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### Agriculture Risk Management: A Study of the Farmers in Maharashtra Mr. Aditya Dhananjay Solanke<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. I. L. Chhanwal<sup>1</sup>

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#### Abstract

Agriculture is the main sector of rural economy and rural employment. Agriculture & allied activities are predominant in the State as more than 50 per cent of the population is dependent on this sector for livelihood. The sector continues to be vulnerable to the challenges posed by climate change. Changing weather conditions, reduction in the size of holdings, high input costs and market uncertainties leading to non-profitability and fluctuating income continue to be the prime concerns of the agriculture sector in the State. Efficient and effective use of water resources, enhancement of agroprocessing capabilities, empowerment of small & marginal farmers, reduction in the wastage of agricultural produce, policies for reducing desertification and crop insurance schemes needed for sustainable development of this agriculture sector.

**Keywords**: crop insurance, Pradhan Mantri FasalBima Yojana, risk management, climate change. **Introduction** 

India has one of the highest arable land globally with over 155 million hectares which is 52.8% of total India's land and the world has only 10.6% of arable land. As per 2018, the agriculture sector employed more than 50% of workers in India and 86% of farmers being small and marginal.

As the Indian economy grows, agriculture contribution to GDP has declined. In 1950-51 primary sector contribution in GDP was 51.9%, in 1980-81 it was 35.7% and in 2020-21 it is 19.9% and still half the population in India is dependent on agriculture. Instability in production and market risks make agriculture a volatile business and directly affect farmer's income levels. The dominance of rainfed agriculture adds to the riskiness of agriculture. According to the United Nations Committee on World Food Security, food security means that all people have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that always fits their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. It is projected for the next decades that due to the changing climate, an increasing global population, rising food prices, and other environmental stressors will all have substantial yet uncertain effects on food security. The new issues of agriculture in Maharashtra start from the problem of agriculture and rural infrastructure. Problems with agricultural infrastructure include irrigation, soil conservation, land, labor. Other major problems facing farmers in the state include environmental problems and production problems, production costs, market infrastructure problems and price of agricultural products. Option available to farmers to hedge against income instability is crop insurance. Since independence, efforts have been made both at the central and state to introduce a crop insurance scheme for Indian farmers. Agriculture development is the process of sustainable utilization of the country's agriculture resources, with special reference to improving the efficiency of agriculture and the living standards of the agricultural population. Any change in the agricultural sector affects the general economic situation and any progress in the agricultural sector therefore tends towards the economic progress of the whole country. Development in agriculture through which modernization changes from conventional agriculture, consequently increases productivity and production per unit of various resources. Maharashtra is the most developed and progressive state in the country. Maharashtra gets most of its income and employment from agriculture. Every possible effort has been made to increase agricultural production in Maharashtra through various ways.