successfully completing such programmes. New laws should be drafted in simple, plain language.

### **2. Judicial Reforms:**

A study carried out by the Ministry of Finance found that it takes, on an average, almost 20 years for a property related dispute to be resolved, and that it would take 324 years just to clear the present backlog at the current rate of disposal. The huge backlog of pending cases is a critical logistical and efficiency issue. To tackle the issue, the following capacity building and sustainable solutions should be considered in consultation with the judiciary: Shift certain sections of the workload out of the regular court system to commercial courts, the commercial division and the commercial appellate division of High Courts for commercial disputes and the Criminal Judicial Magistrate for criminal cases at least in metropolitan areas to decongest courts.

A mechanism may be considered whereby litigants in a commercial dispute must first be made to exhaust the remedy of pre-institution mediation and settlement. However, it should be ensured that such cases do not create one more stratum in litigation.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, should be amended to make India a robust centre for institutional arbitration, both domestic and

international. A new autonomous body, viz., the Arbitration Council of India, should be set up to grade arbitral institutions and accredit arbitrators to make the arbitration process cost effective and speedy, and to pre-empt the need for court intervention.

Merge and rationalize tribunals to enhance efficiency. Appointments to tribunals must be streamlined either through a specialized agency or under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Judicial decisions need to take account of their economic and social impact, especially in cases pertaining to contract, labour, tax, corporate and constitutional issues as observed by the Supreme Court in a recent judicial decision.

An all-India judicial services examination on a ranking basis can be considered to maintain high standards in the judiciary. The selection process may be entrusted to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for a cadre of lower judiciary judges (first induction level), Indian Legal Service (both centre and states), prosecutors, legal advisors, and legal draftsmen. This will attract young and bright law graduates and help build a new cadre that can enhance accountability in the governance system.

Continuing training may be introduced to ensure development of skills, ethics, knowledge and awareness of international best practices.

Multi-faceted training faculty for judicial academies including reputed lawyers, successful NGOs and others, for holistic exposure may be considered.

Training modules should be live streamed on an e-platform to make information easily accessible, and widely disseminated.

Consider a performance index for judges and a separate state wise index for ease of getting justice.

Introduce an administrative cadre in the judicial system to streamline processes. To maintain judicial independence, the cadre should report to the Chief Justice in each High Court.

Prioritize court process automation and ICT enablement for electronic court and case management, including electronic management of court schedules and migration of all courts to the unified national court application software.

Facilitate the availability and usage of video-conferencing facilities to assist in speedy access to justice and to minimize logistical issues. At present, even the available video conferencing facilities are not utilized optimally.

### 3. Police Reforms:

With fiscal support to the states now being looked after under the umbrella scheme, the following

reforms maybe considered: The Model Police Act of 2015 can serve as the basis for legislative reform as it modernizes the mandate of the police, puts in place a governance mechanism that insulates the police from political interference and provides for the measurement and tracking of police performance. A task force may be created under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to skill personnel and identify non-core functions that can be outsourced to save on staff.

States should be encouraged to ensure greater representation of women in the police force. The MHA should come up with a policy to encourage greater participation of women to achieve a target share of 30 per cent women among new recruits.

Launch a common nation-wide emergency contact number to attend to emergency security needs of citizens.

Integrate the Lokpal and Prevention of Corruption Acts into police reforms to enhance accountability.

Transfers/postings of police personnel should be made more transparent and the involvement of police in prosecution needs to be looked at more closely.

It is important to consider introduction of remodelled training modules, refresher courses and continuing education for police personnel including live-streaming of training modules on e-platforms. A concept of certification of security personnel with identified skill sets may be considered with linkage to promotion and deployment.

Introduce reform of the First Information Report (FIR) lodging mechanism, including introducing filing e-FIRs for minor offences. Besides, police challans, investigation reports, etc., should be made available through the online portal of each police station.

A separate cadre for exclusively looking into cyber-crimes, cyber threats and fraud needs to be developed. A panel of experts in psychology, negotiation, language proficiency and training may be put together. A technology centre may be considered for benchmarking and identifying suitable technologies for the police under BPR&D in collaboration with IITs. A separate National Cyber Security Division may be considered to support and coordinate initiatives of state governments in handling cyber-crimes. A separate dashboard for interface with citizens for reporting and redressal of cyber crimes may be considered. Besides, big data analytics may be utilized in a big way. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems project may be completed along with the launch of Phase 2 for linking of crime, prosecution, court and prison databases.

#### 4. Agriculture Reforms:

Create a policy environment that enables income security for farmers, whilst maintaining India's food security. Encourage the participation of the private sector in agricultural development to transition from agriculture to robust agri-business systems. Promote through government policies the emergence of 'agripreneurs' so that even small and marginal farmers can capture a higher share of value addition from 'farm gate to fork'.

##### Current Status:

The mismatch between the contribution of agriculture to national income and share in employment has remained large and has widened. The manufacturing and service sectors have failed to absorb the excessive workforce in agriculture. Consequently, value addition per worker in agriculture grew slowly and income per farmer never crossed one-third of the income of a non-agriculture worker since the 1980s. The country took 22 years to double farmers' income at an annual growth rate of 3.31 per cent during 1993-1994 to 2015-16; doubling farmers' income between 2015-16 and 2022-23 will require an annual growth rate of 10.4 per cent in farmers' real income. Corporate investment in agricultural infrastructure has not exceeded 2 per cent. In the year's post-independence, the policy structure was focused on increased production and productivity to ensure food security for India. However, to achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022-23, we need to shift our focus from agriculture to agribusiness. The current government has taken several steps to improve private investment in agriculture. 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) was allowed in 2016-17. Similarly, the SAMPADA scheme targets creation of food processing infrastructure. The budget allocation to the food processing sector was doubled in the Union Budget 2018-19. Introduction of the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act (2017), Model Contract Farming Act, new guidelines for agro-forestry are some other key policy initiatives taken over the past few years.

**Fragmented land holdings:** Agriculture is characterised by an extremely fragmented landholding structure with an average farm size of 1.15 hectares and the predominance of small and marginal farmers, with those holding less than 2 hectares

**Low price realization:** There exists a large gap between farm harvest prices (FHP) and retail prices (see Figure 6.1).<sup>2</sup> Prices also tend to fall below the minimum support prices in a good production year, leading to agrarian distress. Mechanisms need to be

developed to ensure remunerative prices to farmers, in both 'good' and 'bad' monsoon years.

**Non-farm employment:** Lack of non-farm employment opportunities has resulted in excessive dependence on agriculture for livelihood among both small and marginal farmers as well as among the landless.

**Agricultural credit:** Despite an allocation of more than INR 11 lakh crore of commercial credit, access to institutional credit remains a constraint, especially in the case of tenant farmers.

**Agricultural trade:** Exporters of agro-commodities are not successful in raising their share in global markets because of uncertainty in the foreign trading regime.

##### Marketing reforms

Many of the constraints in marketing can be addressed by adopting the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act (APLM), 2017, which provides for progressive agricultural marketing reforms, including the setting up of markets in the private sector, allowing direct sales to exporters/processors and customers, farmer-consumer markets, e-trading, single point levy of market fee, a unified single trading licence in a state, declaring warehouses/ silos/cold storage as market sub-yards and the launch of the National Market for Agriculture.

APLM should be adopted by all states as expeditiously as possible. Amend Essential Commodities Act

The Essential Commodities Act, which has proven a disincentive to large investment in agricultural technology and infrastructure, should be replaced with a modern statute that balances the interests of farmers and consumers.

**Stable export policy:** In consultation with all stakeholders, the Government of India should come up with a coherent and stable agricultural export policy, ideally with a five to ten-year time horizon and a built-in provision for a mid-term review. Efforts should be made to achieve this urgently.

**Price realization:** The government should consider replacing the Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) by an agriculture tribunal in line with the provisions of Article 323 B of the Constitution. NITI Aayog should set up a group to examine the following:

- Replacing the minimum support price (MSP) by a minimum reserve price (MRP), which could be the starting point for auctions at minds separating the criteria for MSPs for (i) surplus produce; (ii)

for deficit but globally available products; and (iii) for products that are in deficit both domestically and globally. Examine options for including private traders operating in markets to complement the minimum support price regime through a system of incentives and commission payments. Raising MSP or prices can only be a partial solution to the problem of assuring remunerative returns to farmers. A long-term solution lies in the creation of a competitive, stable and unified national market to enable better price discovery, and a long-term trade regime favourable to exports.

**Agriculture advisory service:** An effective and technology driven Agriculture Advisory Service may be considered on the lines of those of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the European Union (EU). The mandate would be to ensure that farmers adopt an optimal cropping pattern that maximizes their income.

**Futures trade:** Futures trade should be encouraged. Removal of entry barriers to increase market depth should be considered.

**Crop insurance:** PMFBY needs to be modified to - Promote weather-based insurance. Increase non-loaned farmers' insurance coverage. Allow for mixed cropping and increase the number of crops notified. Contract farming Encourage states to adopt the Model Contract Farming Act, 2018: Contract farming can be thought of as a form of price futures. The contract will specify the price and quality at which the farmers' produce will be purchased. This protects the farmer in cases where prices fall below the MSP.

**Land aggregation:** *Encourage states to adopt the Model Agriculture Land Leasing Act, 2016:* The Model Act aims to improve land access to small and marginal farmers through land leasing, whilst also providing for a mechanism for tenants to avail of institutional credit. A major constraint to land leasing under the present regulatory environment is the unwillingness of landowners to lease out land due to fears of land capture by tenants. The Model Act spells out the rights and responsibilities of both landowners and tenants. Like the Model Contract Farming Act, 2018, this Act too contains provisions for dispute resolution within a specified timeframe.

**Digitize land records:** Complete digitization of land records is a must for effective implementation of land leasing. Geo-tagging, along with location agnostic online registration of land records to generate updated land records, must be carried out.<sup>4</sup>

Promote farmer producer organizations (FPOs): There are now 741 FPOs in the country, managed

under the aegis of Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC). They have demonstrated that aggregating farmers can help achieve economies of scale. The benefits accorded to start-ups under the Start-up India Mission need to be extended to FPOs as well. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD's) model of joint liability groups can be promoted to channelize small growers into the value chain.

## 5. Research and Development:

Focus on precision agriculture: Support research on energy friendly irrigation pumps, micro irrigation, climate smart technologies, internet of things (IoT), and use of technology in animal husbandry to monitor animal behaviour, health and production to prepare for future challenges. Raise research spending: Research spending, currently at 0.3 per cent, needs to be increased to at least 1 per cent of agricultural GDP.

Create a knowledge hub to disseminate best practices: It is essential that new technology be adopted at the farm level. The performance of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) should be regularly reviewed by external agencies and well performing KVKs must be strengthened to disseminate best practices at the field level.

Develop models of integrated farming: Research so far has focused on practices for individual crops or enterprises. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) should focus on providing recommendations across the farming value chain, covering production, post- production, processing and other value- addition activities.

Innovation several breakthroughs have the clear potential for quickly doubling farmers' income. One is the recorded success of zero budget natural farming by Subhash Palekar. It is now being adopted across the country and providing notable increases in farmers' net income by sharply reducing costs of production and improving incomes by raising yields and improving the quality of agricultural produce. Two, there are patented herbal inputs that improve soil quality and make plants more pest resistant. These herbal inputs, for which actual performance data is now available for a few thousand farmers, need to be applied across the country.

Three, rapid progress has also been made in organic farming techniques, which have also helped improve incomes of cultivators and dairy farmers. These should be carefully examined for possible application across the country.

Non-farm income Moving labour out of agriculture into manufacturing will go a long way towards the goal of doubling farmers' income.

According to estimates prepared by Chand, Srivastava & Singh (2017), nearly two-thirds of rural income is generated in non-agricultural activities. In non-agricultural activities in rural areas, another avenue is shifting farmers to agro-business and farm-related skills which are currently in short supply. Create and nurture agripreneurs for achieving greater value addition through agro-processing and propagation of modern extension services.

India will also have to accelerate growth in the manufacturing, services and exports sectors to wean labour away from agriculture. This will result in higher productivity and income for farmers.

### **Modernizing Agriculture:**

#### **Objectives:**

Modernize agricultural technology, increase productivity, efficiency and crop diversification. Generate income and employment through a paradigm shift that ensures food security while maximizing value addition in agriculture.

**Current Status:** The existing yield levels of a majority of crops remains much lower than the world average. The predominant causes are low irrigation, use of low quality seeds, low adoption of improved technology, and knowledge deficit about improved agricultural practices. Close to 53 per cent of cropped area is water stressed. Rainwater management practices and services are resource starved. This limits a farmer's capacity to undertake multiple cropping and leads to inefficient utilization of land resources.

Inefficient extension delivery systems have led to the presence of large yield gaps as well. Yield gaps exist at two levels in India. First, there is a gap between best scientific practices and best field practices. The second gap exists between best field practices and the average farmer. There exist significant yield gaps both amongst and within states. Yield gaps have been found to exist in even highly productive states such as Punjab. Closing these gaps provides an opportunity to enhance productivity and incomes significantly. This further implies that states with low productivity (or large yield gaps) have significant potential for catch-up growth in their productivity levels.

Demand side factors favour the expansion of area under fruits and vegetables, and livestock products. These enterprises also offer better income. Staple crops (cereals, pulses and oilseeds) occupy 77 per cent of the total gross cropped area (GCA) but contribute only 41 per cent to the output of the crop

sector. High value crops (HVCs) contribute an almost similar amount to total output as staples do, but they occupy only 19 per cent of the GCA. Research has also shown that diversification to the fruits and vegetables segment is likely to benefit small and medium farmer's more than large ones.<sup>2</sup>

Over the past few years, new development initiatives aimed at modernising agriculture have been introduced. *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana* (PMKSY) aims to expand irrigation coverage whilst promoting water use efficiency. Area under micro irrigation has grown 2.5 times in the last four years. The second cycle of the Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme is underway, which will focus on job creation and entrepreneurship development through local entrepreneurship models. So far, 3.76 crore SHCs have been distributed under the second cycle.

Use of outdated and inappropriate technology is the main reason for low productivity of crops and livestock. Given the pre-dominance of small and margin-al farmers in Indian agriculture, affordability becomes a significant constraint on technology adoption by farmers. There exist several bottlenecks hampering on-farm adoption of technology developed in public sector. Agricultural research in the country is constrained by resource inadequacy, regulations and intellectual property rights (IPR). Multiple private and public sources supplying different information to farmers create confusion. A huge gap exists between the demand for and supply of skills in agriculture, hindering diversification, adoption of precision agriculture and on farm post-harvest value addition. India has not caught up to the rest of the world in terms of technology, which has led to the dominance of inefficient production practices, such as flood irrigation, at the farm level. Renewed focus on ground absorption of technology, market intelligence, skills and extension and modernising trade and commerce in agriculture are needed to modernise agriculture in India. Both production and marketing suffer due to the absence of adequate capital. Low scale is a serious constraint on the adoption of improved practices and in the input and output market.

**Increase area under irrigation:** Irrigation coverage needs to be increased to 53 per cent of gross cropped area (GCA) by 2022-23.3 the focus should be on increasing coverage through micro-irrigation. *Increase adoption of hybrid and improved seeds:* States should take the lead through the following measures: Dynamic seed development plans are required. These may be based on crop wise area (each season separately), seed rate per hectare used, desired/targeted seed replacement rate and crop wise

seed requirement. Crop wise requirement should be worked out based on historical trends, introduction of new varieties and replacement of poor yielding varieties.

States should aim to increase the seed replacement rate (SRR) to 33 per cent for self-pollinated crops and 50 per cent for cross-pollinated crops in alternative years.

**Increase Variety Replacement Ratio (VRR):** Phase out old varieties of seeds and replace them with hybrid and improved seeds to enhance productivity. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) along with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) should develop climate resilient varieties of crops suitable for the 128 agro-climatic zones of the country, through farmer participatory plant breeding and adopting farm varietal trials from the third year of the development of the seed.

**Strengthen seed testing facilities:** Seed testing facilities need up gradation in terms of both personnel and technical expertise. Regular performance monitoring is required to maintain the quality of test results.

**Uniform national procedure for seed licensing:** To tackle the problem of heterogeneity in seed licensing procedures across states, the central government should develop model guidelines for seed licensing and support states in implementing these.

**Efficient fertilizer usage:** Strengthen the SHC scheme and include not merely nine but all sixteen parameters in the tests. This will ensure SHC based fertilizer distribution at the ground level. Seed SHCs with the integrated fertilizer management system Link SHCs with Kisan credit cards and make SHCs mandatory for subsidies. Ensure proper functioning of the SHC labs.

**Reorient fertilizer subsidy policy:** The current lopsided fertilizer subsidy policy needs to bring secondary and micronutrients on the same nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) platform as phosphorus (P) and potash (K).

**Regulate pesticide use:** Align the pesticide regulatory framework with food safety laws to make adoption broad based. Strengthen extension activities to ensure that best practices reach the average farmer.

**Custom hiring centres:** Madhya Pradesh has had demonstrable success with their custom hiring centre model to hasten the pace of farm mechanization. This model should be replicated nationwide by employing rural youth and promoting entrepreneurship.

**Subsidies on liquid fertilizers:** Targeted subsidy should be provided on liquid fertilizers to encourage substitution with micro-irrigation. *Investment subsidies for micro-irrigation:* Rather than power and water subsidies, investment subsidies for micro-irrigation can be provided through the DBT mode

**Strengthening extension systems:** *Synergy between Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs):* The ATMA programme needs to be reoriented to include bottom up planning at the district and block levels to develop Strategic Research Extension Plans (SREP).<sup>4</sup> Further decentralization and autonomy are essential to the success of this programme. Subject matter specialists at KVKs should orient their research to the block action plans developed by ATMA.

**Public Private Partnership in KVKs:** The guiding principles of ATMA provide for the promotion of PPP in extension delivery. With each KVK in possession of approximately 50 acres of land, KVKs should incubate private sector initiatives in extension delivery.

**Market led extension:** Give priority to extension services that disseminate information to farmers regarding (i) crop selection (ii) demand for and supply of crop produce, (iii) expected price of commodity and (iv) Availability of infrastructure facilities for storage, transport and marketing of produce.

**Value added extension:** Prioritise value added extension services to enable a reduction in post-harvest losses by converting raw agricultural produce to processed products. This allows for increased price realization and contributes towards increasing farmers' income.

**District level skill mapping:** ICAR and SAUs should map the demand for and supply of skills in agriculture at the district level and coordinate with skill development missions to impart the required skills to farmers and agricultural labour.

**Replicate dealer training programme in state agricultural universities:** The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management's (MANAGE) dealer training programme should be replicated in SAUs, with diploma holders granted licences to conduct extension activities.

**Sustainable water use in agriculture:** About 83 per cent of water is used in agriculture. The solution to resolving India's imminent water crisis lies in conserving water in agriculture. Therefore, more efficient irrigation technologies, water harvesting and better crop selection must be encouraged.

**Diversification:** promotion of high value crops (HVCs) and livestock

**Encourage diversification to HVCs:** Design an incentive mechanism to wean farmers away from cereal crops to HVCs. The area under fruits and vegetables needs to increase by 5 per cent every year.<sup>5</sup>

**Establish regional production belts:** As in the cluster- based approach, regional production belts for HVCs need to be identified and supported through the Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Make SHCs mandatory in these belts.

**Use of hybrid technology in vegetables:** Shift to using hybrid varieties for vegetables. At present, 10 per cent of the cropped area under vegetables is under hybrids. Shifting to hybrids has the potential to increase yields by 1.5 to 3 times and provide a significant increase in income.

**Rootstocks for production of fruits:** Rootstock technology has shown the capacity to double production and be resilient to climate stress. Measures should be taken to standardize and promote usage of rootstocks to produce fruits. *Smart horticulture:* There have been pockets of success spread throughout the country, using techniques such as high-density plantation, protected cultivation and organic production. These methods need to be documented and replicated at the national level. It is recommended that a mission on smart horticulture may be setup to identify and promote new technologies. This mission must work in synergy with various agricultural research institutions in the country.

**Strengthen market for organic products:** Targeted efforts to create a market for niche products are recommended. Spices unique to a state can be branded by the Spice Board to encourage the production of organic spices. *Convert agricultural waste:* Recycling and utilizing agricultural waste would give a further fillip to farmers' income

#### **Livestock and fisheries**

**Breed indigenous cattle with exotic breeds:** Breeding of indigenous cattle with exotic breeds needs to be encouraged to arrest the issue of inbreeding. This will enable greater gene coverage, reduced diseases and greater resilience to climate change.

**Promote and develop bull mother farms:** Employing multiple ovulation and embryo transfer technologies, these farms can significantly enhance milk productivity through the supply of cattle with enhanced milk potential to farmers.

**Village level procurement systems:** Installing of bulk milk chillers and facilities for high value conversion of milk are needed to promote dairy in states. The private sector should be incentivized to create a value chain for HVCs and dairy products at the village level.

**Convergence of schemes in fisheries sector:** Integrate the Blue Revolution scheme with MGNREGA. Ponds created through MGNREGA should be used to promote aquaculture and can be used to create potential clusters as well. *Capacity building for fish breeders and farmers:* Establish fish co-operative organisations and run village level schemes in coordination with panchayats to disseminate best practices and research.

#### **Conclusion:**

Development concept should help achieve broad-based economic growth to ensure balanced development across all regions and states and across sectors. This implies embracing new technologies fostering innovation and up skilling. The strategy when implemented, will bridge the gap between public and private sector performance. The Prime Minister has focused on putting in place a 'development state' in place of the 'soft state' that this government had inherited. In this context, the government has focused on the efficient delivery of public services, rooting out corruption and black economy, formalizing the economy and expanding the tax base, improving the ease of doing business, nursing the stressed commercial banking sector back to a healthy state, and stopping leakages through direct benefit transfers and widespread use of the JAM trinity. The paper represents the government of India's determined vision to transform the nation into Judicial, legal and agriculture entity by the centenary of its independence in 2047 encompassing diverse facets of development such as economic prosperity, social advancement, environmental sustainability, and effective governance and reforms. This vision underscores the critical juncture at which India currently stands. Realizing this vision demands unwavering dedication, a firm belief in India's destiny and a profound recognition of the vast potential talent and capabilities of its people, particularly the youth. With the largest demographic share, the youth are positioned as the vanguard in leading India two words recessive Bharat by 2047.

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