

PREFACE

Agriculture remains the back bone of societies since ages and histories, and it is of no difference in case of India. Though it is declining, agricultural sector comprised around 50% of India's GDP in the early 1950's. Today around 17% of India's GDP (India's GDP is US \$ 2.848 trillion) is from agricultural sector and 55% of total employment comes from agricultural sector. About 70% people directly or indirectly depends on it and about 43% of India's total land is covered by agricultural sector. India became self sufficient in Food grain production decades after independence. It is now producing around 280 million metric tons of food grains in the world and ranks first in producing many major agricultural food crops in the world. But after liberalization phase started with GATT (Uruguay Round Agreement) to WTO (1st Jan 1995) and AOA many thing has dramatically changed in agricultural sector of India, for example, Total yield or Output, Farm Pattern, Agricultural Infrastructure, Annual Compound Growth rate in Production & Export, Imports, Prices of major agricultural food and non food materials, Export Competitiveness, quantitative restrictions, tariff & non tariff barriers , export subsidy, domestic support, sanitary & Phyto sanitary measures, Geographical Indication, Trade related intellectual property rights etc. WTO which has replaced GATT (general agreement on trade & tariff 1947-1994) was established for negotiation & supervision for multilateral trade agreements among nations and is committed to Free & fair, Non Discriminating international trade, with removal of Quantitative Restrictions, non tariff barriers of trade among nations. The formation of WTO was the end result of the Uruguay round talks started in 8th & last ministerial conference of GATT in 1986. The key Issues for negotiations was, more liberalising & reforming of all international trade including Agricultural trade, formation of new IPR regime, Domestic protection, removal of QRs, reduction of export & import tax system , MFN clause etc.

India who is a founding member among 123 founding member nations of WTO, maintaining and obeying most of the clauses related to developing nations in WTO charters. Our study have looked into the norms and rules of WTO, how far India has followed those rules and what are the consequences has happened to India's agricultural trade along with other developing nations since WTO. India being an committed integral part of the global trade have realised from its previous experiences since after independence that only following inward looking, import substitution policy may hamper the growth of output & employment, encourage domestic price rise and lagging behind from the dynamism of free & liberalised international trade & inflow of investments. But the importance of export promotion & liberalising it In the Post WTO era has been a dramatic shift from the India's previous policies of trade and the share, Composition and direction of Indian agricultural trade character. The amount of share of agriculture in India's total export has gone down in the post WTO period as it has been replaced by manufacturing (engineering, resourced based, Petroleum products etc) and service sector, the composition of trading commodities is found to be changed as export share of traditional major agri-export commodities like Cotton, Tea, Coffee, Oil meals, Marine Products, have declined in comparison with Sugar, Spices, Fruits & Vegetables and many horticultural commodity export, which have been increased in total agricultural export share. Destination wise change of Indian major agricultural commodity export is also visible as many of the old destination countries have

been replaced by new destinations. This all have been discussed in the fourth chapter in our study.

The importance & influence of the new liberalised world trade regime in the Post WTO era is different, multilateral & overwhelming on countries (particularly on developing countries including India). The reduction & removals of tariff barriers & domestic subsidies promoted international trade much than before, which have led the developing countries including India to a highly competitive world platform of export. This has brought the challenge to raise production, export competitiveness, and market share which is both an opportunity and challenge for India. In order to fully maintain & implement WTO laws & provisions to increase export growth India had to reform its economy gradually in all sectors including Agriculture, which has created immense implications on agricultural sector including farmers & the people of the country. These have been discussed in fifth & sixth chapter of our study. We have divided our study in seven chapters, where,

Chapter one Contains the Introduction and significance of the research, Structure of the WTO, research Hypothesis, our objective of the study, Research Methodology and review done by us on existing literature of our study, chapter two describes the significance of World trading system along with the impact of WTO on Developing country perspective. The Chapter Three describes the impact of WTO and AOA regimes on Indian agriculture. The chapter four is the key chapter in our study which is dedicated to study and understand the year wise, growth, composition, direction, destination & export competitiveness of some of the major Indian Agricultural commodities during the Pre & Post WTO Regimes and make a comparative analysis in the changing pattern of trade between Pre & Post WTO eras. This Chapter also took into consideration the commodity wise trade and both convergence & divergence in Indian agricultural export. In the chapter five & six we have discussed impact different contents like TRIPS, Biodiversity, GI act, CBD act, SPS, Technical barriers to trade (TBT) agreement and AOA in the Post WTO regime and the implications of these on Indian agriculture and negotiations & Outcomes of 11th WTO summit at Buenos Aires and the Implications of it on agricultural sector of Developing Countries including India. In this chapter we have tried to explain the various new issues which have been highlighted in the 11th conference like E commerce & investment, Environmental issues to trade, women empowerment & MSME etc. In Chapter seven we have tried to highlight the summery of our study, conclusive understanding of the study and put forwarded recommendations & Suggestions for the betterment of India's agricultural trade. This study reveals that India was specializing in agricultural commodity export in the pre WTO period but it left it and started gaining its expertise in agricultural commodity export in the post WTO era. So we can consider that WTO has made mixed impact on Indian agricultural trade from the point of agricultural commodity export. This thing has surfaced many issues that may be taken for study and research.