

Role of Skill development Initiatives to Empowering Rural Youth in Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT: Skill Education consists basically of practical courses through which one gains skills and experience directly linked to a career in future. It helps Rural youth to be skilled and in turn, offers better employment opportunities . the opportunities in agricultural sector with the skill development among rural youth of Rajasthan. Rajasthan government has rural youth population as an asset which can be seen as the problem solving producers, creators, entrepreneurs, change agents and leaders of the coming decades. The young generation of the villages is largely looking for jobs outside, maybe civil jobs in government and private sector, leaving out its traditional occupation, resulted in creating a big army of unemployed rural youth. In coming to reap the demographic dividend, this offers great opportunities to make the agricultural sector more productive, more efficient. So that it can play a role in GSDP (31%) as on that major scale as it possesses the area of total land (53%). Major issues related to agriculture are lack of mechanisation, quality of seeds, adequate use of manures, fertilizers, biocides, irrigation pattern, agricultural marketing etc. There is ample scope for innovation, value addition and entrepreneurship development in this sector. This is possible only by skill up-gradation, handholding, mentoring, incubation and credit support aimed especially at rural youth and women providing them employment opportunities at their doorstep. Government of Rajasthan is paying attention towards both the sectors. For the skill development many schemes and programmes i.e. Employment Linked Skill Training Programme (ELSTP), Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Skill Development Initiative Scheme (SDIS) and various special projects for quality trainings in various domains are being implemented. With the objectives of farmer empowerment, marketing tie ups, technology transfer, business opportunities, to encourage agri-based research, to provide common platform for agri and allied ecosystem government is organising a summit GRAM 2016 along with many programmes and schemes. This will definitely increase the growth of agriculture sector if implemented on ground level as it proposed to be but there is a need to increase involvement of rural youth by promoting and training them in agri based employment. In the present agricultural scenario farmers need to adopt new technologies to make farming more profitable. Protected cultivation results in 5 to 12 times higher output than cultivation in open fields. Entrepreneurial and profitable Agriculture based industries and high-tech agriculture has enormous job opportunities for rural youth which leads to the sustainable agricultural development. In this paper an attempt has been made to show the opportunities for agriculture based rural youth skill development which can eradicate the problem of unemployment, migration, poverty, agricultural growth as well as it can lead to inclusive and steady economic growth.

Key words: Rural youth, employment, skill development, sustainable agricultural development, economic growth.

INTRODUCTION

Life in the rural area is not easy. Therefore our youths have enormous opportunities in rural areas for future nation building. Young people are a major human resource for development, key agents for social change and driving force for economic development and technological innovation. But harnessing these resources is a major challenge. The youth challenge is considered as the most critical of the 21st century's economic development challenge. Moreover, the decline in fertility rate has led to the bulge in working age population which is considered as the demographic dividend. It is a great concern that how this bulge in working age population presents the opportunities for growth and prosperity of a nation and the implications and opportunities of the bulge and how states are trying to respond. The critical aspects of the challenge are mostly related to labour market entry where young people encounter difficulties in finding and maintaining a decent job. The growing large number of unemployed youth is one of the most daunting problems faced by developed and developing countries alike (ILO, 2004, 2005b). Failure to integrate young people into the labour market has broader consequences for the future prosperity and development of countries. Thus the issue of youth employment and unemployment features prominently on the increase in the share of youth population due to demographic dividend or the youth bulge seems to be one of the sources of future economic growth as well as in India and Rajasthan. The proportion of people in the age-group 15-24 years has increased over time. Although with increase in school and college enrolment rates, the proportion of youth in the labour force has been declining, their high proportions in the labour force indicate that the problem of youth unemployment and underemployment would remain a serious policy issue for many more years to come in India and Rajasthan. The demographic dividend or youth bulge is expected to increase the working age group and reduce the dependency ratio. In other words, the bulge in the working population will lead to acceleration in growth. However, recent studies have shown that the poor employability of the workforce due to deficit in educational attainment and health may hamper the advantages due to demographic dividend development agenda. Youth, defined by the United Nations as persons between the ages of 15 and 24 is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood represents almost 18 per cent of the current global population. India's demographic dividends can be realized only if the country invests in developing skills to make our youth employable. Through a planned investment in skill development, the country holds the potential to account for a fourth of the global work force by 2022, when India will mark

75 years of its independence. As we know 58% of India's population is engaged in agricultural activities. The youth of these families does not want to get employment in this sector and on the other hand the sector do not have that much employment. With the education and skill development of this rural youth we can achieve a growing, employment producing sustainable agricultural sector. Sustainable agriculture development integrates three main goals-environmental health, economic prosperity and livelihood sustainability. In other words, sustainability rests on the principle that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore, stewardship of both natural and human resources is of prime importance. Stewardship of human resources includes consideration of social responsibilities such as working and living conditions of farm families, the needs of rural communities, and consumer health and safety both in the present and the future. Stewardship of land and natural resources involves maintaining and enhancing this vital resource base for the long term. If we study Rajasthan, Agriculture in Rajasthan has a significant history. Today, Agriculture and allied sectors accounted for 31% of the GSDP (at constant prices of 2004-05), 58 % of the employment (as per 2011 census) and despite a steady decline of its share in the GSDP, is still the largest economic sector and plays a significant role in the overall socioeconomic development of Rajasthan. Moreover, this sector is a supplier of food, fodder, and raw materials for a vast segment of industry. Hence the sustainable development of agriculture is considered to be a necessary condition for "inclusive growth". In the process of agricultural development, the adoption of modern technologies have had many positive effects and reduced many risks in farming, but there have also been significant costs. Prominent among these are top-soil depletion, groundwater contamination & depletion, environmental degradation, decline in farm sizes, continued neglect of the living and working conditions for farm households, increasing costs of production, and the disintegration of economic and social conditions in rural communities. Hence, a growing movement has emerged during the past few decades to question the role of the agricultural establishment in promoting practices that contribute to these crucial problems. More recently, the rural sector (including agriculture) is being seen as a potential source of domestic demand, a recognition that is even shaping the marketing strategies of entrepreneurs wishing to widen the demand for goods and services. However, the share of gross capital formation (GCF) in agriculture and allied sector in total GCF has remained almost constant (2.6 %) over the years. There is need to step up investment in agriculture significantly, both by the private and public sectors to ensure sustained target growth of 4 per cent per annum. In Rajasthan's concern, Rajasthan is the largest state of India having 10 million population of rural youth. This youth is seeking jobs in government sector instead of adopting their traditional sector and migrates towards urban areas. Which creates a bulge of migrated, unemployed youth. There are ample scope for innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture sector. This is only possible by skill upgradation, to focus on agriculture in educational courses. This paper presents a roadmap of the possibilities in this sector with the analysis of present scenario.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the present scenario of the agricultural development and the skill development among rural youth of Rajasthan.
2. To know the scopes of agricultural development for the steady and inclusive growth of the economy of Rajasthan. To suggest a solution for the problems viz. unemployment, poverty, migration and low agricultural growth. To provide a roadmap to a sustainable agricultural development by the skill development of rural youth.

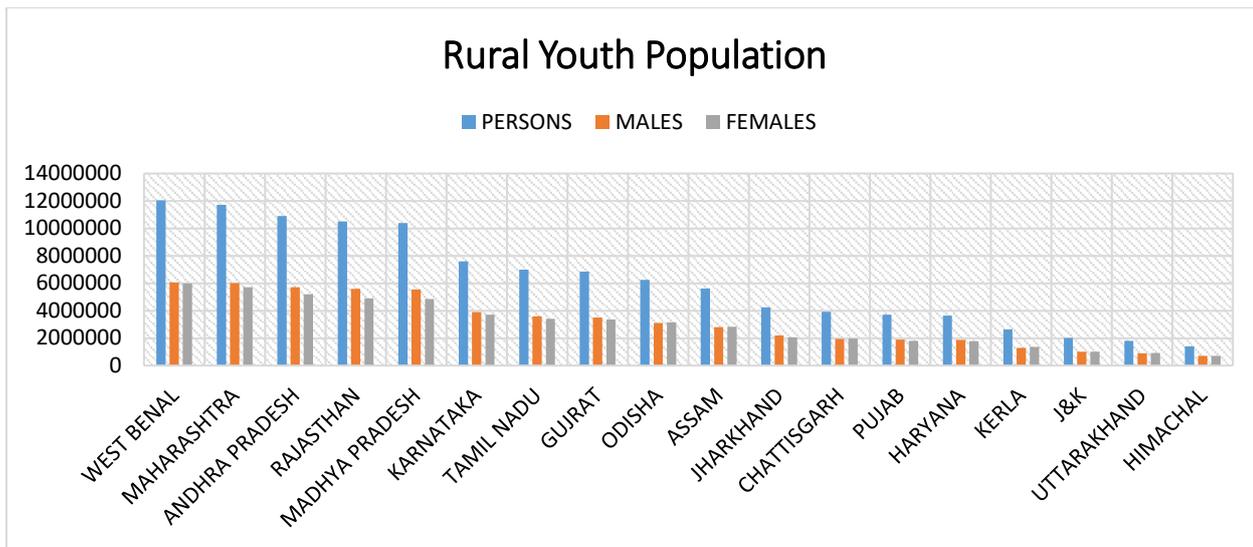
REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE:

According to Dutt, G. (1996), "Unlike the industrial worker, the agricultural labour is not organised". A study done by International Labour Organisation (ILO) (1991) states, "the state in India has generally been lukewarm to the problems of agricultural labourers. Ravenstein, E.G. in two articles entitled "the laws of migration", published in 1985 and 89, has suggested that all migration emanates from low productivity areas and proceeds towards high productivity areas. The workforce pushed out from agriculture does not get absorbed elsewhere. 'Manufacturing' and 'service category' are just not able to accommodate it (Mehta, J. 2004). Kenneth L. Deavers," Social Science Contributions to Rural Development Policy in the 1980s". In this research paper author said, rural development policy involves deliberate action by federal, state, and local governments and private institutions and individuals to achieve three goals: (a) improved rural income levels and employment opportunities; (b) improved access by rural residents to adequate housing and essential community facilities and services; and (c) responsible use of rural resources and the rural environment to preserve the quality of rural life. In attempting to achieve these rural development goals, federal policy needs to be guided. Clark Edwards," The Political Economy of Rural Development: Theoretical Perspectives". In this paper the author said that the rural and urban sectors of the economy are strongly interlinked. Growth in one sector impacts on the other. The growth process does not appear to be an equilibrium one in which marginal adjustments to opportunity costs eliminates disparities. This rural-urban imbalance is of national concern. It appears to have resulted in relatively densely populated cities and sparsely populated countryside. Rural development can increase economic efficiency, add to the nation's goods and services, and enhance the social and economic well-being of both the rural and the urban sectors. There is ample scope of job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture sector (Utsav Kumar Singh, 2016). The youths in rural area often struggle for paid job but lack of employability skills and economic development in rural areas, which prevents the youth to move up in the ladder of professional development (Dr. Sayantan Mandal, 2016). Our youth have enormous opportunities in rural areas for future nation building (Ela R. Bhatt, 2016)

UNDERSTANDING THE RURAL YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE OF RAJASTHAN

A majority of Rajasthan still lives in villages. It also means a larger section of youth and soon to be youth are also growing up in the villages. It would be rather naïve to perceive that more youth equals to better national and state prospects, as it is proper management of their educational and skill development. Moreover, to impart educational and training activities it is important to

understand the diversified nature of the youth of Rajasthan, especially that of its rural youth. Rajasthan has a big chunk of rural youth population. It is about 10.5 million out of it around 5.6 million males and rest 4.9 million females.

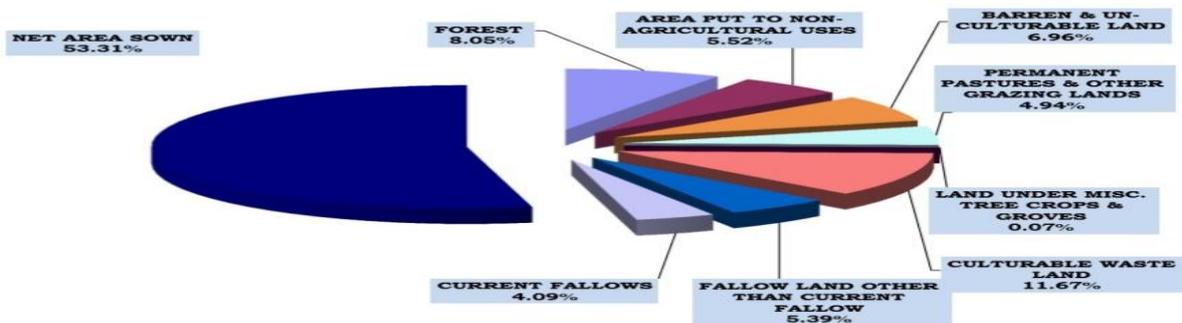


Census of india2011

Unemployment in rural India is relatively low, because these areas provide few or no employment benefits. Almost everyone is involved in some or other kind of works but these are typically subsistence activities characterised by very low productivity. The challenge is to make this population a human resource which is not possible without education and skill development. The unequal access to opportunity and the lack of emphasis on education remains persistent problem. A person in an urban area has 93% greater chance of acquiring training than someone in rural area. The wide gap between those who have access to education and skill development opportunities and those who do not, is a challenge to overcome. The difference in youth development pattern is determined by the economic condition of the household in Rajasthan. Youth from the bottom 20 percent of households are deprived of education, employment, labour force and are not working currently compared to youth from the middle and rich households. There are more working youth among poor household than among rich households. The number of school and educational institutions are either less or non-accessible. This leads to lack of awareness about higher education. Lack of higher education results in less formal skills. With this trend they find difficult to get employed and often work in unorganized sector. The youth in rural areas often struggle to get well- paid jobs. The reason could be many, but the most important is lack of employability skills and also the lack of economic development in rural areas, which prevents the youths to move up in the ladder of professional employment. Many of rural youth are deprived from higher education and most of them have a farm so they starts working in these farms with low productivity. The educated youth in rural areas also face difficulties in finding suitable employment in rural sector and often migrate to big cities for higher education and professional purposes.

Agriculture plays a vital role in the economic development of the State and continues to be the backbone of our economy. In the coming years, agriculture will face many challenges due to the rising population. This will directly increase the demand for food and non-agricultural sectors, like industry and urbanization that will increase demand for land and water resources available for agriculture. The scope of increase in arable land and exploitation of additional water resources for irrigation will also decline in future. Hence, there is a greater need for conservation and efficient utilization of natural resources. Agriculture needs intensification of production and improved efficiency in use of resources. Agriculture contributes about 22 per cent of the State Domestic Product. The average size of land holding is 3.96 ha. in the State compared to 1.41 ha., of all India level. Generating employment opportunities for 13.17 million cultivators, 2.53 million agricultural labourers and addition of 0.6 million workforce every year. 70 per cent of the population of the State is living in rural areas and about 70 per cent depends on agriculture as source of livelihood.

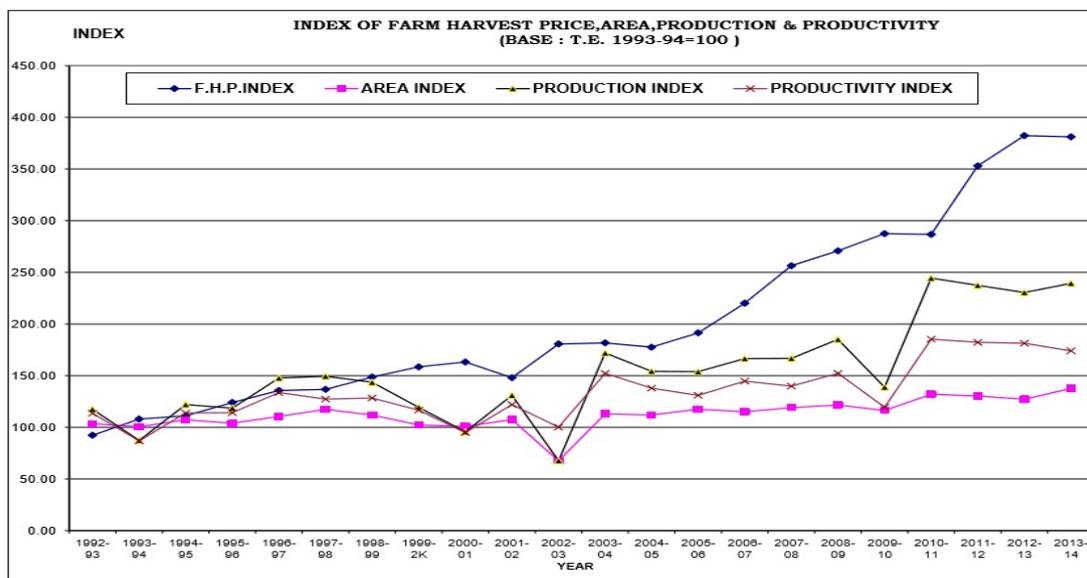
LAND UTILISATION IN RAJASTHAN 2013-14
REPORTING AREA 34267253 Hect.)



Agricultural statics 2019-2

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The growth performance of the agriculture in Rajasthan during last four decades has been fluctuating. The compound annual growth rate of gross cropped area, total agricultural production and yield has exhibited wide fluctuations during the plan periods.



There has been very dismal growth in crop area, yield and production during annual plan 1992-93 and 8th Five Year Plan (FYP). However, thereafter, significant growth has been recorded in area, yield and production, particularly during 10th Five Year Plan and 11th Five Year Plan in Rajasthan. The rate of growth in gross cropped area, total agricultural production and yield during 10th Five Year Plan has dramatically increased at 12.98 per cent, 20.43 per cent and 6.60 per cent per annum, respectively. The extent of fluctuation in agricultural production is also quite evident from above Figure.

Major challenges in agriculture sector are Increasing gap between demand and availability of water, Scanty and uncertain rain fall affecting agriculture in particular and economy in general, Deteriorating quality of land and underground water, Low value agriculture, Large gap between potential and realized yield of crops and high inter-year variation in productivity, Mono-cropping in western dry region and southern tribal belt of the State, limiting the scope for diversification. Low share of vegetable and fruit crops, seed spices and medicinal plants, depriving the benefits of value addition and extra employment for the rural masses, Out of 90 lakh female workers engaged in on farm work, nearly 50 per cent are with sub optimal workdays. Generation of full employment opportunities through labour intensive agricultural activities in areas like hi-tech agriculture horticulture & agro processing, is a great challenge.

Main constraints in agricultural development are lesser availability of adequate quantity of quality seeds of notified/ Hybrid varieties of vegetables and spices, Inadequate availability of quality planting materials, inadequate infrastructure and skilled manpower, Improper post-harvest management and marketing facilities like cold storage, pre-cooling and waxing centres, processing units, No support price for spices particularly for seed spices cumin, coriander etc. and isabgol, Small size of holding is adversely affecting the drip installation and new orchard establishment as its initial installation cost is very high, Problem of some chronic diseases like Guava wilt, Citrus decline, Pomegranate bight, Mango malformation and viral disease in Cucurbit, Poor research support and data base, Low purchasing power of farmers to adopt hi-tech horticulture.

The big chunk of rural youth can be ray of hope in the solution of above discussed challenges and constraints of agricultural sector. Government is taking initiatives for the development of both the rural youth and the agriculture sector. There are enormous possibilities lies in youth for the development of agriculture, which play a dominant role in the GSDP of Rajasthan.

PRESENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL YOUTH:

A large number of programmes for the youths have been undertaken by the government. After the economic reconstructing in 1990s, the programmes for youth have witnessed an upsurge the policies recognise that the major focus should be on education, training and employment, health and family welfare, science and technology, arts and culture and citizenship development. The target population of the policies is mostly rural and tribal youths. The government focuses on their development with new vision of skill Rajasthan and a roadmap is paved as a part of its nation-state building activities. The section below provides a brief overview of some programmes. It is important to prepare the base of the youth of the nation. Hence, there is a focus on improving schooling and reducing dropouts, especially in rural districts, starting from making them functionally literate. The Indian government has laid out a roadmap, which is pioneered by the Rural Functional Literacy Programme (RFLP). RFLP focuses on imparting functional literacy to the youths (15-35 age group). The National Literacy Mission (NLM) and the Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) under NLM created base for it. The ongoing Shakhara Bharat Abhiyan, launched in september 2009, to impart functional literacy among neo-literate youths and adults, also aims to equip learners with necessary skills to improve earning capacity and living conditions.

It is imperative for the government to expand livelihoods in rural areas in agriculture, small enterprises and formal sector employment. In 2011, National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) with the objective to organize all they come out of abject poverty. DAY-NRLM ensures adequate coverage of vulnerable sections of the society such that 50 percent of the beneficiaries are

members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, 15 percent from minority groups and 3 percent from persons with disability. Apart from these, DAY-NRLM works for bringing the gap between industries and skilled labour, a placement cell linked to DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHALYA YOJANA (DDUGKY) is also implemented.

Skill Development Initiative Scheme (SDIS)

The objectives of the scheme are:

- To provide vocational training to school leavers, existing workers, ITI graduates, etc. to improve their employability by optimally utilizing the infrastructure available in Govt., private institutions and the Industry. Existing skills of the persons can also be tested and certified under this scheme.
- To build capacity in the area of development of competency standards, course curricula, learning material and assessment standards in the country.

Skill development in Rajasthan:

Rajasthan was one of the first states in the country to set up a Skill Mission, Rajasthan Mission on Livelihoods (RMoL) in 2004. RMoL was reconstituted in February 2014 under the chairmanship of Smt. Vasundhara Raje with inclusion of various independent advisers and professionals along with Chief Secretary and Secretaries of 11 relevant departments. RMoL is now functioning as an apex policy body for skill development in the State of Rajasthan. Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) is a 100% government owned not-for-profit corporation registered under Companies Act, working as the main executing body of various short-term skill training programmes in the State of Rajasthan. Around 1.5 lakh candidates were enrolled and trained under the RSLDC program till date. They were provided training in short-term programs like ELSTP, RSTP, DDU-GKY etc. Consequently, countless people have been appointed as beauty experts, drivers, accountants, clinic assistants, midwives, computer operators and so forth. Presently, RSLDC is providing short-term skill training programs covering 34 sectors to 18,000 youth across 260 active training centres, based on Swiss Dual system of vocational training in Switzerland. is executing following schemes/programmes for development of skill and entrepreneurship in the State of Rajasthan: (i) Employment Linked Skill Training Programme (ELSTP)- Under this programme, RSLDC provides short term skill training programmes (generally 2 to 3 months) to unemployed youth of the state in various high growth economic sectors like retail, construction, automotive, ICT, etc. (ii) Regular Skill Training Programme (RSTP)- This programme provides short-term skill training and hand holding for self-employment, productivity enhancement and enterprise development. There are 4 sub-schemes targeted at youth, women, persons with special ability (PSA) and jail inmates respectively. Trainings are provided in sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, beauty and wellness, garments and apparel, etc. (iii) Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)- DDU-GKY is a centrally sponsored scheme of MoRD, GOI being executed in the state by RSLDC. Rajasthan was the first state in the country to launch this scheme in June 2014 and the first centre under the scheme was inaugurated by Hon'ble C.M., Rajasthan on 16th August 2014 at Udaipur. The scheme provides short-term skill development programmes linked with employment opportunities to rural poor youth of the state in various high-growth economic sectors. 120 active Skill Development Centers (SDC) are functional under this Rajasthan was one of the first states in the country to set up a Skill Mission, Rajasthan Mission on Livelihoods (RMoL) in 2004.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) – Rajasthan

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the skilling and placement initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

DDU-GKY has its origins in the Aajeevika Skills programme and the 'Special Projects' component of the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). The scheme focuses on catering to the occupational aspirations of rural youth and enhancing their skills for wage employment.

Implementation of DDU-GKY involves State Governments, Technical Support Agencies like the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR), and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).

Student data- Rajasthan

Center Location - Course Wise	Training Status		
	Completed training	On going training	Grand Total
Hindaun	180	60	240
Basic sewing Operator	60	60	120
Packaging Executive	120		120
Kherli	350		350
Basic sewing Operator	140		140
Basic Turning	140		140
Packaging Executive	70		70
Grand Total	530	60	590

2. RMoL was reconstituted in February 2014 under the chairmanship of Smt. Vasundhara Raje with inclusion of various independent advisers and professionals along with Chief Secretary and Secretaries of 11 relevant departments. RMoL is now functioning as an apex policy body for skill development in the State of Rajasthan.

3. Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) is a 100% government owned not-for-profit corporation registered under Companies Act, working as the main executing body of various short-term skill training programmes in the State of Rajasthan. List of regular skill training programme courses of Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) is given below in the index with their training days and the minimum qualification required for those courses:

SCENARIO OF GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN RAJASTHAN:

Schemes & Programmes

Sr. No	Scheme Name	Programme
1.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM) (i) NFSM - Wheat (ii) NFSM - Pulses (iii) NFSM - Coarse Cereals (iv) NFSM - Commercial Crops (Cotton)	
2.	National Mission on Oil Seeds & Oil Palms (NMOOP) (i) Oil Seed Crops (MM-I) (ii) Tree Borne Oil Seed Crops (TBO's) (MM-III)	
3.	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) (i) Rain-fed Area Development (RAD) Programme (ii) Climate Change & Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling & Net Working (CCSAMMN) (iii) Soil Health Management:- (a) Soil Health Card Scheme (b) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) - Popularization of Organic Farming	
4.	National Mission on Agriculture Extension & Technology (NMAET) (i) Sub Mission of Agriculture Extension (SAME) (ii) Sub Mission on Seed & Planting Material (SMSP) (iii) Sub Mission on Plant Protection & Quarantine(SMPP) (iv) Sub Mission on Agriculture Mechanization(SMAM)	
5.	Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY): Project Based	
6.	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY) (i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) (ii) Har Khet Ko Pani (iii) Per Drop More Crop (iv) Watershed Development	
7.	Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) - 20 District	
8.	Modified National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (MNAIS)	
9.	State Plan	

Under State Plan, in addition to establishment/operating expenses of new offices/staff/labs/Adaptive Trial Centers/capital works, provision for those innovative schemes/activities has been kept which are not covered in any of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes and are of vital importance to the State. Besides this, provision for State Matching Share towards Centrally Sponsored Schemes and crop compensation is kept under State Plan. The provision of World Bank funded Rajasthan Agricultural Competitiveness Project have also been kept under State Plan.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

- Intensive Cotton Development Programme: Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton.
- Accelerated Pulses Production Programme 2019-20.
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY/National Agriculture Development Programme) is launched with following objectives:
 - To incentivize the States so as to increase public investment in agriculture & allied sectors.
 - To provide flexibility and autonomy to the States in the process of planning & executing the schemes of agriculture & allied sector.
 - To ensure the preparation of agriculture plans for the districts and the States based on agro-climatic conditions, availability of technology and natural resources.
 - To ensure that the local needs/ crops/ priorities are better reflected in the agricultural plans of the States.
 - To achieve the goal of reducing the yield gaps in important crops, through focused interventions.

- To maximize returns to the farmers in agriculture and allied sectors.
 - To bring about quantifiable changes in the production and productivity of various components of agriculture and allied sectors by addressing them in a holistic manner.
3. Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet 2016 (GRAM 2016): The Government of Rajasthan is committed to developing agriculture and allied ecosystem to increase farm incomes in the state. The state has conceived Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet 2016 (GRAM 2016), an agri-technology and business event as a platform to transform and catalyse the process of improving the sustainability and economic viability of agriculture and allied activities shaping globalized, market-driven and profitable ventures. The conference aims to exchange experiences, promote dialogues and define roles for developing a concrete strategy for realising Government's vision of doubling farmer income. The key focus themes will be:
- Sustainability
 - Innovation
 - Value Addition
 - Agri-Entrepreneurship & Startups

Objectives of the gram is:

- Farmer empowerment: to empower farmers with latest technical know-how and best practices.
- Showcase agri-innovations: to provide a platform for exhibiting innovations and entrepreneurial solutions in the agriculture sector.
- Marketing tie-ups: to provide a platform for agri-firms to promote themselves and/or find promoters.
- Joint ventures: to facilitate joint ventures between firms with similar objectives and strategic assets.
- Technology transfers: to initiate knowledge and technology transfer amongst willing firms/individuals.
- International investments: to provide a platform for firms looking to exhibit their products & technology for sizeable investments.
- Business opportunities: to set up an environment for all attendees to identify new business opportunities and avenues for growth.
- Encourage agri-based research: to provide a venue for academic and research based studies on agriculture to be discussed with industry leaders.
- Common platform for agri and allied ecosystem: to facilitate the exhibition and propagation of both agriculture and allied ecosystems.

Above schemes and programmes are very effective in the context of existing farmers for their inclusion and assistance in agriculture to increase the productivity. Global Agritech Meet is also a great initiative of government. These initiatives will definitely increase the growth of agriculture sector if implemented on ground level as they proposed to be.

THE WAY FORWARD FOR RURAL YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE IN RAJASTHAN: As aforesaid due to several initiatives both youth and agriculture are benefitted. However, it is also important to integrate these initiatives with the inhabitants. Since about 60% of rural households, 56% labour and 70% of rural population is dependent on agriculture, maximum part of youth also comes from these rural households. The above discussion represents some glimpse about the educational and skill development of rural youth. Rural youth is crossing the thresholds and entering into the world of education and skill development for better future. As we discussed above the rural youth have a big chunk of dropouts or maximum are educated till secondary level. All they are working in unorganized sector besides maximum of them have their own farms. They work hard, migrates for job, but do not get well-paid jobs.

All the skill development schemes and programmes are related to the job oriented programmes in manufacturing or in unorganized sector. There are many programmes for the entrepreneurial skills but these are not related to agriculture. Some programmes which are initiated for horticulture and forestry but the trainee count is in hundreds only. Instead of having their own farm rural youth do not want to get a job in their own farm. This is because of the lack of awareness, lack of education and ignorance about scientific and modern means of agriculture, seasonal nature of land and lack of high-tech agriculture. They are not able to utilise their energy in proper manner. It is imperative to focus on agriculture in educational course. However, agriculture and allied subjects are not yet a major concern at secondary and higher secondary levels. In other words, the curriculums in educational institutes for rural youths often negligibly include issues, which are related to their livelihood. For instance, livestock, fishery, polyhouse farming, horticulture, high-tech agriculture and other agri-related subjects form a negligible part of today's curriculum.

On the other hand schemes related to agriculture are focusing on existing farmers. Government is providing good seeds, manures, subsidies and assistants to suggest farmers on Krishi Vikas Kendras but not creating skilled agri – based entrepreneurs. The GRAM-2016 is going to be held in Jaipur from 9 to 12 November is also focusing on farmer empowerment, market tie-ups, technology transfers, finding new business opportunities etc. but rural youth is not there in its components. Certainly, these programmes are playing their effective role in boosting the primary sector of state economy. Any analysis in this aspect would be rather premature.

However, the reform is necessary to bring agriculture in mainstream education. It is found that courses in agriculture for rural youth make them closely linked with their surroundings, related to local agriculture and economy. Vocational training on farming methods and providing special lectures on scientific cultivation, mechanization of agriculture for less educated unemployed youth will give fruitful results. Moreover, this will also make them better prepared for higher studies in agricultural universities and increase their chances of becoming agri-based entrepreneurs. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the NCERT may collaborate in this matter. The ITIs can also help in it. Rajasthan has around 30 ITIs, on an average one in each district. ITIs have a big campus or land area which can be used as the research field. Government can start one to two year vocational courses in ITIs, for those candidate who have their own farms with minimum educational qualification. They can be trained here and after completion of their course they can implement it in their fields and make a roadmap to accomplish sustainable agricultural development and this will lead Rajasthan to a steady and inclusive economic growth. It can strengthen our production technologies in different crops to make more entrepreneurial and profitable. It will help in technology infusion in agriculture, value addition in agriculture and promote Agri- Tourism. It will show a path to protected agriculture cultivation results in 5 to 12 times higher output than cultivation in open fields. It helps in generating employment opportunities in the rural areas with low capital, contributing to the development of agriculture by reducing disguised unemployment, reducing poverty, migration, economic disparity and unemployment. Policy recommendations include: Access to land and natural resources, and seeds; Capacity building: on sustainable, organic, agro-ecological approaches, farmer-owned and led enterprises; Support for finance needs of young farmers; Organization development: to give voice to young farmers, strengthen cooperation groups, to develop knowledge networks etc. Policy advocacy especially focused on youth; Partnership with various actors (government, business sector, banks, academe. It is therefore necessary to make integrated plans based on research evidences. New knowledge has been gained from research on situation of young farmers, and existing initiatives and proposals from young farmers and their organizations to make agriculture a more viable option for rural youth. Further research needs to be done on effective strategies to attract youth to agriculture. The ministries involved in this should work in an integrated manner. Careful inclusion of private partners may expedite the process of imparting education and skill among rural youth further.

How to improve the education and skills of the rural youth for a diverse state like Rajasthan is a matter of detailed discussion. However, it can be said that the importance of the development of youths and rural youths should be seen equally, with micro level planning based on empirical evidences.

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