

An Overview of Different Aspects of Commercial Farming

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Abstract

Commercial farming introduced in order to fulfill the demand of the food for society and it has different aspects. Commercial farming generally profit oriented. As population increases the demand of the food also increases but small scale farming can't fulfill the requirement of large quantity of food for the society because it is usually done on small land farms. Commercial farming usually done on relatively big farm as compared to small scale farming and mostly utilizes machinery power for cultivation. Like other farming system, commercial farming also has some merits, demerits and challenges. This review paper discussed about the different aspects of commercial farming such as its characteristics, advantages, disadvantages, limitations and future scope of commercial farming. By addressing the challenges of the commercial farming, the quality of the food can be improved in the future because poor food quality is the major disadvantage of the commercial farming that has adverse effect on the health.

Keywords: Capital, Crop, Commercial farming, Food, Land.

Introduction

Most of the people in the world are living in the rural areas and agriculture is the major source of living for them because it provides food. They produce their own food by using their small land farms. Farming using the small land farms generally called as small scale farming. After feeding their family members, some of the food they sell in the local markets in order to earn some money but the primary objective of small scale farming is to produce food for their family members. In small scale farming, farmers use bio-fertilizers and number of labors for farming. Because small scale farming usually done by the small rural farmers, due to lack of enough capital, they doesn't use any kind of machines[1]. It's mostly relies on manpower. There are various advantages offering by small scale farming system such as high productivity, more employment and better supervision etc. but the major drawback associated with the small scale farming is that it can't produce food in large quantity because it generally utilized small lands. As population increases the demand of the food also increases and this demand of food can't be fulfill by small scale farming.[2]

In contrast, high demand of food of society gives birth to the commercial farming. In general, commercial farming usually done on large area farm land. The major purpose of commercial farming is to produce food for the society and generate capital. Commercial farming mainly influences by profit. Commercial farming has enough capital to utilize advanced technology in order to produce food on large scale. The cultivation of commercial farming is mainly done by machines[3]. Commercial farming offers various advantages including high yield, improvise local infrastructure, low cost and less time to perform agricultural operation because it utilizes heavy machines for cultivation. Apart from different advantages, there are some disadvantages of the commercial farming such as deforestation, single crop production and promote use of chemical fertilizers and plant growth regulators for crop production that has adverse effect on the health. Poor food quality is due to the bad soil management caused by chemical fertilizers and synthetic plant growth regulators. In order to make commercial farming more in the favor of health, it is necessary to address soil management system. This review paper provides an overview of different aspects associated with the commercial farming. For the in depth understanding of commercial farming, different aspects such as evaluation of commercial farming, commercial farming characteristics followed by its merits and demerits will be discuss in detail. In the next section, challenges and future scope of the commercial farming will be discussed.

COMMERCIAL FARMING AND ITS CHARACTERSTICS

Commercial farming is a type of agriculture method by which farming has been done in order to improve the crop yield, produce food for the society and target for sale on a large scale. It is usually done for making capital by producing food for the society. Large land farm area has been use for the crop production and utilizes high end heavy machinery for the cultivation rather than depend on labors[4]. The characteristics of the commercial farming are shown in the Figure 1.

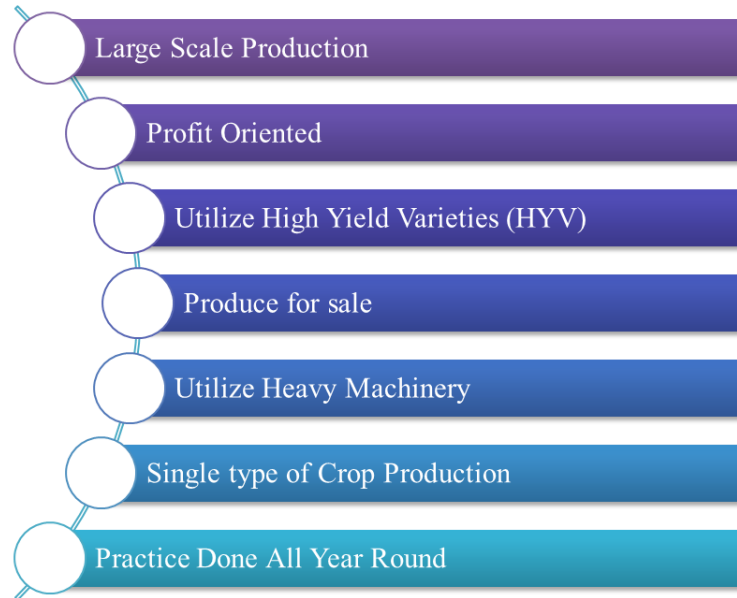


Figure 1: Schematic Representation of Characteristics of Commercial Farming

The detail of the characteristics of commercial farming is discussed in Table 1. These characteristics make commercial forming unique as compared to the other farming systems[5]. Commercial farming system is popular in which countries where population is high such as USA, China and India etc. The high demand of food by population promotes the commercial farming in different countries.

Table 1: List of Characteristics of Commercial Farming and Their Explanation

| Characteristic | Explanation |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Large Scale Production | The primary objective of the commercial farming is to produce crop on large scale that is why it utilizes heavy machineries, big land and advanced technology in order to achieve the targets. |
| Profit Oriented | Commercial farming is a type of industry that runs in order to generate revenue by producing food. Generally, Commercial farming is capital-intensive because it requires lots of capital in order to run the farming. |
| Utilize high yield varieties (HYV) | In order to fulfill the demand of large scale production, high yield varieties of chemical fertilizers, plant growth regulators, seeds and insecticides have been use. The use of high yield varieties has adverse effect on environment[5]. |
| Utilize heavy machinery | In commercial farming, majority of the work has been done by heavy machines that come from professionals. Very number of labors use in the commercial farming as compared to small scale farming system. |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Single type of crop production | Generally, commercial farming produces single type of crop on large area land farm. They doesn't follow crop rotation concept. |
| Practice done all year around | In commercial farming, practice has been done all year round. It irrigates the land continuously and operates all year round. |
| Produce for sale | Commercial farming is only done for sale of produced crop in order to generate revenue. |

Due to the advancement of the technology, the commercial farming continuously grows. By utilizing different types of machines, fertilizers, seeds, equipment and arrangements, commercial farming can be used in order to produce different types of products/goods/food[6]. The type of the commercial farming is shown in the Figure 2.

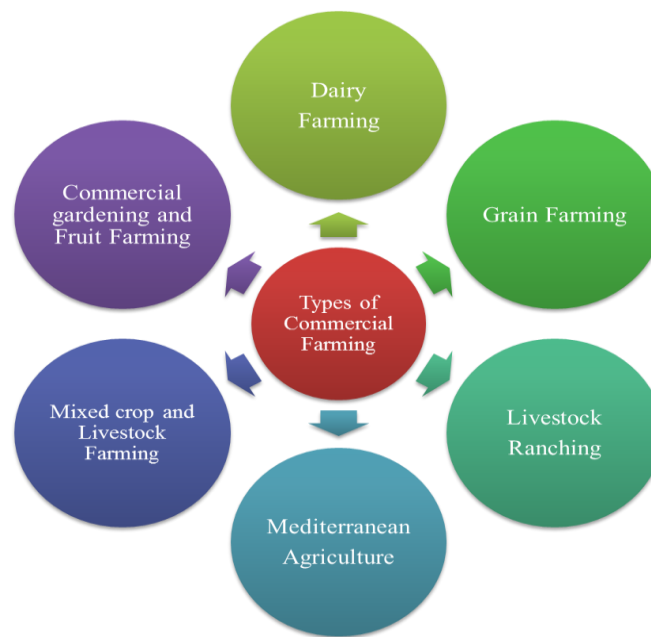


Figure 2: Schematic Illustration of Types of Commercial Farming in Order to Produce Different Products.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL FARMING

The two most common farming systems are subsistence farming and commercial farming. Both farming are different in different ways and fulfill different objectives. The primary objective of the subsistence farming is to produce food for their families and on the other hand, commercial farming produces food on large scale in order to fulfill the demand of food of society. There are some factors based on that these two farming systems can be differentiated[7]. These factors are discussed and shown in Figure 3.

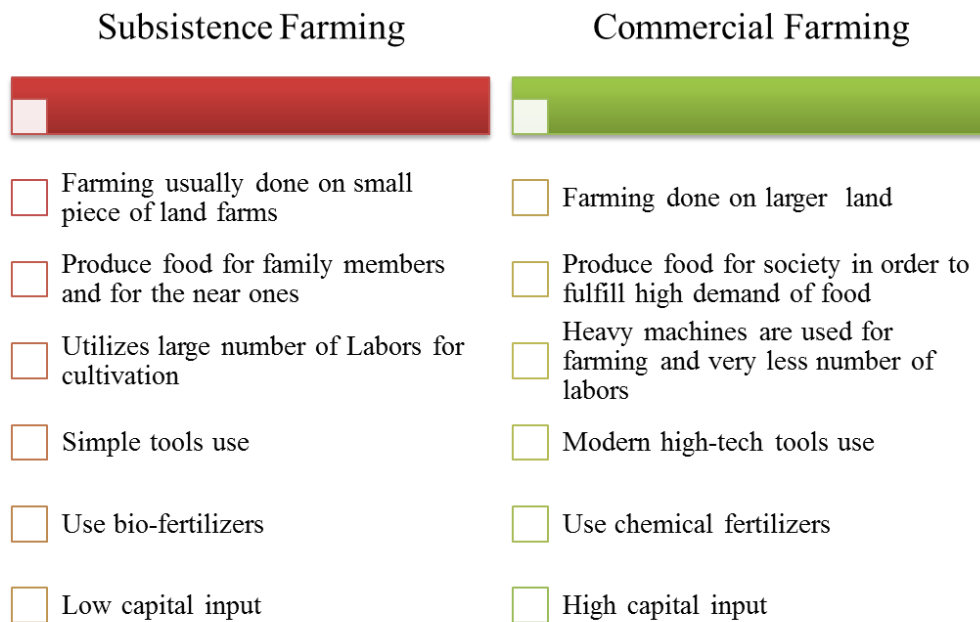


Figure 3: Schematic Representation of Difference between Subsistence Farming and Commercial Farming.

ADVANTAGES OF COMMERCIAL FARMING

Increased demand of food on large scale makes commercial farming is prominent industry in order to fulfill two main objectives including fulfill high demand of food and to generate capital. Commercial farming is capital intensive. Commercial farming offers various advantages over small scale farming or subsistence farming. Some of them discussed in Table 2.

Table 2: List of the Advantages Offering by Commercial Farming and Their Explanation

| Advantage | Explanation |
|---|---|
| High yield | The main advantage of commercial farming is to increase production or yield rate of the crop. By utilizing advanced technology and heavy machinery, the cultivation time reduced in commercial farming[8]. |
| Development of local infrastructure | Commercial farming utilizes different type of resources such as power supply and transportation that helps in development of local infrastructure. For instance, for the transportation of the products or goods, proper road connectivity is very important. |
| Low cost products/goods | In commercial farming, the products or goods produced at large scale in less time that is why the products cost is less and accessible to every class of people. |
| Less time to perform agricultural operation | Use of advanced technology makes commercial farming so efficient to produce crops in less time. Heavy machinery, use of HYV seeds, fertilizers and plant growth regulators reduce time to perform |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| | agricultural operation. |
| Create employment | Commercial farming done on industry level, it requires lots of skilled and non-skilled labors resulting in creation of high employment. |
| Promote import | Many countries don't have appropriate climate or weather for some crops to grow or doesn't have enough capital to produce food for their citizens. In this case, commercial farming plays crucial role. By producing crops/products/goods through the commercial farming, the products can be import to the needed countries. |

DISADVANTAGES OF COMMERCIAL FARMING

Apart from various advantages offering by commercial farming, there are some disadvantages on the second side of the commercial farming. In order to increase the capital generation through the high yield crop rate, commercial farming damages nature on large scale and uses synthetic chemicals for soil management and for the protection of crop that leads to the adverse effect on health as well as environment. Some of the disadvantages discussed in the Table 3.

Table 3: List of Disadvantages Associated with Commercial Farming and Their Explanation.

| Disadvantages | Explanation |
|---|---|
| Destruction of natural rainforests | In order to increase the production, commercial farming destroys the natural rainforests at large scale. Since, cultivation is high under the rainforests that is why commercial farming damaging the good fertilizing lands[9]. |
| Lack of lands available for cultivation | Due to the expansion of commercial farming, most of the available lands are converted into farmlands resulting in lack of lands available for cultivation. |
| Increase rate of lands | Commercial farming lands are sold on high cost that creates barriers for new farmers to enter in the business because it is impossible for new farmers to buy lands on such a high rate. |
| Wastage of Crops like fruits and vegetables | When crops like vegetables and fruits produced by commercial farming, if these crops not sold at right time then it will go in the waste. For preservation of these crops requires extra capital that will increase financial burden on commercial farming. |
| Promote use of chemical | For production of crops time in large quantity in less time, it utilizes chemical fertilizers, herbicides and other chemicals for the soil management and for the protection of crops from pests[10]. |

CHALLENGES OF COMMERCIAL FARMING

The demand of the food continuously increases as population of the world increases. The high demand of food make commercial farming more successful because it produces food at large scale in order to fulfill the demand of food of the society. Apart from carrying various advantages, commercial farming facing some challenges in front of the protection of environment and health. Some of the challenges are discussed in the Table 4.

Table 4: List of the Challenges Facing by Commercial Farming.

| Challenges | Explanation |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Preservation of Crops | In the case of crops like vegetables and fruits, requires preservation techniques when not consume just after within few days after harvesting. Preservation of these types of crops requires extra financial assistance. In order to tackle this challenge, demand and supply must be maintain properly. |
| Protection of environment | For the commercial farming, generally require large farming land area in order to produce crops at large scale. The requirement of large land for commercial farming promotes deforestation that has adverse effect on environment health. |
| Emission of CO ₂ | Commercial farming generally utilizes heavy machines for performing various tasks on land. Machines emit carbon dioxide (CO ₂) that contributes in the climate change and global warming. |
| Use of chemicals | Since the primary objective of commercial farming is to increase crop production, chemicals are use in commercial farming in large amount. Chemicals are used for the protection of crops and soil management. Chemical fertilizers, plant growth regulators, seeds and insecticides are frequently used in commercial farming. Use of chemicals affects the quality of the food. |

FUTURE SCOPE OF COMMERCIAL FARMING

Commercial farming is the most emerging sector in the world. Huge demand of food promotes commercial farming in the agricultural sector. Since, most of the people facing the problem of unhealthy lifestyle due to stressful professional life, consumption of junk food and lack of physical activity. Food is the major source of energy which makes body healthier. Presently, food quality and destruction of environment is the major issue facing by the commercial farming. Commercial farming has lot of scope in the future because it provides food to everyone at low cost. In order to make commercial farming more successful in the future, some factors needs to address as shown in the Figure 4.

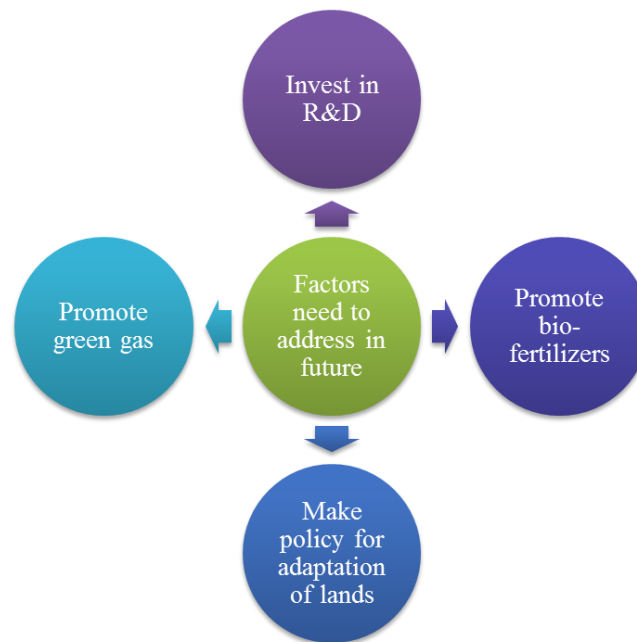


Figure 4: List of Factors need to Address in Future for Making Commercial Farming More Environment Friendly and Produce Food with Full of Nutrients.

1. Invest in R&D:

Research and development (R&D) play a crucial role in advancement of any field. Through the R&D, new technologies and techniques can be developed that will help in commercial farming to make it more productive and efficient. R&D can help to develop new advanced machines for farming and fertilizers that can be used for the soil management and for the protection of the crops from the pests.

2. Promote Bio-Fertilizers:

Poor food quality is the major problem of commercial farming because it uses different types of chemicals for the production of the crops that damage the quality of the crops. For making food healthier, it is important to promote usage of bio-fertilizers in commercial farming.

3. Make Policy For Adaptation Of Lands:

Commercial farming expands rapidly from last few years. Rapid development of commercial farming promotes adaptation of lands on large scale. After purchasing the lands, it converts into farmland that is why there is lack of lands for the cultivation. In this regard, it is necessary to make proper policy for land adaptation so that balance can be maintained.

4. Promote Natural Gas:

In commercial farming, heavy machines utilize in order to perform various tasks in the farmland for the production of crop. Machines generate carbon dioxide that should to reduce because it increases carbon dioxide quantity in the atmosphere. Natural gas based machines will reduce CO₂ emission.

DISCUSSION

Population of the world increases continuously due to which high demand of food comes into the picture. Earlier, farming usually done by the small farmers in rural areas. They utilize their small piece of lands in order to produce food for their families and near ones. Small scale farming system failed for providing the food to everyone because it is done on a small scale. High demand of food gives birth to the commercial farming. Commercial farming usually done on large farm land in order to produce food at large scale in order to fulfill

the food demand of the society. For the different farming task, heavy machines are used in commercial farming. The main advantage of utilization of machines is to perform tasks in less time and reduce the load of manual operations. Commercial farming offers various advantages including high production create employment and provide food to everyone at low cost etc. On the other hand, commercial farming has some drawbacks also such as deforestation, lack of lands for cultivation and wastage of crops like fruits and vegetables if not consume within few days. In order to make commercial farming more successful in future, it is necessary to make proper policies for lands, encourage using fewer chemicals for the production of food.

CONCLUSION

Commercial farming is well known farming systems for the production of food at large scale. The primary objective of the commercial farming is to produce food at large scale for the society and generate capital. Commercial farming is capital intensive; initially it needs lots of capital investment for the machines, fertilizers, seeds and power supply. There are different benefits offering by commercial farming such as high yield create employment, low cost products or goods and it promotes import. Apart from various merits, there are some drawbacks are associated with the commercial farming such as emission of carbon dioxide, increase rate of lands, lack of lands for cultivation and destruction of natural rainforests. Commercial farming shows adverse effect on health as well as on environment. In order to make commercial farming more environmental friendly and produce more healthy food, it is recommended that utilization of the bio-fertilizers for the crop protection and soil management must be promoted in the near future. It is also necessary to draft proper policy for the land acquisition so the deforestation can be reduce.

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