

Modern youth are disenchanted with agriculture & are shunning it as a profession. Examine the reasons & suggest measures to reverse it.

The declining share of agriculture to India's GDP despite being the largest employer has created disenchantment for agriculture among the modern youth. They are shunning it as a profession for the following reasons —

- Rise of new middle class due to service-sector led economy.
- Proliferation of industry-led technical tertiary education
- Increased uncertainty over agricultural output due to extreme events of climate change
- State's inability to eliminate middlemen & make market for agriculture profitable.
- Dalit Politician like B.R. Ambedkar believed that in the long run, it is best for lower caste youth to move out of villages to avoid caste rigidity.

The government has acknowledged this catastrophic trend & has made attempts to retain youth in agriculture through schemes such as ARYA [Attracting Rural Youth in Agriculture], opening up of more educational institutions providing graduation degree in agriculture, efforts to double farmer's income, ~~by~~ etc. In addition to it, more innovative solutions could be tried to reverse this trend, such as —

a) Rural Entrepreneurship: Education needs to be reformed to become more agriculture friendly rather than being industry-friendly.

- Commercialization of agriculture, ^{through e-NAM} & Mechanization of agriculture will also attract young ~~men~~ women to take agriculture as a profession.

b) Support Agro-ecotourism: By giving organic farming a major push & encouraging livestock farming & bee-keeping will give rise to agro-ecotourism.

c) Support Green Jobs: More youth needs to be trained in supplying raw material for biofuel.

d) Youth in policy making: As one moves from village to districts, non-agrarian & richer communities ~~had~~ hold important posts in local bodies. Participation of more youth from agrarian communities is required.