PREFACE

The Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi said that, “Go towards villages”. Mahatma Gandhi’s statement indicates that the real India is situated in the villages. The dream of Gandhi offer self-reliant nation with the all-round development in every sector could be attended which the development of small and cottage industries in the rural India, this only could attained by the development of rural masses and planning such measures which could eliminate poverty, illiteracy and ignorance which had been deep rooted among these masses.

India lives in her villages. The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture. Our agriculture is in a backward condition. It is a matter of great concern, not only for teeming millions, but also for the Government. Agriculture is of supreme importance for the progress of the country.

Agriculture has been an ancient activity since the ages unknown and had been the backbone of several river valley civilizations across the globe. In India with the absence of proper planning, management, programmes and measures ours agriculture is lagging behind though it could provide food not only to its population but also to the entire world. Since the green revolution it became a profit earning activity but with the advent of globalization and much attention towards industrial sector worsen
Indian agriculture is at crossroads and one of the major challenges is to reverse deceleration in agricultural growth. Main reason for deceleration in agricultural growth is declining investment particularly public investment in agriculture research and development and irrigation, combined with inefficiency of institutions providing inputs and services including rural credit and extension. Other factors such as land fragmentation, out-dated tenancy laws, lack of modern market and rural infrastructure, inappropriate input pricing policies, etc. are also responsible for agrarian and ecological crisis in the country. The crisis of stagnation in agriculture needs urgent attention. The government has renewed focus on agriculture and promoting public-private partnership to accelerate growth in the rural economy. Many Indian and multi-national agribusiness companies have entered Indian agribusiness sector. The central government has also initiated reforms in outdated laws such as Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, Essential Commodities Act (ECA), and given some incentives like waiver of market fee, rural development tax, etc. for companies making investment in agribusiness sector. The central as well as state governments are promoting involvement of corporate sector in agriculture through contract farming with

conditions. Hence the top priority should be given with adequate measures, proper planning for making it a commercial activity.
a view to enable farmer to have access to better inputs, extension services and credit from agribusiness companies. Contract farming is also supposed to eliminate and/or reduce markets and price risks, which farmers face. However, it all depends on the nature of contracts, legislation for regulation of contract farming, enforcement, dispute resolution mechanisms, etc.

The pressure on land has increased very much with the unimaginable growth of population. Even though the more and more land is being brought under plough, there has been shortage of essential commodities. Another reason is the lack of irrigation facilities. The monsoon type climate of the country makes agriculture a gamble of rains. If the monsoon fails, crops fail. If the rains come in time and in proper quantity, the hopes of the farmers are brightened.

Since the independence, the Government has given top priority to agriculture. Multipurpose river projects have been constructed in all the states. These projects have made irrigation facilities available to the farmer. Where canal irrigation is not possible, more tube wells are being bored. Government has already established a number of big factories for the production of chemical fertilizers. More such factories will be established in the near future to avoid shortage of chemical fertilizers. They will solve the
manure problem. Zamindari and Jagirdari have been abolished. This has made the tiller of the soil the real master of his hand. Consolidation of landholdings has been completed.

Though, the agricultural production has been slow. Farmer is ignorant and satisfactory. Progress in agriculture has been slow. He is ignorant and conservative. The reasons for this are obvious. He carries on agriculture in his own way. He does not like to give up traditional methods. Moreover, the offices entrusted with this work have not taken due interest in their work. They have had been failed in providing proper information regarding Government schemes, planning's, and generating awareness among the farmers regarding ultra-modern equipment, bank facilities and his own ignorance. Furthermore the Government schemes are not being properly implemented. It is remained on the pages and the subsidies regarding this are being swallowed with the mutual understandings among the farmers, agents and officers. The Government alone cannot solve every problem. The rural folk have been lacking in co-operation and happy with what they have.

Better facilities should be provided for the education of the peasants. More stress should be placed on agricultural education. Agriculture should be organized on a co-operative basis. The difficulties which come in the way
must be removed. Only hard working and honest men should be made responsible for execution of Governmental schemes. The important suggestions made by the researcher in this thesis, could be of yeoman service in planning of proper programmes and its implementation at the rural labour, if put into practice, are sure to prove very useful.

The researcher examined "problems and prospects of agriculture development in Nanded District" and suggest suitable ways and means for the proper improvement of agriculture.

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