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Essentials of Agriculture



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**Dr. Maya Bisen • Mr. Sanjay Yadav
Dr. Vikas Singh • Dr. Satendra Kumar
Kunwar Akhand Pratap Singh**

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Chapter 19

Agricultural Policies, Institutions and Rural Development

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Abstract

Agriculture has always occupied a central place in the economic, social and cultural life of rural societies. Beyond food production, agriculture provides employment, shapes rural livelihoods and influences patterns of development and equity. Agricultural policies and institutions play a decisive role in determining how effectively the agricultural sector contributes to rural development. Well-designed policies can stimulate productivity, stabilize farm incomes, promote equity and encourage sustainable use of natural resources, while weak or poorly implemented policies may deepen rural poverty and regional disparities. Institutions, both formal and informal, act as the channels through which policies are translated into action on the ground. This chapter presents a comprehensive academic discussion on agricultural policies, institutions and rural development, examining their interrelationships, evolution and practical significance. It explores the objectives and instruments of agricultural policy, the role of institutions in implementation and the broader impact of these frameworks on rural livelihoods, infrastructure, social development and sustainability.

Keywords: Agricultural policy, rural development, institutions, farm support, food security, rural livelihoods, governance, sustainability, development planning.