



AGRO BASED INDUSTRIES AS A SALVATION OF RURAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH REFERENCE TO KOLAR DISTRICT

Afzal Bijili

Asst. Prof of Economics, Govt. First Grade College, K.G.F.

Abstract

India reflect the character of regional imbalance. Masses in rural area, not only deprived with basic things, suffer with poverty unemployment and under employment. Many schemes fails to lift the Socio Economic condition of rural population the approaches to the rural problem is contradictory to the existing traditional society. Besides huge amount of man power, local natural resources are either underutilized or un utilized. The income, inequality, debt ridden life under neutritions, migration and other problems aggravating the rural life.

Hence under this background this paper emphasis the core idea of extensive establishment of Agro based industries to solve rural problem. Besides the paper focuses on the nature of agro based industry. Special references were made of Kolar District of Karnataka, which is a rain scarce district. Majority of the District population lives in rural area who's life is under utter confusion and poverty. There by this paper brings various problems of the district and suggest agro based industries as remedial measures.

Key Words Used: Agro Industry, Rural Economy, Rural Problems, Income, Employment, Agriculture.

Introduction

Agro based industry postulates a considerable importance in the Indian economy so particularly in rural economy. It plays vital role for the economic development of rural area. Agro based industries are those industry which completely depend upon the Agriculture for the sake of raw materials. In other words those industries who's product can be used in Agriculture. For example Fruit processing, oil mills, dhal mills, rice mill, Ground nut decorticators, Tambaco etc., the Agro Industries are expected to play most vital role in eradication of various Socio Economic Problems of Rural area.

With reference to Kolar District, which is one of the most backward areas of Karnataka tagged with rural background, lack the required infrastructure. It also lack the the technical expertise and entrepreneurship among local population, followed by high level of unemployed men and materials. Hence industrially backward and agriculturally predominant, need many initiations to establish Agro based industry. The problems such as migration, unemployment, under employment, low income, social backwardness, women economic empowerment and other related problems can be shoot with establishment of Agro based industry. Hence Agro based industry are the salvation for rural Socio Economic Problem.

So in the case of Kolar District where we see predominancy of agriculture large wastages of rural youth power, low economic status for women, large un used local resources, low income level and migration to nearing city Bangalore, this these problems can be effectively controlled by establishment of Agro Industries. Under these situation agro based industries are the only way towards effective control of district problems in particular Indian Rural Economy in general.

Objectives of Studies

The present study on Agro based industry with reference to Kolar District, has been outlined in the following objectives.

1. To know the nature and complexity of Agro Based Industries.
2. To Analyse the various Socio Economic issues of rural area.
3. To find suitable remedies to the rural Economic problem.



Review of Literature

Indian Agriculture, in general and agricultural activity in Kolar District is overcrowded. It needs an alternative occupation for the effective and better utilization of Local human as well as natural resources. Under these circumstances agro based industries are best alternative choice both at Indian level as well as district level.

In this regard Krishna Kumar writes that “the development of Agro based Industries at the village level is very vital to the economic development of the Country (1991) Agro based industry being a household industry it also assist in women empowering. The women can spend their surplus time by engaging in agro based industries. In this regard Dr.C.Ravi Kumar opines that “Indian rural Society is being a traditional Society does not permit their women folk working out of their door steps. According to Manjeet S. Jolly, in Agro based industry, most of the activities are done indoors. Thus, it is well suited for rural women. Besides agro based, industry is very labour intensive combining agriculture and industry, Skill required are simple.As rightly observed by Usha Manorama “As family Labour force consists of 60% of the total labour force, it is the best way of absorbing the surplus labour (1992).

Vs Hegde (1992) is of opinion that Agro industries are labour intensive, low capital, short gestation period and provide income at regular intervals throughout the year, provides employment for a wide cross section of the population. S N Mishra (2004) attempted to study and prove that rural development can be achieved through agro based industries. He is of the opines that through agro based industry production, income and employment can be achieved in the backward rural area.

Methodology

The methodology adopted in the study is based on Secondary data. The various of secondary data are journals. Reference book, reports and other published works, Google search is also an important source of Secondary data. Besides , I am residing in Kolar district, my personal observation and visit to rural areas has helped me a lot to acquire primary data, to white this research paper.

Rural Problems with Reference to Kolar District.

Kolar District which locales around 80 kmt from Bangalore not been benefitted the fruits of economic development of Bangalore. By and large remains rural backward. Agriculture is the main occupation with 10 Taluk with a total population of 1387062 (2001) However after the division the number of Taluk reduced to 5. 80% of its population lives in rural are, who are affected by some or the other problem.

The various rural problems associates with Kolar District are problem of an economic holding which result in low agricultural returns and disguised unemployment, failing to introduce new methods in agriculture. Low level of capital is another important rural problem, consequently they cant go for mechanization of agriculture. Migration is very severe problem, where large number of population either by selling their land or as a daily labourers migrating to near by city Bangalore. This has reduced agri labour raising the cost. Lack of alternative occupation has caused huge wastages of man power. Unemployment and disguised unemployment is another important concern of rural kolar district. Due to seasional agricultural activity lack of alternative occupation many youth remains unemployed or under employed, this situation do not provide sufficient income to lead a decent life. Social injustice is another important problem associate with rural population. It is a result of low economic status, which led to demoralized life, and succumv to various evils. Semi skilled, low skilled and unskilled population dominancy is another important rural evil, this kind of population cant be employed in industries and service sector.

Therefore they continue to be an important part of rural problem. Besides Mass Poverty and Low Income Level due to their Socio Economic hinderance aggravated the rural problem. Under these circumstance the remedy lies with Agro based industries and no other better substitute than Agro based industries.



Agro Based Industry Towards Salvation of Rural Problems

Agro based industries are one of the basic and key factor for rural development and prosperity. It provides additional opportunity of employment income and better standard of life. They by and large help for preventing migration to the cities for livelihood. The Agro industries, not only consume agricultural raw materials but also provide better seeds, fertilizers, implementation, chemicals etc., which improves the agricultural occupation.

Kolar District has nearly 1526 (2006) Agro industries, 80 percent of its population lives in villages, thousands of labours are employed leading to raise their income level. These industries have helped for regional balance and provide social justice. They have also greatly contributed to reduce the gap of rich and poor in rural areas. The our standing importance of these industries are they required low and semi skilled labourers, which is abundant in rural areas who cant be employable in organized industry and service sector. There for thousands of such labourer found Agro based industries as only way. The food processing industries have helped farmers to realize better value for their product. The processing industry alone at Bagalkote, Jewargi, Hiriyur and at Malur (Kolar District) has created over 5000 employment. In kolar district it is estimated that around 5% of over crowded agricultural labourer is relieved and used in Agro based industry (DIC Kolar).

Agro Based Industries greatly helpful in increasing the income level of labourer who are partly employed in rural area. It is estimated that around an average Rs.10,000 per month income is generating as an additional to their existing occupation. There by solving the problems of disguise unemployment .

The Agro Industries have solved the problems of uneconomic holding, which generate low income, As these industry provide supplementary Job opportunity. Another important problem of rural areas is low capital, this problem is effectively solved by Agro based industry be cause they required low capital. Hence Agro Based Industries are very much suitable to rural area. Besides in rural Indian huge local resources are unutilized which is subjected to waste, therefore the salvation of these problem depend on the establishment of Agro based industry. Further due to social and economic backward a section of the society always facing social injustice. Economic backwardness made their life further vulnerable. Under these circumstances agro based industry uplift their economic status, there by social status. Hence Agro based industries are salvation for rural problems.

Conclusion

The work on Agro based industry, in relation to rural India, shows significant support and its need to rural area. The industry has caused much progress in rural economy and provide considerable relief to rural Socio Economic Problem. Further Indian rural Economy basically an agricultural, has vast scope for the development of agro based industries. Even there is a good demand for agro product which can be encash and further used for the growth of agro industry and rural sector. However in sufficient infrastructure is the major set back for the Agro based industries. Little innovation and progressive educational programmes to rural population, elimination of traditional and unprogressive practices will way out for excellent growth and competitiveness among Agro based industries.

References

1. Krishna Kumar (1991) "Future of Rural Industrialization".
2. Venkaih (1987) Impact of Agro based Industries in rural Economy.
3. Published work of DIC Kolar.
4. Bhattacharya, SN (1990) Rural Industrialization in India.
5. Mishra (2004) Rural development through Agro Based Industries.
6. Southern Economics.
7. Google Search.
8. Sadhu Singh "Agricultural Economics.
9. Govt of Karnataka (2008) Economic Survey".