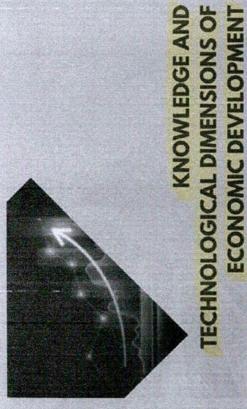


Knowledge and Technological Dimensions of Economic Development

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 $2^{\scriptscriptstyle Chapter}$

A study on Recent Technological Advancements in Agriculture Contributing to Economic Development

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Introduction

Agriculture is the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock. It includes the preparation of plant and animal products for people to use and their distribution to markets. Agriculture provides most of the world's food and fabrics. Cotton, wool, and leather are all agricultural products. Agriculture also provides wood for construction and paper products. These products, as well as the agricultural methods used, may vary from one part of the world to another. Over 70 percent of the rural households depend on agriculture. Agriculture is a crucial sector of the economy in many countries, including India. It plays a significant role in providing food security, employment, and income for a large percentage of the population. Agriculture is also a source of raw materials for various industries, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, and construction.

In India, agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for approximately 58% of the population. The sector contributes around 16% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs nearly half of the workforce. At the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) level, the Indian agriculture sector has been facing challenges such as low productivity, low income of farmers, inadequate infrastructure, and climate change-induced uncertainties. Despite these challenges, the sector has been growing steadily, contributing around 17% to the country's GDP in recent years. India is also the world's second-largest producer of agricultural products, including rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, and pulses. The growth rate of agriculture in India, as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), has been somewhat inconsistent in recent years. According to the latest available data from the World Bank, the growth rate of agriculture in India was 3.4% in 2020, which was slightly lower than the 4% growth rate in 2019.

In terms of the contribution of agriculture to the Indian economy in 2023, it is difficult to predict with certainty. Agriculture is a significant contributor to the Indian economy, accounting for about 16-17% of India's GDP in recent years. However, the agriculture sector's contribution to the Indian economy goes beyond its