

# THE GREEN REVOLUTION OF YESTERDAY & TODAY

The Green Revolution which began in late 70s had its focus on production while today the focus has shifted to productivity. The earlier revolution relied more on wheat since our concern was countering the PL-480 Loan while the present revolution is focused on diversification in agriculture which includes millets, oats and other cereal crops. If technology was the only consideration that was aimed at for initiating the earlier green revolution in matters of seeds, fertilizers now the important area which cannot be ignored is Biodiversity which has to be preserved irrespective of the technology. Since it is realized that it is a pre-condition for the ecological balance earlier it was irrigation that was given a lot of emphasis which led to lot of major and medium dams for providing canal irrigation while now the focus has shifted to the moisture control and soil moisture conservation, because an effective management of SMC is vital for agricultural productivity. Earlier it was one way information and that too in static mode which was being conveyed to farmers in general but now it is communication which is two-way process by which farmers have a dialogue with scientists and their problems are addressed through institutions like **Krishi Rath** and this applies to all commodities like millets, oats and oil seeds in different soil regions of the country. It is now a set of good practices among the farmers that is taking precedence over technology of the scientists. Since the good practices are tested and have led to results while technology as a tool may or may not lead to results therefore equal importance is being given to this factor which would need more of mobilization, participation and sharing of experiences.

Earlier, it was Government subsidy that was ruling the roost but now it is the banking norms finalized by RBI where primacy is given to agriculture sector and all practices, schemes, programmes and initiatives that have to be kept in mind. If needed, there can be modifications in the banking practices for agricultural needs of the farmers so as to make a perfect win-win situation. Earlier the tree as a crop was never thought while now in wake of Anand model of development where one-third of income is from dairy, one-third from cotton and castor and the rest is from the special timber wood that is grown as a crop on the periphery of the field and in some portion of the agriculture farms that has led to wealth creation among the farmers. More of timber activity and mushrooming of saw mills that have led to a good buyer seller market situation in the district. This model can be of use in days to come.

We need farmers to be full time farmers and they need to be serious minded also and not migrants to cities therefore they need to be full time landlords for which active involvement of farmers staying in rural pockets is essential. The only factor that can help to gear up this situation would be a good infrastructure in rural areas in terms of roads, power, water and schools that can satiate the rural needs of farmers at large who may feel

more motivated to do serious minded agriculture operations in rural areas of the country henceforth.