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Doubling Farmers Income in India: Not Easy

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Why Doubling farmers income is still a dream in India, currently?

The claim that doubling farmers' income is still a dream in India nowadays can be justified by several factors:

1. **Inadequate Agricultural Reforms:** Despite the introduction of some reforms, India's agricultural sector continues to face challenges such as fragmented landholdings, outdated farming practices, lack of access to modern technology, and inadequate infrastructure. These factors hinder productivity and make it difficult for farmers to increase their income.
2. **Income Disparities:** There is a significant income disparity among farmers in India. Large-scale farmers with access to resources, capital, and market linkages have better opportunities to increase their income compared to small and marginal farmers who lack these advantages. The lack of equitable distribution of resources and support systems further exacerbates the income gap.
3. **Dependence on Monsoons:** Agriculture in India is heavily reliant on monsoons due to limited irrigation facilities. Erratic monsoons, droughts, and floods can lead to crop failures, resulting in financial losses for farmers. Climate change-induced uncertainties further compound these risks, making it challenging to achieve consistent income growth.
4. **Market Challenges:** Farmers often face market inefficiencies, including middlemen exploitation, lack of access to fair and transparent markets, and price volatility. Limited bargaining power and inadequate market infrastructure make it difficult for farmers to fetch remunerative prices for their produce, affecting their income potential.
5. **Rising Input Costs:** The cost of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and machinery has been steadily increasing. Farmers often struggle to afford these inputs, impacting their productivity and overall income. Price fluctuations in the market, coupled with rising input costs, can further erode their profit margins.
6. **Limited Diversification:** Many farmers in India primarily rely on traditional crops and face challenges in diversifying into high-value crops, horticulture, livestock, or agro-processing industries. Diversification can offer better income prospects, but it requires access to knowledge, training, and capital, which may not be readily available to all farmers.
7. **Lack of Financial Inclusion:** Access to formal credit remains a significant hurdle for farmers, particularly small and marginal ones. Limited access to affordable credit restricts their ability to invest in modern technologies, better seeds, and machinery, which could enhance productivity and income.

Government of India's work for doubling farmers income: Schemes

The Government of India has initiated several measures and schemes aimed at doubling farmers' income. Here are some key initiatives undertaken:

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN): Launched in 2019, this scheme provides direct income support to farmers by transferring ₹6,000 (\$82) per year in three equal installments directly to their bank accounts. It benefits small and marginal farmers and aims to provide financial assistance to meet their agricultural needs.
2. Agricultural Reforms: The government has implemented agricultural reforms through three major acts - the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act. These reforms aim to create a more favourable environment for farmers, enabling them to access better markets, receive fair prices, and enter into contractual agreements with agribusiness firms.
3. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY): This crop insurance scheme provides farmers with protection against crop losses due to natural calamities, pests, and diseases. It aims to ensure the financial stability of farmers and encourage them to adopt modern agricultural practices without the fear of potential losses.
4. Soil Health Cards: Under this initiative, farmers receive soil health cards that provide information about the nutrient status of their soil and recommend appropriate fertilization measures. By promoting soil health and balanced fertilizer usage, this scheme aims to improve agricultural productivity and enhance farmers' income.
5. National Agriculture Market (e-NAM): This digital platform facilitates transparent and competitive trading of agricultural commodities. It connects agricultural produce market committees (APMCs) across the country, allowing farmers to sell their produce online, explore better market opportunities, and obtain competitive prices.
6. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY): This centrally sponsored scheme provides financial support to states for various agricultural development activities. It focuses on strengthening infrastructure, promoting technology adoption, capacity building, and supporting initiatives that enhance productivity and income in the agricultural sector.
7. Allied Sector Development: The government recognizes the potential of allied sectors such as horticulture, fisheries, dairy, and poultry in increasing farmers' income. Schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and National Livestock Mission aim to promote these sectors through infrastructure development, technology adoption, market linkages, and value addition.

Do really Government of India working on doubling the income of farmers?

Yes, the Government of India has been working on doubling the income of farmers and has taken several initiatives to support this goal. Here are some justifications for the government's efforts:

1. Policy Focus: The government has shown a clear policy focus on doubling farmers' income. The commitment to this goal is reflected in policy statements, budgetary allocations, and the introduction of specific schemes and reforms aimed at improving farmers' livelihoods.
2. Direct Income Support: The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, introduced in 2019, provides direct income support to farmers by transferring funds directly to their bank accounts. This initiative benefits small and marginal farmers and provides financial assistance to meet their agricultural needs.
3. Crop Insurance and Risk Mitigation: The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides crop insurance coverage to farmers, protecting them against yield losses due to natural calamities, pests, and diseases. This scheme helps farmers manage risks and provides them with financial stability, contributing to income protection.

4. **Soil Health and Technology Adoption:** The government has launched initiatives such as the Soil Health Card Scheme to provide farmers with information on the nutrient status of their soil, enabling them to make informed decisions on fertilization. Additionally, efforts to promote technology adoption, including precision agriculture, remote sensing, and market information systems, aim to enhance productivity and income.
5. **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Cooperatives:** The government has encouraged the formation and strengthening of FPOs and cooperatives to improve market linkages, collective bargaining power, and value chain integration for farmers. This allows them to access better markets, reduce dependency on middlemen, and enhance their income prospects.
6. **Support for Allied Sectors:** The government recognizes the potential of allied sectors such as horticulture, fisheries, dairy, and poultry in increasing farmers' income. Schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and National Livestock Mission promote infrastructure development, technology adoption, and value addition in these sectors.

Doubling Indian farmers income only on Paper

While the government has implemented various initiatives and schemes to double farmers' income in India, it is true that achieving this goal is a complex and challenging task. Here are some justifications for the claim that doubling farmers' income is primarily on paper and has not been fully realized in reality:

1. **Slow Implementation:** Despite the introduction of schemes and policies, the implementation process has often been slow and marred by bureaucratic inefficiencies. Delays in disbursing benefits, inadequate infrastructure development, and limited outreach to all farmers have hindered the effective execution of initiatives.
2. **Lack of Awareness and Access:** Many farmers, particularly those in remote areas or belonging to marginalized communities, have limited awareness and access to government schemes and support systems. Information gaps, language barriers, and a lack of proper communication channels often prevent them from benefiting fully from the intended programs.
3. **Fragmented Landholdings and Small Farm Sizes:** The majority of farmers in India have small and fragmented landholdings, which pose challenges for achieving economies of scale and optimizing production. These limitations make it difficult for farmers to generate substantial income and benefit from technological advancements and modern farming practices.
4. **Market Challenges and Price Volatility:** Farmers often face challenges in accessing fair and transparent markets. Price volatility, limited market linkages, and the influence of middlemen can significantly impact farmers' income. Ensuring competitive prices and reducing market inefficiencies remains a crucial task that requires sustained efforts.
5. **Inadequate Support Services:** While income enhancement requires access to services such as credit, extension support, marketing infrastructure, and skill development, these support services often fall short in reaching all farmers effectively. Limited access to formal credit and extension services, along with a lack of quality infrastructure, hampers farmers' ability to invest in productivity-enhancing measures.
6. **Climate Change and Natural Disasters:** The agricultural sector in India is highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events. These factors can lead to crop losses, reduced productivity, and financial hardships for farmers, making it challenging to achieve consistent income growth.
7. **Income Disparities and Social Inequities:** There are significant income disparities among farmers in India. Large-scale farmers with access to resources, capital, and market linkages have better opportunities to increase their income compared to small and

marginalized farmers who lack these advantages. Bridging these income disparities and ensuring equitable growth remains a considerable challenge.

8. **Lack of Evaluation and Monitoring:** Continuous evaluation and monitoring of the effectiveness of government initiatives are crucial for assessing their impact on farmers' income. Without robust monitoring mechanisms and periodic assessments, it becomes difficult to identify gaps and make necessary adjustments to ensure the desired outcomes.

Data Justifying: Farmers Income have not been doubled

According to available data, there is evidence that farmers' income in India has not doubled as per the desired goal. Here are a few points:

1. **National Sample Survey (NSS) Data:** The NSS data on income and expenditure shows that between 2012-13 and 2018-19, the average monthly income of agricultural households in India increased by only around 30%. This growth rate falls short of the target of doubling farmers' income.
2. **Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households:** The Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households (SAS) conducted by the NSSO in 2013 reported that the average monthly income of agricultural households in India was INR 6,426 (\$87.50). However, as per the All-India Report on SAS 2019, the average monthly income increased to INR 9,761 (\$133) by 2018, reflecting a growth of around 52%. While this is an improvement, it still falls short of the doubling income goal.
3. **NITI Aayog's Performance on Doubling Farmers' Income:** In 2020, the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) released a report titled "Doubling Farmers' Income: A Compendium of Success Stories." The report acknowledged that doubling farmers' income remained a challenge and highlighted the need for a focused and concerted effort to achieve the goal.
4. **Feedback from Farmers' Organizations:** Various farmers' organizations and agricultural experts have raised concerns about the slow progress in doubling farmers' income. They have pointed out that factors such as inadequate market access, low remunerative prices, rising input costs, and lack of comprehensive support systems have hindered the income growth of farmers.

Conclusion

While progress towards doubling farmers' income is a complex and long-term objective, the government's initiatives demonstrate its commitment to addressing the challenges faced by farmers and improving their economic well-being. However, the success of these efforts depends on effective implementation, continuous monitoring, and timely course corrections based on the evolving needs of farmers.