

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BRITISH PERIOD**

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**Introduction:**

India is an agricultural country. Agriculture is the basic means of livelihood for most of the people in India. During the British rule in India, fundamental changes took place in the field of agriculture. During the British rule in India, a new system of land revenue came into existence in the field of agriculture. At the same time, the system of private ownership of land was introduced in India during the British rule. This led to the emergence of a new landed class. Land revenue began to be recovered in cash. The commercialization of agriculture began in India during the British rule. The commercialization of agriculture contributed to the development of the national economy and the world of the villagers became wider.

**Purpose of Study:**

- 1) To study the development of Agriculture in India during the British period.
- 2) To study the development of modern means of transport and communication in India during the British period and its assistance in the field of Agriculture.
- 3) To study the trade of foreign countries in India during the British period.
- 4) To study the changes that have taken place in India due to the development that took place in the Agricultural sector during the British period.

**Objectives:**

- 1) The changes that took place in the agricultural sector during the British period can be studied.
- 2) What is the commercialization of agriculture?
- 3) The causation of commercialization of agriculture can be studied.
- 4) The effects of commercialization of agriculture can be studied.

**Research Methodology:**

This research paper is basically descriptive and analytical. In this paper attempt has been taken to analyze the study done by researchers on Agriculture during British Period. The data used in it is purely from secondary sources (Books, Literature, Articles, etc...) according to the need of this study.

**Agricultural system prior to British rule:**

An important feature of India's agro-economy was its self-sufficient rural life. Because urban and industrial life did not start like today. Before the British rule in India, agricultural land was owned by the village. This land was given to the farmers for cultivation. The king did not own any of the farmland, nor did he own any of it. India has been an agricultural country since ancient times. Agriculture was the main source of livelihood for most of the people in India. They only had the right to collect revenue from the territory assigned to them. They did not get ownership of the land in any way. The grain produced from this farm was used to meet the needs of all the families in the village. Apart from grain, other needs of the village were met by the village artisans who did all kinds of business in the village. They only had the right to collect revenue from the territory assigned to them. They did not get ownership of the land in any way. The grain produced from this farm was used to meet the needs of all the families in the village. Apart from grain, other needs of the village were met by the village artisans who did all kinds of business in the village. The government used to get a part of the grain production from the agricultural land of the village in the form of revenue. The village was a component of revenue collection. The king collected revenue separately from the people of the village. When revenue was levied on individuals, the income received by those individuals in that year was taken into consideration. Their revenue was collected in the form of grain. The king's main connection with the village was through water supply, public works and revenue collection. Otherwise, the villagers of the self-sufficient village would live in co-operation and goodwill. This tradition has existed in India for many centuries but it was lost during the British rule.

#### **British agricultural system:**

A new revenue system emerged during the British rule. In 1773, Lord Cornwallis introduced the law system. This system is known as zamindari system. Lord Cornwallis created a class of landlords who collected revenue. This led to the acquisition of land by the former recovery officers who assisted the British, the heroes who provided military aid, and some village leaders who were loyal to the British. In a way, the landlord was the mediator between the British government and the local people. Thus they became the owners of the land and the cultivators became the clans and out of this these landlords started collecting farm produce from these clans. For this, they started harassing these clans on the occasion of time

#### **British Period Agricultural Development:**

The British ryotwari policy established a direct link between the land grabbers and the government. As the ownership of the land passed to the farmer in the ryotwari system, the farmer started working hard in his own field. This led to an increase in agricultural production. The fallow land began to come under cultivation. It also increased government revenue. It was also convenient for the government to formulate and implement the right policy for the progress of agriculture. Rayatwari's class was useful in terms of social health. Unemployment, class warfare and oppression were reduced as small owners farmed themselves. The commercialization of agriculture began in India during the British rule. Commercialization of agriculture is the production of agricultural produce for the purpose of earning a living by selling the produce in the market. During the British rule in India, the development of railways and modern means of transportation increased the rural-to-rural movement. If the mother from outside the village started coming to the village for sale, it became easier to send the goods from the village for sale outside the village. In both India and England, sea trade became faster and larger. At the same time, global developments had a favourable effect on India's trade.

Due to England's trade and industrial interests with India, England began to attach more importance to the production of cash crops in India. For example, trade in cash crops such as tea, sugar, cotton, indigo, and opium was profitable for England. As a result, British farmers began to invest their capital in agribusiness in rural India. Due to the high demand for cash crops like tea, sugar, cotton, indigo, tobacco and opium in rural India, the investment made by British farmers in rural agriculture in India has been very profitable for them. Farmers in rural India began to produce cash crops from their fields for sale in the market. For example, specific crops like wheat, cotton, hemp, sugarcane, oilseeds were being grown in certain sections. For example, rice in Burma; Wheat in Punjab; Hemp in East Bengal; In Gujarat and Khandesh, specialization of cash crop production like cotton took place. For example, the province of Bengal was formerly known as the rice depot of Asia; But due to the demand for cash crops, a large quantity of linen was produced there. Due to the commercialization of Indian agriculture, large quantities of cash crops, especially tea and indigo, were taken and exported from Assam, Bengal and the northern part of Bihar. Thus the process of commercialization of agriculture in rural India took place. Farmers in rural India began to produce cash crops from their fields for sale in the market.

**Summary :**

Self-sufficient rural life was an important feature of the Indian agricultural system. In rural India, cash crops are being grown on a large scale to make a profit by selling in the market, not for home or village use. This is called commercialization of agriculture.

The commercialization of agriculture in rural India was due to the need of farmers for cash, modern means of transportation and transportation, high demand for Indian goods in foreign markets, British trade and industrial interests. The commercialization of agriculture in India contributed to the development of the national economy and expanded the rural world. The commercialization of agriculture pushed the common people of India out of the confines of the village and into greater faith. This process became important in terms of national awareness.

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