

Impact of Subsidies Schemes on the Development of the Agricultural Sector in Nagaland

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Abstract—Agriculture plays an important role in the livelihood of the people of Nagaland, where about seventy per cent of the people are either engaged directly or indirectly to agricultural activities. Naga farmers practices old- traditional cultivation of shifting/jhum cultivation. Despite of having more than half of its population engaged in agriculture it still depends on other states of the country in many ways. Growth in agricultural sector is one of the effective means of reducing poverty in rural areas and which can be achieved through subsidies from the government. This paper highlights the impact and drawbacks of subsidies on agricultural sector in Nagaland. The study reviews the literature available in various policy documents, reports, journals and previous studies related to subsidies on agricultural sector. This study focuses in particular on the types, effects, roles, employment, economic contribution, farmer benefit, issues, and recommendations for Nagaland's agricultural development. We contend that the Government should implement some policies where the subsidies can be effectively provided to the farmers because we recognize the necessity of subsidies for the expansion of the agricultural sector in Nagaland.

Keywords—Agriculture, Subsidies, Growth, Farmers, Traditional Cultivation, Shifting/Jhum Cultivation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is important all over the world when it comes to economic development. It contributed 4 percent of the world GDP in 2018 and up to more than 25 percent in some developing countries. The agricultural sector provides for the daily needs of more than half of India's population and contributes significantly to the country's economy. The country that produces rice and wheat in India on a second-place basis. Indian agriculture provides a living for about 58 percent of the country's people. Between 2019-2020 and 2020-21, the GDP share of agriculture in India increased from 17.8 to 19.9 percent. The population of Nagaland, a state in northeastern India with 1.65 million hectares, was 1,978,502 as of the 2011 census. The majority of people in Nagaland work in agriculture, either directly or indirectly, making it a significant economic activity there. 70 percent of the population in Nagaland, a hilly state with abundant natural resources, is employed in agriculture, making it primarily an agrarian state. High-yielding crops in the state of Nagaland include rice, oilseeds, tobacco, pulses, fibers, sugarcane, potato, corn, and millets. Nagaland is primarily an area of traditional jhum/shifting agriculture because of its topographical terrain. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Nagaland in 2011–12 was approximately 12,065 cores. Forestry and agriculture account for the majority of Nagaland's GDP. About 80 percent of the cropped land in Nagaland is used for growing rice. Despite the fact that Nagaland has a sizable agricultural population, the state is dependent on other Indian states for its production due to a lack of resources. Low productivity may be caused by a variety of factors, including outdated agricultural practises, a lack of funding for the purchase of modern tools and machinery, poor marketing infrastructure, a lack of skills, etc. The state department of agriculture was established in 1963 with the declaration of Nagaland as the 16th state under the Indian Union and is currently headed by Director. During the 12th five-year plan, the Indian government (GOI) introduced several national flagship programmes with a focus on sustainable agricultural development. It implemented a number of programmes, such as RKVY, NEC, PMKSY, ATMA, NFSM, EARS, etc., which significantly aided in the advancement of agriculture. By

implementing various agricultural policies, the Nagaland government has taken a proactive approach and worked hard to strengthen the economy. Given that agriculture is the primary source of livelihood in rural India, both the Nagaland and the Indian governments have been offering various subsidies and programmes to improve the country's agricultural sector.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

S.P. Sinha, (1982) in their study, the authors makes an effort to evaluate how subsidies affect agricultural productivity, income, and employment. In Bihar's Muzaffarpur during the pre-subsidy years of 1979–80 and 1981–82, the study focused on a group of selected beneficiary farmers (Post subsidy period). The beneficiary farms' cropping intensity increased from 154 to 160 percent after using the subsidy to boost farm productivity. The conclusion they reach is that the subsidy programme must be selective and discriminating. The beneficiaries must be properly identified in order to prevent financial abuse. (S.P. Sinha, 1982)

Mitra, (1982) The success of the Small Farmers Development Agency's (SFDA) credit and subsidy programmes in enhancing the financial standing of marginal and small farmers in the Orissan district of Ganjam. It was discovered that when credit and subsidies were available, it was difficult to use them effectively because HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, and pesticides were not readily available. It prevents many subsidy recipients from utilising new technology to its fullest potential, which would improve their economic situation. (Mitra, 1982)

Harshal A. Salunkhe, (2012) the authors compared India's gross cropped area and total agricultural subsidies. Every year, there is an increase in the total amount of subsidies. The total amount in 1980–81 was Rs. 1 228.5 crore, and in 2008–09, it was Rs. 1 15,952.20 crore. The Gross cropped area was 1, 73, 324 hectares in the 1980–1981 fiscal year; it increased to 1,88,403 hectares; and then decreased to 1,75,678 hectares in the 2006–2007 fiscal year. India's population increased concurrently, reaching 68.52 crores in 1980–1981; 84.39 crores in 1991; 102.70 crores in 2001; and 121 crores in 2012. These facts demonstrate unequivocally that agricultural subsidies increased from 1980–1981 to 2008–2009, and the gross cropped area is probably the same, despite a gradually growing population. (Harshal A. Salunkhe, 2012)

Attempts to ascertain the effect of subsidies on the income of small and marginal farmers in the Ajitwal Block of the Etawah District of Uttar Pradesh in 1980–81 (**S.R. Yadav, (1982)**). The authors noted that beneficiaries' overall income increased as a result of the subsidy's provision. Comparing beneficiaries to non-beneficiaries, it was projected to be somewhere around 50 percent. According to the study, farm income from crop growing was about 70 percent higher for beneficiaries than for non-beneficiaries. (S.R. Yadav, 1982)

Halmandage, (2009) The author draws the conclusion that the Indian economy benefited greatly from subsidies prior to their removal. The marginal farmers and less fortunate groups in society benefited more from the fertiliser subsidy. Subsidies increased the purchasing power of marginal farmers. It aids in raising agricultural output and boosting the Indian economy. In 2003, the federal government ended the fertiliser subsidy. Following that, agricultural output will progressively decline. The farmers are unable to afford the more expensive fertiliser. When farmers used fertiliser, their agricultural output gradually fell back to pre-subsidy levels. Due to the removal of agricultural subsidies, the overall rate of agricultural production is falling and production costs are rising. (Halmandage, 2009)

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To conduct research on the different types and effects of subsidies and programmes offered to Nagaland's agricultural sector.
2. To examine the role, employment, and economic contribution of the agricultural sector in Nagaland.
3. To investigate how Nagaland's farmers benefited from subsidies and other programmes.
4. To research the main issues and make recommendations for the better application of subsidies and programmes in Nagaland's agricultural sector.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current study is supported by secondary information. The secondary data were gathered from academic articles, government documents, books, working papers, white papers, doctoral theses, documents from the internet, and other sources.

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

5.1 The various types of subsidies and programmes offered to the agriculture sector in Nagaland:

Subsidies are a type of financial assistance or support given to an industry with the general intent of advancing social and economic policy. It is a financial favour, economic break, or privilege that a government bestows on individuals, families, or other governmental entities in the form of direct or indirect payment. The Latin word "subsidies" which connotes providing assistance from behind is where the word "subsidy" originates. As a result, the term "subsidies" refers to financial assistance or support given to a sector of the economy with the aim of achieving or advancing economic and social policy.

TABLE 1
DIFFERENT PROGRAMS AND SUBSIDIES IN NAGALAND'S AGRICULTURE

Sl. No.	Subsidies & Schemes	Year	Purpose
1	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	2007	To ensure holistic development of agriculture and allied sector
2	Farm Mechanization under SMAM & RKVY	2016-2017	To boost up production through farm mechanization
3	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	2007	To increase annual production of rice, wheat and pulses.
4	NMOOP	2014-15	To boost the production of oilseeds
5	ATMA	2005-06	To improve farm productivity and ensure better utilization of resources of the country
6	Seed Production Programme under RKVY	2016-17	To upgrade the quality of farmer saved seed
7	SMPP	2015-16	To minimize use of hazardous chemical pesticides and to manage , insect pest and disease attack increasing production
8	PMKSY	2006	For integrating Research and Extension activities and decentralising day to day management of public ATS
9	NHM	2005-2006	To enhance horticulture production

Sources: Department of Agriculture, Government of Nagaland

The subsidies are offered through a number of programmes and policies and come in the form of equipment, fertilizer, seeds, irrigation facilities, credits, and other things that can assist farmers in increasing their output by using a variety of inputs. Various subsidy programmes, it has significantly improved the farmers' ability to produce, boosting Nagaland's agricultural sector.

The agricultural sector is a critical component of the economy of Nagaland, and the state government provides several subsidies and schemes to support farmers and promote agricultural development. Here are some of the types of subsidies and schemes provided for the agriculture sector in Nagaland:

1. **Agricultural Input Subsidy:** The agricultural input subsidy provides financial assistance to farmers for the purchase of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. The subsidy is aimed at reducing the cost of production for farmers and increasing the productivity of their crops.
2. **Agricultural Credit Scheme:** The agricultural credit scheme provides loans to farmers for the purchase of agricultural inputs and improvement of their farms. The scheme also provides loans for the establishment of agri-business enterprises and the creation of new employment opportunities in the agriculture sector.
3. **Soil Health Card Scheme:** This scheme provides farmers with information on the nutrient status of their soil, allowing them to make informed decisions on the use of fertilizers and other inputs. The scheme also provides subsidies for soil testing and for the implementation of soil conservation measures.
4. **Crop Insurance Scheme:** This scheme provides financial protection to farmers in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities such as drought, floods, and hailstorms. The scheme provides subsidies for the premium paid by farmers for crop insurance coverage.

5. **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:** This is a national crop insurance scheme that provides financial protection to farmers against crop losses due to natural calamities. The scheme provides subsidies for the premium paid by farmers for crop insurance coverage.
6. **National Food Security Mission:** This provides subsidies and support to farmers for the improvement of crop yields and the diversification of agricultural production. The mission also provides subsidies for the development of new technologies and the promotion of organic farming practices.

5.2 Subsidies and Schemes in Agriculture Sector of Nagaland

The government of Nagaland has initiated various subsidies and schemes to promote the growth and development of the agriculture sector in the state. These subsidies and scheme aim to improve agricultural productivity, increase farmer's income, and promote sustainable agriculture practices. Some of the key subsidies and scheme in the agriculture sector of Nagaland are:

1. **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):** This is a flagship scheme of the government of India, which aims to provide financial assistance to states for the development of the agriculture sector. Under the scheme, Nagaland receives financial assistance for various activities such as crop diversification, organic farming, and infrastructure development.
2. **National Food Security Mission (NFSM):** The NFSM aims to increase the production of rice, wheat, and pulses in the country. Under the scheme, Nagaland receives financial assistance for activities such as distribution of high-yielding varieties of seeds, use of modern farming techniques, and promotion of crop diversification.
3. **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA):** The NMSA aims to promote sustainable agriculture practices such as soil health management, water use efficiency, and natural resource management. Under the scheme, Nagaland receives financial assistance for activities such as promotion of organic farming, conservation of land and water resources, and use of renewable energy in agriculture.
4. **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):** The PMFBY is a crop insurance scheme, which provides financial assistance to farmers in case of crop failure due to natural calamities. Under the scheme, Nagaland's farmers receive premium subsidies for crop insurance.
5. **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER):** The MOVCDNER aims to promote organic farming in the northeast region, including Nagaland. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for activities such as capacity building, training, and certification of organic farming.
6. **Nagaland State Seed Certification Agency (NSSCA):** The NSSCA aims to ensure the quality of seeds sold in the state. The agency provides subsidies for seed certification, seed production, and distribution of certified seeds.

5.3 Impact on Subsidies and Schemes of Agricultural Sector in Nagaland

The impact of subsidies and schemes on the agricultural sector in Nagaland has been generally positive, although it can vary depending on the specific scheme and the region in which it is implemented. Here are some of the positive impacts of subsidies and schemes on the agricultural sector in Nagaland:

1. **Increased Access to Credit:** The availability of agricultural credit has increased, allowing farmers to purchase inputs, improve their farms, and diversify their production. This has improved the competitiveness of farmers and increased their incomes.
2. **Improved Crop Yields:** The availability of subsidies for inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, has improved the productivity of crops, leading to increased yields and income for farmers.
3. **Reduced Cost of Production:** Subsidies for inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides, have reduced the cost of production for farmers, allowing them to earn higher profits from their crops.
4. **Increased Adoption of Technology:** The availability of subsidies for technology, such as precision farming and soil conservation measures, has encouraged farmers to adopt new technologies, leading to increased productivity and efficiency.
5. **Improved Food Security:** The increased production of food crops as a result of subsidies and schemes has improved food security in Nagaland and reduced the dependence on imports.

6. **Promotion of Organic Farming:** The availability of subsidies and support for organic farming practices has encouraged farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable agriculture practices, leading to improved soil health and reduced dependence on chemical inputs.

5.4 Benefits from Schemes and Subsidies

The Nagaland Department of Agriculture under RKVY successfully constructed and inaugurated A/C Organic Market at NE Agri-Expo 4th mile, Dimapur, in 2020. In addition, as part of the Sub-Mission Agricultural Mechanization, the department gave farmers 93 tractors, 878 power tillers, 460 brush cutters, 215 rotary tillers, and 372 other small but useful pieces of equipment (SMAM). A total of 2, 13,613 farmers registered for PM Kisan on February 4th, 2021, and each received 216.08 crores. Under RKVY, the department constructed 19 marketing sheds and 12 collection stores across various districts. 87.5 MT of certified potatoes covering 35 ha was distributed as part of the Seed Production Program in the first year of the RKVY programme, 2016–17. (EMN, 2022)

The department of agriculture was capable of exceeding the national average of 2.69 and attaining an agro-based growth rate of 6.14 percent thanks to the state's RKVY being intercepted. About 67.52 thousand hectares of oilseed cultivation are carried out in the state under the National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm (NMOOP), primarily on marginal lands. From 2016 to 2017, oil palm plantations covered 1200 ha. The Agricultural Technology Management Agency in Nagaland has benefited food producers and societies in 74 blocks across 11 districts (ATMA). The 11th and 12th five-year plans included the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), which was created with the goal of boosting the annual output of rice, wheat, and pulses. Integrated Pest Management (RKVY) successfully conducted instruction and demos on vegetables, paddy, and cereals in 60 Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) in 2016–17. All 11 districts and 19 subdivisions underwent surveillance and monitoring surveys to determine the presence of pests, and 20000 Tricho cards were given to farmers. The federal and state governments' various programmes and subsidies, which have aided farmers and massively increased their output, have greatly benefited the agricultural sector. (Yanthan, 2023)

5.5 Role of Agriculture Sector in Nagaland

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the economy of Nagaland, as it is the primary source of livelihood for a majority of the population. Here are some of the roles that agriculture plays in Nagaland:

1. **Employment Generation:** Agriculture is the largest employer in Nagaland, providing livelihoods to a majority of the rural population. It is estimated that around 70% of the state's population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities.
2. **Food Security:** Agriculture is the main source of food for the people of Nagaland. The state's diverse agro-climatic conditions allow for the cultivation of a variety of food crops, including rice, maize, millets, pulses, and vegetables.
3. **Contribution to State Economy:** Agriculture contributes significantly to the state's economy, accounting for around 28 percent of the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and employing over 60 percent of the workforce in the primary sector.
4. **Preservation of Biodiversity:** Agriculture in Nagaland is characterized by a unique mix of traditional and modern farming practices, leading to the preservation of the state's rich biodiversity. The state is home to a variety of indigenous crops, including Naga chillies, aromatic rice, and organic vegetables.
5. **Export of Agricultural Produce:** Nagaland's unique agricultural produce, such as the Naga King Chilli, has attracted international attention and created new opportunities for exporting organic produce to international markets, such as Europe and the Middle East.
6. **Promoting Rural Development:** Agriculture plays an important role in the overall development of rural areas in Nagaland, as it provides livelihood opportunities and contributes to the creation of rural infrastructure.

5.6 Economic Contribution of Agriculture Sector in Nagaland

The agriculture sector is a vital contributor to the economy of Nagaland, providing employment and livelihood opportunities to a large number of people. Agriculture, along with allied sectors, such as livestock and forestry, accounts for a significant share of the state's economy. Here are some of the key economic contributions of the agriculture sector in Nagaland:

1. **Employment:** Agriculture is a major source of employment in Nagaland, providing livelihood opportunities to a large number of people, especially in rural areas. According to the 2011 Census, around 70 percent of the state's population is engaged in agriculture.
2. **Contribution to GDP:** The agriculture sector is a significant contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Nagaland. According to the Economic Survey of Nagaland (2019-20), the share of agriculture and allied sectors in the state's GDP was around 20 percent in 2018-19.
3. **Export Earnings:** Agriculture is a major contributor to the state's export earnings. Nagaland is known for its high-quality agricultural products such as organic fruits and vegetables, spices, and medicinal plants. The state has a significant potential for exports of agricultural products, and several initiatives have been taken to promote agricultural exports from the state.
4. **Food Security:** Agriculture is a critical sector for ensuring food security in Nagaland. The state is largely dependent on agriculture for its food requirements, and a significant part of the state's population is engaged in subsistence agriculture.
5. **Rural Development:** Agriculture is a crucial driver of rural development in Nagaland. The growth and development of the agriculture sector can lead to the development of rural area, create employment opportunities, and improve the standard of living of people in rural areas.

5.7 Employment Opportunities in Agriculture of Nagaland

Agriculture in Nagaland provides significant employment opportunities, particularly in the rural areas of the state. Here are some of the employment opportunities available in the agriculture sector in Nagaland:

1. **Farming:** It is the most common agricultural activity in Nagaland, and it provides employment to a majority of the population in the rural areas. Farmers are engaged in the cultivation of various crops, including rice, maize, millets, pulses, and vegetables.
2. **Livestock Rearing:** Livestock rearing is another important agricultural activity in Nagaland. The state has a significant population of livestock, including cattle, pigs, and poultry. Livestock rearing provides employment opportunities for many people, including small-scale farmers, livestock keepers, and dairy farmers.
3. **Horticulture:** Horticulture is another significant agricultural activity in Nagaland, with the cultivation of fruits, flowers, and medicinal plants. Horticulture provides employment opportunities for both men and women, particularly in the post-harvest management and processing of horticultural produce.
4. **Fisheries:** Nagaland has a significant potential for fisheries development, with several rivers, streams, and natural water bodies. Fisheries provide employment opportunities for fish farmers, fish traders, and fish processors.
5. **Value Addition and Marketing:** The agricultural produce's value addition and marketing provide employment opportunities for people engaged in food processing, packaging, and marketing. It also creates opportunities for entrepreneurs and small-scale industries.
6. **Agricultural Services:** The agricultural sector in Nagaland also provided employment opportunities for people engaged in agricultural services such as extension services, research and development, and farm mechanization services.

5.8 Major Issues of Agriculture Sector in Nagaland

Despite the crucial role of agriculture in Nagaland's economy, the sector faces several challenges and issues that hinder its growth and development. Some of the main issues in Nagaland agriculture include:

1. **Land Fragmentation:** Land in Nagaland is fragmented and divided into small and scattered parcels, which makes it difficult for farmers to adopt modern farming practices and technologies. This also limits the scope for commercial farming and investment in agriculture.
2. **Lack of Irrigation Facilities:** Nagaland has a high dependence on rainfall for agriculture, and there is a lack of adequate irrigation facilities. This limits the ability of farmers to cultivate crops throughout the year and reduces productivity.
3. **Low Productivity:** Agriculture in Nagaland is characterized by low productivity due to the use of traditional and low-yielding varieties of crops, limited access to modern inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, and poor farming practices.

4. **Post-Harvest Losses:** Nagaland faces significant post-harvest losses due to inadequate storage facilities, lack of processing and marketing infrastructure, and limited access to credit and market linkages.
5. **Limited Access to Credit:** Farmers in Nagaland face limited access to credit, which hinders their ability to invest in farming and adopt modern farming practices.
6. **Limited Research and Development:** There is a lack of research and development in agriculture in Nagaland, which limits the ability of farmers to adopt new technologies and farming practices. This also hinders the development of high-value crops and value addition in agriculture.

5.9 Suggestion for the better implication of subsidies and Schemes in Agriculture sectors of Nagaland

To ensure the effective implementation of subsidies and schemes in the agriculture sector of Nagaland.

1. **Awareness and Outreach:** One of the primary challenges in the effective implementation of subsidies and schemes is the lack of awareness and outreach. The government should ensure that farmers are well-informed about the various subsidies and schemes available to them. This can be done through awareness campaigns, workshops, and training programs.
2. **Timely Disbursement of Funds:** The timely disbursement of funds is critical to the success of subsidies and schemes. The government should ensure that funds are disbursed on time and that there are no delays in the implementation of projects.
3. **Customized Schemes:** These can be designed to suit the specific needs of farmers in different regions of the state. This can ensure that subsidies and schemes are tailored to meet the requirements of the farmers and are more effective.
4. **Capacity Building:** It is essential for the effective implementation of subsidies and schemes. The government should provide training and capacity building programs for farmers and other stakeholders involved in the agriculture sector.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** These are crucial to ensure the effective implementation of subsidies and schemes. The government should establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the impact of subsidies and schemes and identify areas that require improvement.
6. **Public-Private Partnership:** The government can encourage Public-Private Partnership to promote the development of the agriculture sector. Private sector players can be involved in the implementation of subsidies and schemes, which can lead to better results.

VI. CONCLUSION

Subsidies play an important role in promoting an economic and social policy of a country by supporting the economic sector, for a state like Nagaland without the help of subsidies, the development of the agricultural sector is not possible as it lacks various facilities and technologies required for improvement of the agricultural sector. The subsidies and schemes in the agriculture sector of Nagaland aim to promote sustainable agriculture practices, increase agricultural productivity, and improve farmers' income. These schemes provide financial assistance for various activities such as infrastructure development, the use of modern farming techniques, and the promotion of organic farming. While there are some positive impacts of subsidies and schemes on the agricultural sector in Nagaland, it is important to note that the impact can vary depending on the specific scheme and the region in which it is implemented. Effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation are important factors in ensuring that the full potential of these subsidies and schemes is realized. The agriculture sector is a crucial contributor to the economy of Nagaland, providing employment, contributing to the GDP, generating export earnings, ensuring food security, and driving rural development. Given the vast potential of the sector, there is a need for sustained efforts to promote the growth and development of agriculture in the state. The state government has initiated various schemes and programs to promote employment in agriculture, including skill development programs, financial assistance, and support for the development of agro-based industries. It requires a multipronged approach that involves improving access to credit, irrigation, and storage facilities, promoting modern farming practices, encouraging the use of high-yielding crop varieties, and investing in research and development in agriculture. The effective implementation of subsidies and schemes in the agriculture sector of Nagaland can be achieved through awareness and outreach, timely disbursement of funds, customized schemes, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, and public-private partnerships. These measures can lead to a more sustainable and productive agriculture sector in Nagaland.

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