Green Revolution

Sem III

Green Revolution is the term used for the spectacular growth in the foodgrains production, particularly in wheat & rice, as a result of new agricultural strategy introduced in 1967-68.

This strategy was introduced in the form of "package deal" programme with the implementation of new "high yielding varieties" of seeds (HYV) and included other inputs, like chemical fertilizers, pesticides, assured water supply, supply of electricity at subsidised rates, improvement of rural infrastructures (especially roadways), credit and marketing facilities on co-operative basis, a system of support prices & buffer stocking.

Thus, this strategy was supported by a system of subsidies subsidies, which were to be concentrated in certain selected high potential areas.

The idea was to demonstrate to the farmers, how productivity could be raised without increasing the area under production.

Consequences:

① As a result of the new strategy, food-grains production rose sharply.
② Requirements for imports were started to decrease.
③ Large buffer stocks were created.
④ Attention was paid to diversification of crops as well as multiple cropping.
⑤ Growth of commercial crops were started with importance.
⑥ The main beneficiaries of the "Green Revolution Programme" were Punjab, Haryana, western U.P. in terms of wheat production.
⑦ The deltaic regions of east

coast, accepted rice cultivation, under this programme, but though, not in remarkable conditions.

⑥ In some areas of western part where soil & irrigation was made available, cotton crop was under cultivation system.

⑦ The 2nd phase of the Green Revolution programme was launched in 1983-84 which aimed at covering the rainfed and commercial crops.

Drawbacks of Green Revolution :

① Enhances Inter-Personal, Inter-Regional and Intra-sectoral disparities — because the benefits were limited to the area under HYV of seeds only. Even in HYV areas, the benefits were confined to wheat & rice. The new techniques were only implemented in areas of sufficient water system, i.e. irrigation.

Farmers were in problems of affording costly inputs in some areas, specially in case of small & marginal farmers.

② Environmental Degradation —

The sudden rise in the use of chemical fertilizers & pesticides has harmed the long-term fertility of soil and at the same time caused water pollution.

Even in the case of chemical fertilizers, the ideal N:P:K ratio, has not been maintained. As a result of wasteful use of water, the water table has fallen sharply.

③ Disturbed Bio-Diversity —

The new package was characterised by a shift from traditional to HYV of seeds; where, HYV seeds were vulnerable to diseases and environmental extremities.

(4) Undesirable Cropping Patterns — Because of the changed agricultural price policy, farmers were tempted to adopt certain cropping patterns, which brought them quick profits, but were undesirable in the long run. As a result multi cropping and crop diversification have given way to monocropping and crop specialization, and have neglected the eco-friendly crops like-pulses, which are natural nitrogen fixer in the soil.

(5) Problems of cultivation extending to marginal lands, because the new varieties are sensitive to moisture.

White Revolution: The white revolution refers to the huge increase in milk supply through a co-operative level. The dairy sector is now the largest contributor in the agricultural sector to the nation's GDP.

Operation Flood: Success in raising the milk production is ascribed to 'Operation flood' project. Basically, Anand model of dairy development was tried to implement in other parts of the country.

This project is considered to be the world's largest dairy development programme, through co-operative system.

Blue Revolution: This is an adoption of a package of ~~model~~ methods, by which fish production has been increased substantially in India, since Independence. Under this programme, fish & fish products were rapidly becoming major export items.