

International Journal of Asian Economic Light (JAEL)

SJIF Impact Factor (2016): 4.057

Volume: 5 Issue: 1 January 2017

**INDIAN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM: AN
EVALUATION****Rakesh Sharma¹**

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ABSTRACT

New innovations and modern agricultural technologies are the prime of agricultural productivity and growth. India has one of the largest and institutionally most complex agricultural research systems in the world. The effective functioning agricultural innovation system in close association with the education and extension systems has greatly contributed to rapid growth of agricultural production since independence. The green revolution beginning with the rice and wheat revolutions in the late 1960s and expanding to several other crops including oil seeds in recent years ushered in an era of food self sufficiency and improved rural welfare. The national agricultural research system was at the fore front in guiding these technological breakthroughs before embarking upon the study of any system. It is important to identify its main constituent units and delineate their respective roles and functions, so as to facilitate a meaningful and accurate analysis. An understanding of the evolution of the system and its contemporary structure is of great significance as it helps us to understand the dynamics of the system. So this paper has presented an analysis of agricultural extension system in India which is based on NSSO 59th round (2003) and 70th round (2013) survey. The study find out that only 41 percent farmers' households in 2003 and 35 percent farmers' households in 2013 accessed of agricultural knowledge from any source. So it is essential that public sector extension system should be improving its performance in terms of knowledge acquisition and access to farmers.

KEY WORDS: Agriculture, extension, modern technology access, India.