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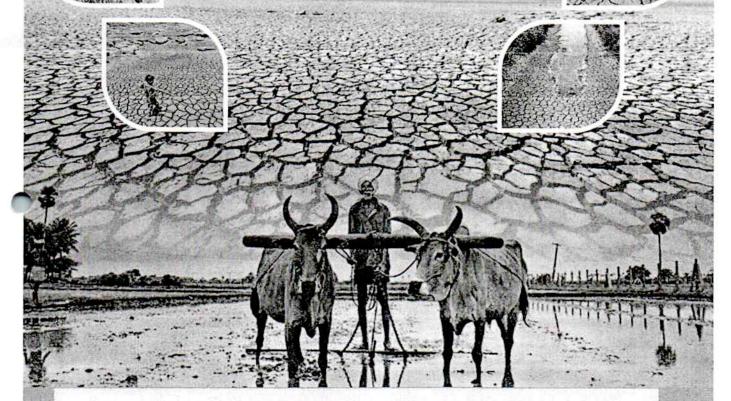
ONE DAY MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON

PLIGHT OF INDIAN FARMERS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

भारतीय शेतकऱ्यांच्या व्यथा वेदना, दशा : समस्या व आव्हाने

Saturday, 16th February, 2019





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KAMALA COLLEGE, KOLHAPUR

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HISTORY OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Dr. Ganpat G. Gaikwad Head Dept. of Economics Shivraj College, Gadhinglaj, Tal- Gadhinglaj, Dist - Kolhapur.

ABSTRACT

It is believed by Historian that agriculture developed around 10000 years before in the Middle East. The story of Human civilization is the story of agriculture or vice versa. About 5000 years before Indus Valley civilization was known for the invention of plough and wheel. Indus valley civilization is known for cotton plant, spinning and ginning. Vedic people developed lunar-solar calendar and began scientific agricultural practice. They discovered that there is relation between season and Earth rotation and established its relation with cultivation.

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. We can say that history of India begins with agriculture in Indus valley civilization. Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa civilizations tell us the development of agriculture in ancient India. As well as, ancient literature like Vedas and Upanishad's give lot of information about agriculture during the period. There are also many other sources available to understand agriculture. Present paper is describing the agricultural development during the Ancient Medieval, Mughal, Colonial and Independent periods. Identifying the exact origin of agriculture remains problematic because the transition from huntergatherer societies began thousands of years before the invention of writing.

Keywords-Agriculture, Civilization, Ginning, Lunar-solar calendar and Spinning.

OBJECTIVES OFTILE STUDY:

To, understand the agricultural development in India, about various crops, cultivation methods and invention of implements from ancient period to independence period.

METHODOLOGY:

Present study is totally based on secondary data. Major resource of the study is internet. The history of agricultural development in India is studied in different historical periods like Indus civilization, Middle period, Mughal period, British period and Independence period.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DURINGANCIENT PERIOD:

Evidences of the presence of wheat and some legumes in the 6th millennium BC have been found in the Indus Valley. Oranges were cultivated in the same millennium. The crops grown in the valley around 4000 BC were typically wheat, peas, sesame seed, barley, dates and mangoes. By 3500 BC cotton wowing and cotton textiles were quite advanced in the valley. 13y 3000 BC fanning of rice had started. Other monsoon crop of importance of the time was cane sugar. By 2500 BC, rice was an important component of the staple diet in by 3000 B.C. turmeric, cardamom; pepper and mustard were harvested earlier in India.

HIGHLIGHTS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE ANCIENT PERIOD:

- 1. Indian agriculture began by $9000 \, BC$ as a result of early cultivation of plants, and domestication of crops and animals.
- 2. Wheat, barley, and jujube were domesticated in the Indian subcontinent by 9000 BC.
- 3. The Indians also domesticated hemp, which they used for a number of applications including making narcotics, fiber, and oil.
- 4. Wild Oryza rice appeared in the Belan and Ganges valley regions of northern India as early as 4530 BC and 5440 BC respectively.
- 5. Rice was cultivated in the Indus Valley Civilization.