

A NEW PARADIGM: What is emerging?

What we have so far :

- An extension of a ‘high input intensive technology’ – centrality of ‘production’
- A low-equilibrium sustainable agriculture / organic farming

The result:

- Farmers' distress / increasing fallows / abandoning farming
- Large scale degradation of natural resources resulting in higher inputs / energy costs burdening national economy

What is emerging?

Several experiences across the country -

The promise of rainfed areas:

- If there is a focus on growth in net incomes
- Growth rate in net incomes is possible
- Growth in food production from rainfed
- Employment generation can enhance substantially

A re-focus ..

- Water, is a 'key' resource in rainfed farming systems
- A shift towards - moisture centricity and critical irrigation in water policies
- Soil health through increasing soil organic matter & microbial activity
- Integrate rainfed livestock systems (stationary to pastoral)
- Decentralised community based institutional base

What is needed:

- No incremental changes
- No component changes
- Needs a paradigmatic changes
 - o Investment in right place
 - o Build support systems
 - o Incentivise adoption of healthy practices
 - o Reprioritize research
 - o Invest on institutions