

Introduction of Green Revolution in India:

Green Revolution took place in **three different phases** in the various regions of the country at different point of time.

First phase of the Green Revolution: This happened from **1962–65 to 1970-73** with the sharp increases in yield in **wheat** in the **north-western region** which included Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh.

Second phase of the Green Revolution: This happened from **1970-73 to 1980-83** with the extension of HYV High Yielding Variety seed technology **from wheat to rice**, this time the technology spread was in **Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh particularly the coastal areas, parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu** and soon regions like Maharashtra, Gujarat, improved their production too.

Third Phase: Third phase was from **1980-83, to 1992-95** showed very significant and encouraging results. This time Green Revolution spread to the **low growth areas** like **Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan**. During the last phase, Southern region registered higher rate of growth than Northern region. By the end of this phase, the 'coefficient of variation' of the output growth levels and yield [per hectare] level between the various states dropped down substantially compared to earlier decades. By the end of the last phase, there was **considerable reduction in regional inequality** by increase in the prosperity in rural India.

Significant government initiatives during Green Revolution Period:

- Government **investment in agriculture rose significantly**. Institutional finance in agriculture sector doubled from 1968 to 1973.
- The **agricultural prices commission was set up in 1965** and efforts were made to assure the farmers a **sustained remunerative price**.
- Public investment, institutional Credit remunerative prices and availability of the new technology at low prices raised the profitability of private investment by farmers.
- The result of government's initiative was that the **rate of increase in the gross irrigated area** rose from 1 million hectares per annum in Pre Green Revolution to about 2.5 million hectares per annum during the 1970s.

Positive impact of Green Revolution:

- Throughout the three phases of Green Revolution **food grain production rose significantly**. By the 1980's not only was India **self sufficient** in food with **buffer food stocks** of over 30 million tonnes, but also it was **exporting food** to pay back its earlier loans and to loan to deficit countries.
- The critical impact of the Green Revolution was it maintained the agricultural growth rates plus it generated a rapid increase in the **marketable surplus of food grains**.
- The **liberation from dependence on PL-480 or other imports** was a major step in the direction of self reliant independent development for India.
- The new Green Revolution technology proved not only scale neutral but also evolved an **inverse relationship between scale and productivity**. Small farmers applied more inputs per unit of land compared to large farmers.
- **Small farmers became relatively more viable** and did not sell out their land to large land holding farmers in distress.
- The Green Revolution not only generated **employment in agriculture** but also **non-agricultural rural and semi-urban employment** through the development of **agro industries, transport industry, and other agriculturally allied sectors**.
- **Increase in income of farmers** led to the **demand for factory produced consumer durables** like radios, watches, TVS, Sewing machines etc.