

BIOECONOMY POLICY

Bioeconomy policy refers to a strategic framework aimed at leveraging biological resources and processes to drive sustainable economic growth, innovation, and environmental stewardship.

By promoting the use of renewable biological resources, bioeconomy policies seek to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower greenhouse gas emissions. This involves encouraging the development and adoption of biofuels, biodegradable materials, and other eco-friendly alternatives.

Food safety and processing: Ensuring what we eat is safe

BHAVNEET KOUR



Food safety is a fundamental public health concern, directly impacting the well-being of populations worldwide. With the increasing complexity of food production and global supply chains, ensuring that food is safe from farm to table has never been more critical.

The Role of Food Processing: Food processing plays a crucial role in food safety. It involves transforming raw agricultural products into forms that are safe, palatable, and suitable for consumption.

Processing also includes the use of additives and preservatives to extend the shelf life of food products. These substances help prevent spoilage and maintain nutritional quality over time.

Challenges in Food Safety

Despite advances in food processing, ensuring food safety remains a challenge. Contamination can occur at any stage of the food supply chain, from production and processing to distribution and preparation.

Consumers Role

Consumers also play a vital role in ensuring food safety. Proper food handling practices at home are essential to prevent foodborne illnesses.

Conclusion

Food safety is a shared responsibility that involves everyone in the food supply chain, from farmers and food processors to retailers and consumers.

Agricultural Development and Employment Generation

DR. BANARSI LAL

Agriculture is the oldest industry in the world and the largest even today. It is considered as one of the most significant economic activities across the globe because it produces those goods which are essential for the survival of human beings.

We observe that a large number of farmers do not able to find out buyers for their market surpluses at their farm level. All forms of infrastructure, physical infrastructure, economic infrastructure, electronic infrastructure and knowledge infrastructure is lagging in rural areas.

Agro-industries are accorded a prominent position in National Employment Policy. This sector contributes for about 40 per cent of factory-sector employment, 26 per cent of total output and 21 per cent in value addition in the organised sector.

agricultural implements.(2)Soil and water-cum-inputs testing labs.(3)Pest surveillance, diagnostic and control services.(4)Seed processing.(5)Micro-propagation through plant tissue culture labs.(6)Setting up of vermiculture, biofertilisers, biopesticides and biocontrol units.

In order to encourage the flow of science and technology benefits to small and marginal farmers, the government has decided to encourage graduates in agriculture and allied sectors with institutional financial support to set these Agri-clinic and Agri-business Centres.

Address the basic needs of specially-abled children

MOHAMMAD HANIEF



Despite improvement in the health care system in the country, the situation of specially-abled children remains deplorable, particularly in rural areas and among the lower socio-economic population.



Predominantly in the cases of mental or intellectual disability, the family members are reluctant to accept the disability or refer to it as a physical illness and treatable condition.

There is a fear that they would be victims of disgrace and indignity and thereby family members lose the status or acceptance they enjoy in the community. This denial becomes a hurdle for early identification and treatment.

It is preventing of CWDs participating in any social events. Even the family members of the disabled often tend to avoid such social gatherings in shame or fear that someone would ask about their family member with disability.

Due to differential gender-based role expectations, education is not considered a priority for disabled girls. Dropout rates for disabled girls are higher than for disabled boys.

representation of disabled boys in education, both in special and mainstream schools. Parents become more protective and restrictive, especially after a disabled girl reaches puberty.

Persons with disabilities comprise at least 4 to 8 percent of the Indian population. Children with disabilities in India are subject to multiple deprivations and limited opportunities in several dimensions of their lives.

The case studies describes the various ugly forms of the discriminatory practices seen in the community towards Specially-abled children, same been categorized as denial of disability, physical restraints, social boycott, denial of property rights, decreased marital life prospects due to disabled member in family.

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Congress Ka Haat NC Ke Saath

OMKAR DATTATRAY

The era of alliance and coalition politics has come to stay in our political system, parliamentary democracy, our federal set up arrangement, and J&K politics and state elections are no exception to this fact.

Since both Congress and NC are secular parties and they can forge a pre-poll alliance to keep saffron party BJP at bay and for assuming power in J&K after the historical and crucial polls.

Both the political parties and their leaders have realized that it is not politically viable and feasible to fight the assembly elections singly and on their own because in today's political environment and atmosphere no single party has mass base either in Jammu or in Kashmir.

NC's top leader and president said that the pre-poll alliance with the Congress is final and this alliance is for all the 90 assembly seats in J&K.

noble cause which will be in the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rahul also stated that in the India's political history ,we have seen UT's becoming states but under Modi government Jammu and Kashmir state was downgraded and bifurcated into two UT's of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh which is political fraud committed with the people of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The alliance between the Congress and NC will have great political bearing on the assembly elections and on the politics of Jammu and Kashmir .We have heard about Indira -Abdullah accord and Rajiv -Farooq accord and it implies and signifies that the two parties are friendly and not political rivals and no surprise that once again they have agreed and formed a pre-poll alliance to fight the coming assembly elections.

It seems that this alliance will ultimately change into post-poll alliance after the elections are over and the election outcomes pour in and in all probability these two parties may also stitch a coalition government.

,NC and CPI-M are together and I hope people are with us as per Farooq Abdullah .He further stated that people of J& K have suffered for the last 10 years and hoped that statehood would be restored as soon as possible.

Rahul Gandhi said that the alliance between Congress and NC is aimed at not only for fighting the state elections ,but its aim is also to defeat the divisive forces of BJP who are spreading hate and hatred in the country only for the sake of remaining in power .Earlier Congress chief Kharge has expressed his willingness to forge an alliance with other opposition parties for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls and he termed the promises given by BJP government to people of J&K as " Jumla."

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body functions and structure, and a list of domains of activity and participation. Since an individual's functioning and disability occurs in a context, the ICF also includes a list of environmental factors.

During the last two decades, there has been a growing realization that institutional care for the disabled is not entirely suitable for their individual needs, dignity and independence.

Disability sector has recognized the importance of dignity, respect, inclusion, participation, equalization of opportunities and empowerment as key issues of rehabilitation. The negative attitudes and cultural representations of disability in society are challenged through vigorous awareness-generation and attitudinal change strategies.

Community-based rehabilitation as a strategy helps to address the ugly forms of discrimination existing in the community. The strategy also focuses on enhancing the quality of life for CWDs and their families, to meet their basic needs and ensuring inclusion and participation in their own development and also participating in the community development.

The CBR aims not only creates awareness about the rights of people with disabilities among the community members but also guarantees opportunities for their participation in social activities and also exercising their rights within their own communities rather than getting isolated into institutions. The CBR has become a multi-sectoral approach that empowers persons with disabilities to access and benefit from education, employment, health and social service.

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(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist)