



RESEARCH ARTICLE

SECTORAL VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE GROWTH OF STATES.

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Abstract

Agriculture has been a source, for all communities, of the energy supply in terms food security and innovation hub for their advancement throughout the history. This sector has been exposed to a series of changes and upgrades as per the needs of the generations and the requirements of the technological development to respond to the current and future trends in this domain looking for sustainability of the agriculture output and security it provides related to food, health, and market exchanges. The states, as they stand in for the organized communities, incorporated agriculture in their agenda not only for securing their people in terms of food to fight hunger, but also to leverage on it as they drive other sectors of the human development. This paper clearly highlights, in perspective of the historical view, the importance and challenges it faces and how the states find themselves advancing when they embrace the sound strategies to drive this core pillar of the human race existence on earth.

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Introduction:-

Having been absorbed in the requirements of the new era tracks us back in one of the main drivers of the human advancement and existence on earth- the agriculture- that has had a huge impact in the way hunger is fought for food security, innovation is hubbed and distributed, commercialization of other products and materials is enabled, and the development is policed and realized through: provision of livelihood, contribution to the national revenue, supply of food and fodder, engagement in the international trade and foreign exchanges, provision of the surplus to markets (internal and external), delivery of industrial raw materials, development of transport systems, source of employment and development of saving culture.

Agriculture has been a source, for all communities, of the energy supply in terms food security and innovation hub for their advancement throughout the history.

As Jan (2012) says, the contribution or role of the agricultural sector in the economy has been the subject of a number of studies over many years. But one of the reports that triggered the minds of policy makers in this domain was report published in 2002 by The Commodities and Trade Division of FAO. They highlighted the importance but pinpointed the lags (slow production, price fluctuations, consistent food insecurities, unstable markets, low education qualifications, limited skills base, poor infrastructure, and inadequate institutional and policy frameworks) as well that needed a quick fixation if the economies, especially the LDCs, wanted to catch up with the controverted innovation of the 2 hemispheres.

This study clearly focuses, in perspective of the historical view, on the importance of agriculture in the growth and confronts it faces and how the states find themselves progressing when they adopt the sensible policies to drive this core pillar of the human race existence on earth.

Sectoral Perspective of the constructed insights around the importance of agriculture

For anyone absorbed in this matter, a body of knowledge from different researchers, policy makers and practitioners has been built to guide the understanding, to enlighten the strategists, to instruct the farmers and to boost the holistic view of the importance of this sector into any state's economic, social and communal development.

The approach to better comprehend this cross-cutting domain of interest is to narrow the view on different sectors that need a reciprocity in the agricultural development.

The provision of the livelihood

From ages, agriculture has been a core pillar in the lives of many families across the globe. This influence, or view will never fade away as the focus is now to take this to another level-sustainability- in tough times like these. Making a living encompasses people's capabilities, assets, income and agriculture-related activities required to secure the necessities of life. The target is to fight hunger by securing the food and fiber, to drive the saving culture through the proper usage of the income drawn from agriculture and to ensure the sustainability and access to the resources needed to increase the production and to win national and international markets with the real power in terms of prices, quantity, supply and distribution mechanisms umbrellaed in the sound policies and right implementation partnering the public and private sectors (Africa Agriculture Status Report, 2018).

For a clear empathetic of this matter, one can induce it the price setting of the agriculture products. We know that it leads to a certain level of income and will initiate any other decisions when it comes to a decentralized agriculture policy making. According to Andrew Shepherd et al (2009) in the "Agricultural growth, poverty dynamics and markets", the effect of growth on income poverty is mainly diffused through prices (higher producer prices, lower food prices, higher wages), and differs from one place and period to another depending on wider factors. For them, price changes linked with market liberalization and devaluation can improve the rural terms of trade but will only profit the poor if prices of food and crucial items are kept reasonable.

The agricultural markets that exercise the influence of farmers and buyers still attract the attention of a very good number of concerned institutions to map the feasibility of the equilibrium local, regional and international markets. The issue now is to fight the unbalanced distribution of the agricultural products and access to the benefits it provides. Many studies found that in some places, the famers and buyers collaborate to remove the gaps and create markets where the poor are not endangered and given opportunities to earn a living through the agriculture accessibility in its terms of subsistence and exchange wings, whether formal or informal.

The industrial advancement

Apart from being the main source of inputs in other industries, the agriculture markets go hand in hand with the power exercised by the operators on the labor and financial markets- the main factors of the industrial development. Throughout the history, the agriculture sector provides labor for industry and this exit from agriculture boosts the massive production and leads to cheaper prices that raise the purchasing power of both labor segments – in agriculture and industry. Andrew Shepherd et al (2009) stress on the importance of agriculture for bother segments to easily get out of poverty, as long as there is not any segment that remains unemployed because the ability to labor more is an important correlate of poverty exit. This work though requires a combination of several enablers as education, infrastructure, sustainability and regularity of the work and the ability to make their voice heard (power of syndicalism).

Globalization of the agriculture and its labor trends leads to the progress of the agribusiness that seeks to lift the agriculture industry to its highest in terms to now embracing the whole supply chain the system and develop equipped employees to handle this exigent era.

The emphasis has now been placed on the accessibility of the financial means to the marginalized and small farmers. The private sector and banking sector in particular shifted their new markets in agriculture, though some sectors such as insurance, are still lagging behind. They fear the unpredictability of the seasons and the unstable market that lack strong regulations. The fight against the above issues critically requires the financial services are to ease the

generation and transition of the employment in medium-sized farms and firms as a way of creating dynamism in this sector that was though for long to be a stagnant or dormant source of opportunities-just to awaken the giant.

The development and decentralization of the infrastructure

Agriculture has been a mother of infrastructure in a way it needs and gives it away to the society. To have a full engagement and access and to drive a community- based change, there is a positive implication of enrooting this exchange on the availability and accessibility of:

1. Input based infrastructure: seed, fertilizer, pesticides, farm equipment and machinery, etc.
2. Resource based infrastructure: water/irrigation, farm power/energy.
3. Physical infrastructure: road connectivity, transport, storage, processing, preservation, etc.
4. Institutional infrastructure: agricultural research, extension & education technology, information & communication services, financial services, marketing, etc.

Extension and huge investment that is of essence for building this infrastructure has been a serious hinder to the decentralization at a very speedy pace. There was a born a very unbalanced development in how the rural-urban cointegration is seen when it concerns the power sharing in production and distribution is also key in some contexts. This becomes more controversial as the “village infrastructure” indicators keep showing a consistent gap in leveraging on the existing infrastructure to build the strong and extended ones across regions, continents and markets, a powerful way to completely exit poverty and hunger era.

Recently, information stood up to be a reconciler of the generational and technological gaps with the intention to quicken the implementation of any endeavor that might be taken to address this. Its potential forces reside in building bridges between stakeholders, sharing knowledge and information about the current and future projections of the whole supply chain and consistently watch over anything that may hinder the coherentized agriculture development. Surely, any extension has to be backed up by ICT if it has to reach and lift many at a cheap cost, otherwise, the states will find them in a perpetual market failure. The operationalization and the monitoring and evaluation will be easily pulled out through and all the stakeholders will gain comparative advantages that kick in to stabilize and reach the common goal.

Lessons learnt and the forward policy engagement

The recent initiatives portray a very promising path undertaken by states across the globe to jointly lift the agriculture sector to the standards it should be at in order to face the current challenges of these times and the generations to come.

These sectoral partnerships gathered efforts to benefit both the consumer and the farmers in all social segments or groups by offering valuable learning opportunities for a greater development community.

The initiatives, vision and partnerships were born from lessons learnt over the periods that have to guide the future steps.

There stood a need to test rigorously several assumptions when it comes to agricultural associations, their projected outcomes and markets, the source of inputs, the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and the private-public sector joint engagement. These engage the practice of sincere, objective and robust contract negotiation that target a common goal.

If economies forego the urgency to clearly embrace the fact that cash crop agriculture requires different considerations than food crop cultivation, they will miss the enforcement of the programs that push them conveniently with precise objectives and challenges that necessitate diverse operational and program structures, different payment models for farmers, and overall a unique approach for each unit to be effective.

Another lesson to stick on is to invest in engaging and expanding in-house knowledge about production and operations. Every activity in the entire process requires a specialized unique method that removes any dependency on other “can-be-internally-produced” resources. This contributes to the engagement of independent professionals who devote more time and resources in R&D for further growth.

The least but not last lesson is to protect farmers by mitigating the risks and complying to policies. It’s evident that risks exist, whether built internally or imported. The other triggers of this exercise are the uncertain political and

environmental factors that necessitate awareness of the challenges they generate, especially in unstable economies. The effective way to limit them is to call upon insurance companies to invest a lot into this sector to cover the huge expenses engendered when the involved sectors operate solo.

According to some reports, especially the Draft Framework of OECD (2015), several policies have been drafted to get to align on the motivations and hindrances which drive the agricultural productivity growth, sustainable use of natural assets such as land, water and biodiversity resources, and climate change, in short, agricultural policy evaluation, agricultural innovation and productivity, agri-environmental indicators, and green growth for agriculture. Every government then opts for what matters to their expected growth. For the case of Rwanda, the combination of efforts in terms of new farming methods, the commercialization and value addition of agriculture products, and development of internal policies drove a growing expectation of the agricultural revamp in productivity and sustainability through homemade innovations.

Conclusion:-

Agriculture has been a source of food security and innovation hub for the human advancement throughout the history. Its importance has been manifested in the provision of livelihood (income, food, employment, etc.), provision of the surplus to markets (internal and external), delivery of industrial inputs, and the development of infrastructure. Governments have, since then, learned to incorporate the policies governing agriculture into their priority agendas and set entities and bodies to monitor and advise on the ongoing decentralized mechanisms so that it can be beneficial to all stakeholders-cases are enormous to learn from.

However, there exist still a need to fasten the implementation of the strategies and initiatives at both local and global levels and they seek a consistent hard work to maintain the growth in the development of decentralized infrastructure, the expansion of the knowledge and inputs with the inauguration of more advanced technologies and to remove barriers hindering the free movement of all resources.

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