**Introduction**

**“You see,God helps only people who work hard.That principle is very clear”-A.P.J Abdul Kalam**

**70 years of India**

Population increase was spectacular(36 crores in 1947 to 134.9 crores in 2017) with birth rate of 39.9 in 1947 to 19.3 in 2017 and death rate 27.4 in 1947 to 7.3 in 2017.Food grains production raised from 50.8 million tones in 1947 to 272 million tones in 2017.Life expectancy was 32.1 in 1947 and increased to 68.3 in 2017.Literacy in 1947 was 18.3 while it was 76 in 2017.Percapita annual income was Rs 74 in 1947 and in 2017 it is Rs.1,03,219.I quote Shashi Tharoor from his much read book “FAX INDICA”Our teeming cities overflow while two out of three Indians still scratch a living from the soil.We are recognized as a leading nuclear power, but 272 million Indians still have no access to electricity and there are daily power cuts even in the nation’s capital.India holds the world record for the number of cell phones sold,but also for the number of farmer suicides( an estimated 17,000 in 2010,because when crop fails, farmers faced with a crippling mountain of debt see no other way out for their families than to take their own lives).We still have a great deal to do before we can meaningfully speak of ourselves in competition with China’.The National Council of Applied Economic Research, a knowledge partner for the Doubling the Farmers Income by 2022 has indicated glaring disparities and widening gaps between haves and have-nots in India.There are 64.7 crores of people (51%) lying below poverty level(<Rs 3.34 lakh,11.4 crores families);43.1 crores of people just above poverty level(34%,Rs.3.24-7.8 lakh,7.5 crores of families);16.4 crores of middle class(13.0%,Rs7.5 crores-40.0 lakh,2.8 crores of families) and 2.5 crores (2%) with annual income above Rs 40.0 lakhs(40 lakh families).With an average family size of 4.8, the glaring and growing gap between haves and havenot’s is quantified by the possession of national wealth(83%) by just 10 persons speaks volumes on inequality and consequent national shame.

Animal husbandry is the most vital component of nutritional security.India leads among the global milk producing countries with a production of 163.7 million tones worth over Rs 4 lakh crores in 2016-17.Dairy farming is a traditional source of livelihood and deeply connected to agricultural income.The present cattle population of 19 crores amounts to 14% of the total cattle population of the world.TheRashtriyaGokul Mission is targeted to conservation of indigenous cattle and one Gokul Gram will have 500 animals with genetic purity and out of which 300 will be reproductive animals.The much lauded National Dairy Development Board(NDDB),Anand and Amul Brands speak volumes on the “white revolution” and its Fatherly mentor Late Dr Varghese Kurian.

**Global population and nutrition status:Projections**

Global population is projected 1000 crores by 2050,more concentrated in Africa and South Asia.In developing countries migration from rural to urban centres would lead to 70% in urban areas and 30% in rural areas associated with its challenges and gains.Global fruit production in 2014 was estimated 690 million tones as against 528 million tones in 2004.Global vegetable production including melons was 1169 million tones in 2014 as against 878 million tones in 2004.The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2017(FAO,IFAD,UNICEF,WFP and WHO,2017) marks the beginning of a new era in monitoring the progress made towards achieving a world without hunger (SDG target 2.1)and malnutrition(SDG Target 2.2), within the frame work of the sustainable development goals(SDGs).The UN sustainable development goals are G.1-No poverty,G.2-Zero hunger G.3-Good health and well being G.4.Quality education G5.Gender equality G6.Clean water and sanitation G7.Affordable and clean energy G8-Decent work and economic growth G.9-Industry, innovation and infrastructures G.10.-Reduced inequalities G.11.-Sustainable cities and communities Goal 12-Responsible consumption and production R.13-Climate action G.14-Life below water G.15-Life on land G16-Peace,justice and strong institutions G.17-Partnerships for the goals.The most recent estimates indicate the global hunger increased in 2016 and now affects 815 million people,up from 777 million in 2015 although still down about 900 million in 2000.The world is still home to 155 million stunted children and if current trend continues , the SDG target on reducing child stunting by 2030 will not be attained.Wasting also continues to threaten the lives of almost 52 million children(8% of children under 5 years of age).Almost 33% of women of reproductive age worldwide suffer from anaemia which also puts the nutrition and health of many children at risk.Extent of dietary imbalance is reflected as 48% of population in India undernourished, followed by Bangladesh(46%),Nepal (45%),Pakistan(38%) and Maldives (30%).India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world after China with a share of 12.2 and 10.7 % of total global production.The area under horticulture crops increased from 12.8 million ha in 1991-92 to 23.8 million ha in 2015-16 resulting in cumulative increase of 86% during the last 25 years.Total production increased from 96.6 million tones to 283.3 million tones registering an increase of 193.3%.As per final estimate for 2015-16, horticulture crops production increased to 295 million tones against food crop production of 255.22 million tones.Indian horticulture made significant progress registering an annual growth rate of 7% during 2004-05 to 2014-15) with 37% increase in productivity making available 200 g fruits and 400 g vegetables per person per day.The 3rd advanced estimates of area and production of horticultural crops for 2016-17 reveal a production of 299.85 million tones of horticultural crops from an area of 25.1 million ha( 4.8% increase in production ,2.6% increase in area,17.4% increase in spices production,10.2% increase in plantation crops,4.3% increase in flower production,4.2% increase in vegetable production and 3.9% increase in fruit production).Emphasis on climate smart horticulture,land, water, nutrient, energy use efficiency and innovative interventions to value addition and zero harvest and post harvest losses are a few issues to be addressed.Research and development issues requiring attention are genetic resources and crop improvement,using biotechnological tools,healthy planting material production,improving availability ,improving productivity,promoting alternate horticulture systems,promoting safe and healthy food,improving labour efficiency,post harvest management and exploiting horticulture wealth .Government of India envisages doubling farmers income by 2022 by increased productivity,increase in production,better irrigation and marketing,undertaking disaster relief, crop insurance,organic farming, improved soil health and reduced cost of inputs like fertilizers(neem coated urea).

**7 milestones**

Nationalization of banks(Indira Gandhi),Maruti Car indigenous manufacture(Rajiv Gandhi),Trade and Finance Liberalization(Manmohan Singh),Green Revolution(,C.Subramaniam,BSivaraman and M.S.Swaminathan),Membership in WTO(Manmohan Singh),Demonetization(NarendraModi) and Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Agency-guaranteed employment scheme(Manmohan Singh) are projected as the seven milestones of 70 years of India’s freedom.The green revolution in India is seen as spanning different epochs and it is interesting to walk with M S Swamination through them as per Yoginder K. Alagh.Importing dwarf varieties of wheat from the International Wheat Research Institute(IWRI) in Mexico and replication seeds for growing by progressive farmers of Western UP,Punjab and Haryana contained what imports under PL-480

**Farmer’s suicides**

Nearly 70% of 90 million households spend more than they earn on average each month,pushing them towards debt,the primary reason in more than half of all suicides by farmers nation wide.The failing economics of such farms –agricultural households in the south are the most indebted-are exarcerbated by additional loans that families take to meet health issues, leaving them with diminished ability to invest in farming.Outstanding loans for health reasons doubled over a decade to 2020 and loans for farm business fell by about half over the same period.The demand for loan waivers and better prices for farm produces are quite vociferous.About 62.6 million households spending more than they earn had land holdings of one ha. Or less.In contrast ,0.35 million (o.39%) house holds owing more than 10 ha of land had an average monthly income of Rs 41,333 and consumption expenditure of Rs 14,447 , there by maintaining a monthly surplus of Rs 26,941.The National Sample Survey Office(NSSO) data show that nearly 85% of all operational holdings in India are smaller than two ha in size.Not more than 1/3 rd of Indian small and marginal farmers have access to institutional credit as on June 8,2017 suggesting of loan waivers of not much help to farmers.Andhra Pradesh has the highest share of indebted house holds(93%) followed by Telengana(89%) and Tamil Nadu(82.1%), the national figure being 52%.”In all farm households I have visited , where people have killed themselves, the single largest component of family debt was health costs” as per P. Sainath,RamonMagsayay Award winner.The Government of India told the supreme court of India on 29 August,2017 that it aims to double the farmer’s income by 2022.It is implementing and promoting schemes to reduce cost of cultivation to realise positive returns for the farmers and the National Policy for Farmers(NPF),2007 is also being reviewed.

The present Government under Shri.NarendraModi has initiated implementation of “AYUSHMAN BHARAT YOJANA” to double farmers income by 2022.The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare has envisaged integral and major components to double farmers income by increasing productivity,increase in production,betterirrigation,marketing,diversification,disasterrelief,crop insurance, organic farming,neem coated urea,improved soil health and reduced input cost.

Despite mountains of grains and record production of horticultural products, there is rampant hunger and malnutrition especially in Indian rural areas.Availability of safe drinking water responsible for absorption of nutrients in common diets is also not within reach of common man.New life style diseases like diabetes, obeisity,anaemia and cardiovascular diseases are taking heavy toll on family budget and subsequent misery.

The present book ZERO HUNGER INDIA:POLICIES AND PERSPECTIVES carrying 6 preamples and 26 chapters by men and women of eminence and national stature reveal the policies and perspectives for a hunger free India.”If a free society cannot help the many who are poor,it cannot save the few who are rich”-John F Kennedy.The quote speaks volumes for food for all.

(K V Peter)