

Agriculture and Food Management

July 23, 2019

Source: PIB, Economic Survey 2018-19

- Agriculture sector in India typically **goes through cyclical movement in terms of its growth.**
 - Gross Value Added (GVA) in agriculture improved from a negative 0.2 per cent in 2014-15 to 6.3 per cent in 2016-17 but decelerated to 2.9 per cent in 2018-19.
- **Gross Capital Formation (GCF)** in agriculture as a percentage of GVA marginally **declined to 15.2 per cent** in 2017-18 as compared to 15.6 per cent in 2016-17.
- The public sector GCF in agriculture as a percentage of GVA increased to 2.7 per cent in 2016-17 from 2.1 per cent in 2013-14.
- **Women's participation in agriculture increased to 13.9 per cent in 2015-16 from 11.7 per cent in 2005-06 and their concentration is highest (28 per cent) among small and marginal farmers.**
- A shift is seen in the number of operational land holdings and area operated by operational land holdings towards small and marginal farmers.
- **89% of groundwater extracted is used for irrigation.** Hence, the focus should shift from land productivity to 'irrigation water productivity'. **Thrust should be on micro-irrigation to improve water use efficiency.**
- **Fertilizer response ratio has been declining over time.** Organic and natural farming techniques including **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)** can improve both water use efficiency and soil fertility.
- Adopting appropriate technologies through Custom Hiring Centers and implementation of ICT are critical to improve resource-use efficiency among small and marginal

farmers.

- **Diversification of livelihoods is critical for inclusive and sustainable development in agriculture** and allied sectors. **Policies should focus on**
 - **Dairying as India is the largest producer of milk.**
 - **Livestock rearing** particularly of small ruminants.
 - **Fisheries sector, as India is the second largest producer**

