

POOR POSITION OF AGRICULTURE LABOURS ALL OVER THE CENTRAL ASIA

B. S. Panwar 1,
S. N. Kholikova 2
S. Kh. Yakubov 3

1Former Professor, Department of Soil Science, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
President, Green India Clean Environment Society (GICES)- Hisar, India

2Senior Lecturer, Department of Soil Science, Karshi State University, Karshi, Uzbekistan

3 Institute of Military Aviation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Karshi, Uzbekistan

panwarbss@gmail.com

Abstract

All about the one billion people work in the agricultural sector, constituting approximately 28 per cent of the employed population. About 450 million are waged workers, many of whom depend on incomes from jobs in the plantation sector. While the share of employment in agriculture has declined in many central Asian countries due to technological advancements and economic shifts, it remains a critical sector for livelihoods, food security, and rural development.

This hard-working community have often received little recognition for their critical work in food production. Offers equal importance to agricultural labourers, just as we do to farmers, is crucial for a more equitable and sustainable agricultural system. Besides, the land ownership, in many cases, the line between smallholder farmers and agricultural labourers can be quite blurry. Both groups are often deeply intertwined in the agricultural ecosystem, and their roles can overlap. In practice, many smallholder farmers also work as agricultural labourers, especially when their farming operation doesn't provide enough income year-round. Adopting similar policies for agricultural labourers as those for farmers would ensure that the people who are essential to food production receive fair compensation, protection, and support. A more equitable policy approach would enhance agricultural productivity, promote rural development, and improve the livelihoods of millions of workers who are often overlooked. This would create a more sustainable and inclusive agricultural system that benefits everyone involved. Bureaucrats or stakeholders writing policies with no experience in farming directly or indirectly.

Keyword: Agriculture labours, poor living status, low profitable profession.

Introduction

Agriculture plays a significant role in overall socio-economic development. Therefore, fostering rapid, sustained and broad-based growth in agriculture remains key priority for the country. With the decreasing labour force in agriculture, increasing yield or productivity is the key to growth, which has to be accelerated. Shortage of labour and finding solutions thereof should become a major focus. Agriculture provides employment to not only the adult males of a households but also to women on the households. Women work extensively in production of major grains and millets,



in land preparation, seed selection and seedling production, sowing, applying manure, weeding, transplanting, threshing, winnowing and harvesting. In this article to study the growth and prospects of agricultural labourers in India.

In case the agricultural labourers are well-supported, they contribute more effectively to the overall economy. Well-compensated workers are likely to spend their earnings locally, boosting rural economies and contributing to broader economic stability. By investing in the labour force, we ensure a more robust and sustainable agricultural sector overall.

Application of similar policies for agricultural labourers as those for farmers would ensure that the people who are essential to food production receive fair compensation, protection, and support. A more equitable policy approach would enhance agricultural productivity, promote rural development, and improve the livelihoods of millions of workers who are often overlooked. This would create a more sustainable and inclusive agricultural system that benefits everyone involved. Such working commodity, the labourers are essential to the functioning of agriculture, yet their needs and rights are often overlooked. Just as we prioritize the well-being and support of farmers, we must do the same for labourers to ensure a fair, sustainable, and efficient agricultural system. Supporting agricultural labourers ensures a more resilient and equitable future for all, from the fields to the markets [1].

Such labourers often receive little recognition for their critical work in food production. Supporting them with training, fair wages, and social protections will help ensure they are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve. This can lead to greater worker motivation and pride in their work, resulting in improved agricultural productivity.

Providing equal importance to agricultural labourers, just as we do to farmers, is crucial for a more equitable and sustainable agricultural system. Despite the land ownership, in many cases, the line between smallholder farmers and agricultural labourers can be quite blurry. Both groups are often deeply intertwined in the agricultural ecosystem, and their roles can overlap. In practice, many smallholder farmers also work as agricultural labourers, especially when their farming operation doesn't provide enough income year-round providing the same level of support for agricultural labourers as we do for smallholder farmers helps to ensure a more resilient, fair, and productive agricultural sector.

This leads to improved food security, economic development, and social equity. Investing in agricultural labourers improves productivity and the sustainability of farming systems. Better training, tools, and support lead to better work practices, which benefit the entire agricultural sector, including smallholder farms.

A lot of agricultural workers face low wages, poor working conditions, and limited access to social benefits. By providing the same support as we providing (planning or thinking !!) for smallholder farmers such as fair wages, training, and access to resources, we can help improve their economic status and livelihoods, reducing poverty and inequality [2,3].

To benefited the agricultural labour makes the farm sector more attractive to young people, which is essential to ensure that the agricultural workforce continues to grow and remains dynamic. Many rural areas face challenges of youth migration, and better working conditions can help reverse this trend.

THE KEY POLICY IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURS:

- **Promised security and respectable wages:** Implement minimum wage laws and fair compensation standards for agricultural workers, ensuring they receive a living wage for their labour.
- **Perks to Social Protection and Benefits:** Extend social security benefits, healthcare, and retirement benefits to agricultural labourers. This could include health insurance, pension schemes, maternity leave, and disability benefits.
- **Boosting in the Training and Education:** Provide access to training programs that offer skill development, better farming techniques, and leadership development for agricultural labourers. Equipping labourers with better skills improve productivity, safety, and efficiency on the farm. It also allows labourers to increase their earnings by improving their competencies and staying competitive in an evolving agricultural sector.
- **Advanced the Working Environment:** Introduce regulations to ensure safe and humane working conditions for agricultural workers, such as protection from pesticide exposure, provision of proper safety equipment, and setting limits on working hours. Agricultural labour can be hazardous, especially when working with harmful chemicals or in extreme weather conditions. Ensuring safe working conditions will reduce health risks and improve workers' overall well-being.
- **Adoption of the soil-water Resources:** While farmers are typically supported with land grants or subsidies, agricultural labourers should be given access to land leasing, cooperatives, or joint ventures that allow them to earn more from agriculture beyond just wages. Access to land or cooperative farming options provides agricultural labourers with a pathway to ownership or shared profits, allowing them to move beyond low-wage work and potentially improving their long-term financial security.
- **Constitutional law and rights:** Ensure that agricultural labourers have access to legal protections, including the right to form unions or cooperatives, negotiate better terms, and access legal redress for exploitation or unfair treatment.
- **Economic and financial Services:** Ensure agricultural labourers have access to affordable credit, insurance, and financial services, similar to what is provided to farmers. Many labourers are not eligible for loans or insurance due to lack of collateral or formal financial standing. Access to these services would enable them to invest in their future and protect themselves against risks like illness or crop failure.
- **Health parameters:** Introduce health and safety standards specific to agricultural work, including protection against pesticide exposure, access to healthcare services, and proper facilities in the workplace.
- **Weather calamities protection and Support Develop** programs that support agricultural labourers in adapting to climate change, such as training on sustainable farming practices, weather-resistant crops, and disaster relief support.
- **Priorities for local and Rural Development:** Include agricultural labourers in rural development initiatives, ensuring they benefit from infrastructure improvements, education, healthcare, and community development programs [4].



THE PER CENT EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE:

Uzbekistan 25.9%
Tajikistan 43.52%
Iraq 8.37%
Iran 15.09%
Indonesia 29.28%
India 42.86%
Russia 5.66%

United States 1.62%
United Kingdom 1%
United Arab Emirates 1.39%

Burundi 85.06%
Burkina Faso 74.21%
Niger 70.89%
Central African Republic 70.84%
Mozambique 70.13%

Minimum Singapore 0.11%
Maximum Burundi 85.06%

CONCLUSION:

- ✓ Rural development policies should be inclusive of agricultural labourers, addressing their needs for better infrastructure, transportation, education, and access to social services, thus improving their overall living standards.
- ✓ Agricultural labourers, like farmers, are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including unpredictable weather patterns and extreme events. Policies that provide adaptation measures would help both groups become more resilient.
- ✓ Agricultural labourers are often vulnerable to exploitation due to their lack of power in the workplace. Legal protections and the ability to collectively bargain can ensure better working conditions and fair treatment.
- ✓ Many agricultural labourers earn insufficient wages that do not reflect the value of their work or the labour-intensive nature of farming. Setting wage standards would help alleviate poverty and ensure that workers can support themselves and their families.
- ✓ Agriculture is one of the most dangerous industries in terms of occupational injuries and health risks. Establishing standards to protect workers would reduce accidents, illnesses, and improve overall health outcomes.



- ✓ Agricultural labourers are often excluded from formal social protection systems, leaving them vulnerable to illness, accidents, and old age. Providing these benefits would improve their quality of life and ensure greater economic stability.

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