

## "The future of agricultural extension in India"

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### Introduction:

Agricultural extension is the process of providing farmers with the information and resources they need to improve their agricultural practices. It is a vital part of the agricultural development process, and it has played a key role in the Green Revolution in India. However, the agricultural landscape in India is changing rapidly. The country is facing a number of challenges, including climate change, population growth, and the need to increase productivity. These challenges are putting a strain on the traditional agricultural extension system.

In order to meet the challenges of the future, agricultural extension in India needs to be modernized. This means using new technologies, such as mobile phones and social media, to reach farmers. It also means focusing on the needs of women farmers, who are often marginalized in agricultural extension programs. The future of agricultural extension in India is bright. With the right approach, it can help to ensure that Indian agriculture remains competitive and sustainable in the years to come.

### The future of agricultural extension in india:

The future of agricultural extension in India will depend on how well the system is able to address these challenges. Some of the key trends that are likely to shape the future of agricultural extension in India include:

Reducing post-harvest losses is crucial for achieving food security, improving farmer livelihoods, and promoting sustainable agriculture. Governments, organizations, and

- ✓ The increasing use of technology
- ✓ The need to adapt to climate change
- ✓ The importance of reaching women farmers
- ✓ The increasing use of technology

Technology is playing an increasingly important role in agricultural extension. Mobile phones, social media, and other tools are being used to reach farmers with information on new technologies, best practices, and market opportunities. This has the potential to make agricultural extension more efficient and effective.

### The need to adapt to climate change

Climate change is already having a

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significant impact on agriculture in India. Farmers are facing challenges such as drought, flooding, and pests. Agricultural extension will need to play a role in helping farmers adapt to these changes. This will involve providing farmers with information on climate-resilient crops and practices, as well as helping them to access climate-smart financial services.

### **The importance of reaching women farmers**

Women play a vital role in agriculture in India. They account for about 40% of agricultural labor, and they are responsible for managing household food security. However, women farmers often have less access to agricultural extension services than men. This is a major challenge, as women farmers could benefit greatly from the knowledge and skills that agricultural extension can provide.

### **The role of the government**

Here are some specific ways that the government can play a role in the future of agricultural extension in India:

➤ **Provide funding for agricultural extension programs-** The government can provide funding to support the development and implementation of agricultural extension programs. This funding can be used to train extension agents, develop educational materials, and support research on new agricultural technologies.

➤ **Provide technical support to agricultural extension programs-** The government can provide technical support to agricultural extension programs by providing them with access to experts, research facilities, and other resources. This support can help to ensure that extension programs are using the most effective methods and are reaching the right farmers.

➤ **Provide policy guidance to agricultural extension programs-** The government can provide policy guidance to agricultural extension programs by setting clear goals and priorities for the sector. This guidance can help to ensure that extension programs are aligned with the government's overall agricultural development goals.

➤ **Coordinate the efforts of different stakeholders-** The government can help to coordinate the efforts of different stakeholders, such as farmers, researchers, and businesses. This coordination can help to ensure that all stakeholders are working towards the same goals and that their efforts are complementary.

The government can play a key role in ensuring that the future of agricultural extension in India is bright. By providing funding, technical support, and policy guidance, the government can help to ensure that extension programs are effective and that

they are reaching the right farmers. The government can also help to coordinate the efforts of different stakeholders to ensure that their efforts are aligned with the government's overall agricultural development goals.

In addition to the above, the government can also play a role in the future of agricultural extension in India by:

➤ **Promoting the use of technology in agricultural extension-** The government can promote the use of technology in agricultural extension by providing funding for the development of mobile apps, online training modules, and other digital tools. This can help to make agricultural extension more accessible to farmers and can help to ensure that they are getting the latest information on agricultural technologies and practices.

➤ **Supporting the development of women-friendly agricultural extension programs-** Women play a vital role in agriculture in India, but they are often underrepresented in agricultural extension programs. The government can support the development of women-friendly agricultural extension programs by providing funding for programs that are specifically designed to reach women farmers. This can help to ensure that women farmers are getting the information

and support they need to improve their agricultural productivity.

➤ **Ensuring that agricultural extension programs are sustainable-** The government can ensure that agricultural extension programs are sustainable by providing funding for programs that are designed to be self-sufficient. This can help to ensure that the benefits of agricultural extension are long-lasting and that they reach a wider range of farmers.

The future of agricultural extension in India is bright. With the support of the government, agricultural extension programs can play a key role in helping farmers to increase their productivity, improve their livelihoods, and contribute to the overall growth of the Indian economy.

## **Conclusion-**

The future of agricultural extension in India is bright. The system has the potential to play a major role in helping Indian agriculture adapt to the challenges of the 21st century. However, the system will need to be reformed in order to be more effective. This will involve increasing the use of technology, adapting to climate change, and reaching women farmers. The future of Indian agriculture depends on the success of agricultural extension. By addressing the challenges facing the system and making it more effective, agricultural extension can help Indian



agriculture to meet the challenges of the 21st century and to achieve its full potential.

