(IJPS) 2026, Vol. No. 21, Special Issue 3 **e-ISSN: 2455-6270 p-ISSN: 2455-7455**

The Essential Connection: Agriculture as the Cornerstone of Viksit Bharat

Dr. B. Nageswar Rao
Associate Professor of Economics, Government Degree College,
Yellandu, Bhadradri Kothagudem District, Telangana State, India

DOI:10.37648/ijps.v21i03.032

[1]*Received: 30/11/2025; Accepted: 31/12/2025; Published: 07/01/2026*

Abstract

Agriculture is the undisputed cornerstone of India's Viksit Bharat (Developed India) 2047 vision. It is essential for food security, rural prosperity, poverty reduction, and economic resilience. It requires a technology-driven transformation towards sustainability, integrating precision farming, artificial intelligence, and value chains to empower small farmers and uplift millions of people, despite the fact that it faces challenges in modernization and climate adaptation. In addition to having a varied range of agroclimatic zones, India possesses a rich agricultural past, which serves as the foundation of the Indian economy. Within the context of the contemporary world of technology, innovation, and industry, agriculture is an essential component in the formation of the economy of a nation. In light of the fact that our nation is making progress toward a vision of "Viksit Bharat," which translates to "developed India," the sector of agriculture serves as a central stage for transformation while maintaining sustainability. Agricultural production is not limited to the production of food; it also makes a substantial contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the development of rural areas, and the creation of employment opportunities. Because the holistic growth of the nation, as envisioned by the concept of "Viksit Bharat," cannot be achieved without raising agriculture, the primary issue for India as a rising economy lies with the reality that the only way to do this is by empowering the agriculture sector. In order to fulfill the goal of our esteemed Prime Minister, which is for India to become "Viksit Bharat," it is necessary for agriculture to develop into a sector that is both sustainable and diverse in order to provide food for a large population, which in turn helps to maintain livelihoods and contributes to the advancement of the nation. Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is a call to action that represents the long-term ambition of elevating India to the status of a self-sufficient and developed nation by the year 2047. The Gross National Income (GNI) of India is estimated to be $2390 per person as of the year 2022, according to the World Bank. Therefore, in order to acquire this status of developed nation, it is necessary to accomplish a sixfold increase in per capita gross national income. This is a task that requires inclusivity in the income of farmers and the growth rate of agricultural GDP.

1. Introduction

There are significant gaps that undermine the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, despite the fact that there has been development across key agricultural and rural indices. The average landholding is barely 0.7 hectares, only seven percent of farmers receive funding from the Minimum Support Price, and sixty-one percent of farmers rely on agriculture that is dependent on rain, which puts millions of people at risk of climate change. There is only fifteen percent of farmland that is covered by micro-irrigation, and post-harvest losses in perishables range from twenty to forty percent, which undermines both food security and the earnings of farmers. Numerous smallholders continue to be barred from official markets and technology, which hinders their ability to rely on themselves and promotes equitable growth. In spite of the fact that they continue to face challenges such as fragmented landholdings and little bargaining power, small farmers continue to be barred from high-value markets and

[1]*How to cite the article:* Rao B.N. (2026); The Essential Connection: Agriculture as the Cornerstone of Viksit Bharat; *International Journal of Professional Studies*; Vol 21, Special Issue 3, 217-222; DOI: http://doi.org/10.37648/ijps.v21i03.032

advanced inputs, which hinders their ability to operate independently. The fact that the agricultural industry is resilient is demonstrated by the yearly growth rate of 5%; nevertheless, a significant amount of this increase is uneven among regions, and small farmers frequently do not gain correspondingly. Post-harvest losses, limited storage infrastructure, and poor distribution mean that not all regions enjoy food and nutrition security, despite the fact that food production is at an all-time high (353.96 million tonnes). There have been improvements in rural prosperity because to direct income support programs like as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). However, there are still gaps in land record digitization and beneficiary certification, which prevent some qualified farmers from receiving assistance. A quarter of smallholders continue to rely on informal lenders, despite the fact that access to credit for smallholders is up to 76%. The Lakhpati Didis program is concerned with the economic empowerment of women; nevertheless, in order to achieve scaled success, it is necessary to overcome deeply ingrained social, financial, and technological constraints in a number of states. A significant amount of work is seasonal and is not always related to the development of long-term assets, which might lead to an increase in long-term productivity. This is despite the fact that MGNREGA has generated more than 2,500 million person-days of employment. Despite the fact that coarse cereals show promise for climate resilience, widespread adoption of these cereals is being held back by weak market connections and limited extension support. This concept envisions villages in which "every family has a pucca house, every village is connected by roads, every rural youth has employment opportunities, and every woman is financially independent." Consequently, this directly benefits local food systems by contributing to the development of infrastructure. In the course of the PMGSY, 7.56 lakh kilometres of rural roads have been constructed up to this point. These roads have connected farmers to markets, reduced the costs of transportation, and reduced post-harvest losses. A total of 14.8 million "Lakhpati Didis" in India are already earning Rs 1 lakh or more yearly through the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana, with the goal of reaching 30 million by the year 2047. This indicates that women are becoming an increasingly important force in India's rural transformation.

Over one hundred million rural women are organized into nearly nine million self-help groups (SHG), which are together linked to banks with deposits that surpass eleven lakh crore rupees. These SHGs are the driving force behind local food systems and are responsible for entrepreneurship. Agribusiness, food processing, and dairy collectives are all examples of businesses that are run by women. These businesses help to strengthen supply chains and stimulate innovation. It has been demonstrated that the expanding leadership of rural women, notwithstanding the difficulties associated with gaining access to land, is a proven economic multiplier for Viksit Gram and Viksit Bharat. This is because 80 percent of rural women are engaged in agriculture, which includes 36 million farmers and 61.5 million laborers.

As India continues to make steady progress toward the goal of achieving a Viksit Bharat by the year 2047, agriculture continues to be the driving force behind this transformation. This sector of the economy is more than just a part of the economy; it is a vital source of support for millions of people, a protector of our natural resources, and a gateway to equitable development. The fate of Indian agriculture is contingent on the degree to which we are able to successfully incorporate self-sufficiency, scientific research, and sustainability into our agricultural ecology. In the contemporary discourse in agriculture, there is a single focus that is reflected in everything from bio-agricultural inputs and soil regeneration to animal-based farming systems and clean planting programs. This priority is the necessity of transitioning from extractive methods to regenerative practices. It is vital that this change not be delayed. Rather than being a choice, it is a requirement. The effects of climate change are no longer a potential danger; rather, they are a daily reality. Its influence can be seen in the steadily increasing cycle of farm debt, the unpredictable rains, the diminishing groundwater, and the decreasing biodiversity. In order to combat this, we need to make investments in ecosystems that are resilient to climate change, policies that are centered on farmers, natural agricultural techniques, and research that can empower smallholder farmers. Our answer must be comprehensive, based on scientific evidence, and open to all. At the same time, we must not dismiss the value of the practices that have been around for a long time. We are able to develop low-cost, high-impact solutions that are both sustainable and scalable if we strategically integrate indigenous knowledge with modern inventions. Some examples of these innovations include natural farming practices, precision irrigation systems, community-based seed banks, and digital platforms for market access. These methods are specifically adapted to the social, environmental, and economic conditions that are present in our rural communities. As a result, they guarantee

resilient and self-sufficient communities for the long term. And as we transition from a paradigm of subsistence to one of sustainability, it is imperative that we never forget the people for whom this shift is intended. All of these individuals—the young agri-innovator, the rural woman who is leading a self-help group, and the farmer working in the field—need to be at the center of our vision. Their ability to persevere, their inventiveness, and their bravery are the true forces that propel advance. During this crucial decade, let us recommit ourselves to the development of an agricultural system that is ecological in its operation, economically viable in its results, and ethical in its fundamental principles. Then and only then will we be able to realize a Viksit Bharat that is really inclusive and successful.

2. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs): Catalysts of Development

The ecosystem of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) comprises one of the transformative projects that are contributing to the realization of this objective. By doing so, they are able to provide economies of scale, increase their bargaining strength, and promote methods that are modern and sustainable. Additionally, they lessen the reliance on intermediaries, help farmers gain access to formal loans, and make it possible for them to sell their products directly to institutional purchasers. Therefore, family planning organizations (FPOs) are the foundation of rural economic empowerment, guaranteeing that each and every farmer is included in India's journey toward progress. These efforts are not only aimed at offering solutions; rather, they are dedicated to the creation of an ecosystem in which all stakeholders can flourish. Higher incomes for farmers, stronger and more resilient farmer collectives, efficient value chains that decrease wastage and increase profitability, and a sustainable agricultural future for India are all being made possible as a result of their efforts to bridge the gaps in finance, market access, and advisory support. This is reinventing the way agriculture is conducted in India by putting the farmer at the center of its approach and utilizing a scalable impact model. This is ensuring that no smallholder farmer is left behind on the path to progress and wealth. Agricultural practices that are environmentally responsible and innovations that are driven by technology need to be strengthened in order to guarantee that initiatives such as FPOs will have an impact over the long run. Through the incorporation of sustainable practices and artificial intelligence tools, efforts are strengthened by increasing production, resilience, and farmer empowerment in order to prosper in an agrieconomy that is continuously evolving. Agricultural practices that are sustainable are the key to growth over the long term. Solving problems that have persisted for a long time is absolutely necessary in order to release India's agricultural potential. Agriculture in India faces a tremendous difficulty as a result of fragmented land holdings, which make scalability and mechanization more difficult to achieve. Comparatively speaking to worldwide benchmarks, productivity continues to be low. Instability in income is hampered by factors such as climate sensitivity, water scarcity, and unpredictable monsoons. Many farmers do not have access to reasonable loans, which contributes to the large post-harvest losses that are caused by inadequate infrastructure. Moreover, the excessive use of chemical inputs has resulted in the degradation of soil, which has an effect on the productivity over the long run. To be successful in overcoming these obstacles and bringing the vision of "Viksit Bharat" to fruition, India must implement sustainable agricultural techniques in order to maximize its long-term growth. In order to maintain the health of the soil, conserve water, and encourage biodiversity, agricultural practices such as crop rotation, organic farming, and precision irrigation are utilized. The resilience of rural communities will be strengthened through the implementation of sustainable practices, which will enable these communities to better adjust to the effects of climate change and other environmental issues.

3. Agriculture: A comprehensive perspective for Viksit Bharat

In addition to having a varied range of agroclimatic zones, India possesses a rich agricultural heritage, which serves as the mainstay of the Indian economy. Within the context of the contemporary world of technology, innovation, and industry, agriculture is an essential component in the formation of the economy of a nation. In light of the fact that our nation is making progress toward a vision of "Viksit Bharat," which translates to "developed India," the sector of agriculture serves as a central stage for transformation while maintaining sustainability. Agricultural production is not limited to the production of food; it also makes a substantial contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the development of rural areas, and the creation of employment opportunities. Considering that the holistic growth of the nation, as envisioned by the concept of "Viksit Bharat," cannot be achieved without raising agriculture, the primary issue for India as a rising economy

lies with the reality that the only way to do this is by empowering the agriculture sector. In order to fulfill the goal of our esteemed Prime Minister, which is for India to become "Viksit Bharat," it is necessary for agriculture to develop into a sector that is both sustainable and diverse in order to provide food for a large population, which in turn helps to maintain livelihoods and contributes to the advancement of the nation. Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is a call to action that represents the long-term ambition of elevating India to the status of a self-sufficient and developed nation by the year 2047. The Gross National Income (GNI) of India is estimated to be $2390 per person as of the year 2022, according to the World Bank. Therefore, in order to acquire this status of developed nation, it is necessary to accomplish a sixfold increase in per capita gross national income. This is a task that requires inclusivity in the income of farmers and the growth rate in agricultural GDP.

When crucial characteristics such as efficient resource usage, organic farming, crop diversification, and resilience are taken into consideration, sustainable agricultural methods become essential for guaranteeing food security, environmental health, and economic stability.

The concept of "Viksit Bharat" is aligned with the concept of "sustainable agriculture," which ensures the preservation of the environment, the creation of employment opportunities in rural areas, and the development of various allied sectors of agriculture, such as dairy, poultry, and food processing, among others, which can contribute to the diversification of income and contribute to the vision of "Viksit Bharat." Agriculture is transformed into an appealing and lucrative occupation that makes a considerable contribution to India's gross domestic product through the empowerment of women and young people. In order to bridge the gap between buyers and farmers, agricultural marketing in India needs to undergo a paradigm shift by the year 2047. Through the use of digital and smart innovative technologies, this transition is necessary. The Indian agricultural sector is well positioned to compete in international markets to its full potential in the future, and as such, it is an additional essential component of the Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative. Approximately 18 percent of the country's gross domestic product is contributed by agriculture; consequently, the growth of this sector is essential for the development of the Indian economy. This is because the agricultural sector has a pivotal role to play in maintaining the world's largest population through the implementation of advanced farming techniques and systematic improvements in post-harvest and value-addition chains. From the perspective of a developed India, the role that government efforts such as the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Digital Agriculture, and Doubling Farmer's Income have played has been critical. The alignment of agriculture with the view of "Viksit Bharat" embraces digital transformation and innovation with interventions such as precision farming, the use of internet of things and artificial intelligence-based analytics, digital platforms such as eNAM (electronic National Agriculture Market), and weather monitoring. These interventions, when combined with traditional farming, have the potential to significantly boost crop productivity, which in turn ensures higher income and growth for farmers and rural communities. Agricultural progress towards "Viksit Bharat" is being driven by artificial intelligence, which is responsible for the development of drones, tractors, and other agricultural tools that expedite agricultural activities. Integration of climate resilient technology with sustainable agriculture empowers the farmers to align and promote the view point of “Viksit Bharat” with sustainable agriculture, policies like PM-KISAN, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana lead to the thrust of Atmanirbhar Bharat (SelfReliant India) that perfectly aligns with the goal of “Viksit Bharat” as agriculture acts as key pillar for ensuring economic resilience and food sovereignty. A paradigm shift in agricultural practices will be necessary in order to make the dream of "Viksit Bharat" a reality by the year 2047. This will be accomplished through the practice of sustainable and resilient agriculture. It is necessary for the various players, including the government, private sectors, academic institutions, society, and farmers, to work together in order to accomplish this. Agriculture is not only a sector of the economy, but it is also a foundation of India's growth. It places an emphasis on environmentally friendly practices, laws that are inclusive, and technical advancements that lead to a holistic approach, which is a vital component for the "Viksit Bharat" initiative. It is necessary for the public sector and the private sector to work together in order to construct a hub for agri-innovation that would upgrade the financial capabilities of farmers and, as a result, contribute to the gross domestic product of the nation. E-platforms are essential and instrumental in the process of modernizing the agricultural sector, which fosters the vision of rural and economic growth, which is essential in the process of developing a developed nation. As a result of the fact that the empowerment of the agriculture sector plays a major part with the goal of "Viksit Bharat," Indian

agriculture has the potential to serve as a model for other countries to follow, shining as an example of innovation, sustainability, and output.

In spite of just having 24% of the country's farmed land, India's small and marginal farmers are responsible for producing 70% of the country's vegetables and 41% of its food grains. Supporting small farmers and local food systems is economically efficient, as shown by the inverse link between farm size and production. We can scale digital extension, AI, and the internet of things for real-time crop advising and introduce "Digital Krishi Sakhis" at the village level for hands-on support similar to Drone Didis if we close the technology gap. It is critical to have smart devices at the panchayat and Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) levels, as well as affordable agri-tech through public-private partnerships and shared equipment models. Direct access to e-NAM marketplaces, transparent payments, and resource pooling are all features that digital platforms—including FPO-led models—should offer. Reducing post-harvest losses and increasing value can be achieved through the expansion of financial inclusion via micro-credit and insurance, decentralized processing, and cold storage hubs. Helping people become more digitally literate and establishing "tech champions" at the village level can improve adoption. Empowering smallholders, fueling Viksit Gram, and delivering equitable growth for Viksit Bharat 2047 can be achieved by prioritizing rural internet, fast-tracking successful pilots, and incentivizing climate-smart agri-tech. The preservation of indigenous knowledge and the dissemination of productive seed types are of equal importance. For future generations, it is important to protect biodiversity, increase resilience to climate change, and sustain productivity by integrating novel approaches with time-tested agricultural wisdom.

According to a number of studies, the local economic multiplier that is generated by spending money on local food systems is far bigger than that generated by conventional supply chains. According to a study conducted in the United States, every dollar spent locally generates up to $1.90 in economic activity in the area, which results in the circulation of more funds and the maintenance of employment opportunities. Research conducted in India, including an exploratory study on the Rythu Bazar in Telangana, reveals that smallholder farmers who take part in local food markets and collectives earn higher prices and immediate cash, which in turn boosts both their income and the economy of the region. Research indicates that incorporating local production, processing, and direct marketing, particularly through the formation of farmer's collectives, results in increased earnings, the creation of employment opportunities in rural areas, and an expansion of the multiplier effect. Increasing the potential for collective bargaining, facilitating direct consumer access, enabling vertical integration, and broadening financial inclusion are all ways in which FPOs contribute to the enhancement of the economic and social benefits that local food networks across India provide.

4. Conclusion:

Agriculture is undeniably the cornerstone of India's Viksit Bharat vision for 2047, serving as the engine for food security, rural livelihoods, and inclusive economic growth. However, in order to realize this vision, it is necessary to overcome persistent challenges such as fragmented land, market inefficiencies, and climate risks. This can be accomplished through integrated strategies that focus on technology (precision farming), sustainable practices, farmer empowerment, and modern governance. The goal is to transform the sector from one that is subsistence to one that is a diversified, high-tech, and resilient powerhouse that drives national prosperity. The Viksit Bharat @ 2047 vision outlines a comprehensive plan to build India. The goal emphasizes empowering young, integrating women into society, fostering social fairness, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The document recognizes ongoing difficulties such economic inequality, technical gaps, and infrastructure deficiencies. Technological innovation and digital transformation, encouraged by "Digital India," improve governance, education, and healthcare efficiency and accessibility. To achieve balanced and inclusive progress, excluded populations need targeted assistance services. This vision also prioritizes renewable energy and sustainable agriculture to combat climate change and develop a resilient future. This development plan prioritizes youth, women, the disadvantaged, and farmers. Youth dynamism and inventiveness are projected to drive technical and social improvements, while women's full workforce participation drives economic growth. A just society requires addressing poverty and helping disadvantaged groups to rise. Long-term food security and sustainable growth require sustained support for farmers, India's backbone, through sophisticated agricultural practices and forward-thinking policies. India can overcome problems and seize opportunities in the future decades with coordinated efforts, well-designed

policies, and consistent attention on important pillars. By 2047, India aims to become a global leader in economic prosperity, social inclusion, and environmental stewardship, ensuring equitable growth and well-being for all citizens.

References:

Acharya, M. (2024, February 7). Viksit Bharat 2047: Meaning, vision, objectives, registration. *Cleartax*. Retrieved from https://cleartax.in

Alam, A., Khan, A., Ghosal, N., & Satpati, L. (2021). A review of resource management and self-reliance for sustainable development of India under COVID-19 scenario. *Journal of Public Affairs, 21*(4), e2725. https://doi.org/10.1002/pa.2725

Almufarreh, A., & Arshad, M. (2023). Promising emerging technologies for teaching and learning: Recent developments and future challenges. *Sustainability, 15*(8), 6917. https://doi.org/10.3390/su15086917

Chopra, R., & Bisht, C. (2024). Charting the course towards Viksit Bharat: A comprehensive exploration of India's path to development. *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice, 30*(5), 9023–9033.

Cottom, T. S. (2022). A review of Indian space launch capabilities. *New Space, 10*(1), 42–50. https://doi.org/10.1089/space.2021.0064

Das, A., & Das, A. (2024). Issues and challenges of Digital India implementation for sustainable development: Good, bad, and ugly. In M. N. R. Prasad (Ed.), *Digital India: Navigating sustainable development goals* (pp. 94–112). CRC Press.

David, D., Gopalan, S., & Ramachandran, S. (2021). The startup environment and funding activity in India. In H. Kaur & G. D. Singh (Eds.), *Investment in startups and small business financing* (pp. 193–232). World Scientific. https://doi.org/10.1142/9789811235825_0007