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Agricultural Trade Reforms and Self-Reliant India: An International Trade Perspective

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Abstract

Agricultural trade plays a vital role in strengthening economic growth, ensuring food security and enhancing a country's position in the global market. In recent years, India has undertaken significant agricultural trade reforms under the vision of Self-Reliant India with the objective of improving export competitiveness, reducing import dependency and integrating domestic agriculture with global value chains. This paper examines agricultural trade reforms in India from an international trade perspective. The study relies entirely on secondary data collected from government publications, trade policy documents, reports of international organizations and published research studies. The analysis focuses on key reform measures such as export promotion initiatives, tariff rationalization, market access policies, infrastructure development and alignment with World Trade Organization (WTO) frameworks. The paper also reviews trends in agricultural exports and identifies major challenges faced by India in the global agricultural market, including price volatility, non-tariff barriers and quality compliance requirements. The study finds that agricultural trade reforms under the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework have contributed to export growth and improved market opportunities, while certain structural and policy constraints continue to limit their full potential. The paper concludes that a balanced strategy combining self-reliance with international trade integration is essential for achieving sustainable agricultural development and enhancing India's long-term competitiveness in global agricultural trade.

***Keywords**: Agricultural Trade, Atmanirbhar Bharat, WTO, Agricultural Reforms, International Trade, Export Promotion, Food Security, Self-Reliance.*

Introduction

Agriculture has long been the backbone of India's economy, not only as a source of livelihood for millions but also as a critical driver of food security, rural development and socio-economic stability. In recent decades, however, the global trade environment has undergone significant transformation, compelling nations to re-examine their agricultural policies and trade frameworks. For India, the pursuit of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-Reliant India) has brought agricultural trade reforms to the forefront of policy discourse, linking domestic priorities with international trade dynamics.

The concept of self-reliance in agriculture is not merely about insulating the domestic economy from external shocks; it is about enhancing competitiveness, diversifying export markets and ensuring resilience in the face of global uncertainties. India's agricultural trade reforms ranging from liberalization of export policies, rationalization of tariffs and promotion of agri-value chains to strengthening farmer-producer organizations reflect a strategic attempt to balance domestic food security with global

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integration. These reforms are designed to empower farmers, improve supply chain efficiency and align Indian agriculture with international standards.

From an international trade perspective, India's agricultural sector faces both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, rising global demand for organic produce, processed foods and sustainable agricultural products offers immense export potential. On the other hand, issues such as non-tariff barriers, stringent quality standards and fluctuating global commodity prices pose constraints. Moreover, India's position in multilateral trade negotiations, particularly within the World Trade Organization (WTO), highlights the tension between protecting smallholder farmers and embracing global competitiveness.

The vision of a self-reliant India emphasizes reducing dependency on imports, promoting indigenous production and leveraging comparative advantages in agriculture. Yet, self-reliance does not imply isolation; rather, it requires strategic engagement with global markets. By reforming agricultural trade policies, India seeks to strengthen its bargaining power internationally while ensuring that domestic stakeholders especially farmers benefit from globalization. This dual focus underscores the importance of examining agricultural trade reforms through the lens of international trade theory, comparative advantage and sustainable development.

In this context, the present study explores how agricultural trade reforms contribute to India's journey toward self-reliance, while situating these reforms within the broader framework of international trade. It investigates the interplay between domestic policy initiatives and global trade commitments, analyzing whether India can achieve self-reliance without compromising its role in the international agricultural economy.

The study also seeks to identify pathways for enhancing India's agricultural exports, mitigating trade vulnerabilities and fostering inclusive growth.

Review of Literature

Kumar et al., (2023) researchers looked at the most recent farm rules that parliament passed and emphasized how they affected farmers' earnings. Together, these regulations gave growers more freedom to sell their produce at higher rates and allowed them to sign contracts at mutually agreed-upon crop prices with processors, aggregators, wholesalers, big retailers and exporters. By eliminating stockholding restrictions, they also encouraged private investment in storage and warehousing. However, the report pointed out that for the reforms to be successful, a number of requirements had to be met and flaws had to be fixed. The article also highlighted various agricultural changes that attempt to improve supply-side issues, such as rationalizing subsidies, implementing land reforms, adopting technology, bolstering institutions and governance and upgrading rural infrastructure. **Kalirajan & Sankar (2001)** According to the study, India's reform and liberalization process had reignited debates among scholars and policymakers about the relative sectoral weights in development policy that could best achieve higher growth, equitable distribution of benefits and progressive poverty reduction. The research examined the nature and direction of linkages between agricultural and nonagricultural sectors and provided estimates of their magnitudes. The central issue raised was the extent to which agricultural reforms should have been prioritized within India's emerging economic development strategy shaped by reform and liberalization. **Kar & Saha (2021)** In order to promote the goal of an independent India, the study highlighted the necessity of both necessary agricultural reforms and advances in climate-smart agriculture. It stated that adapting to climate change has been an ongoing process that calls for crop- and location-specific solutions. Due to benefits including labour and water savings, early wheat planting, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved climate change adaption, conservation agriculture was increasingly embraced in the rice-wheat belt of the Indo-Gangetic Plains, according to field data. Crops like potatoes, black gram, gram, peas, lathyrus and safflower were treated using water-saving techniques like mulching and additional irrigation. It was discovered that rainwater gathering has significant potential to support climate-smart agriculture by replenishing groundwater aquifers and supplying irrigation. As useful strategies for risk reduction and resilience development, the study also emphasized the significance of early warning systems, emergency preparation, community mobilization during disasters and connections with regional resource providers. **Kadaba et al., (2023)** purpose of the study was to highlight the role of Indian agriculture as the third most significant contributor to GDP, with more than half of the population dependent on it. Agriculture accounted for 15% of the country's Gross Value Added and government policies and schemes were implemented to raise production, farmers' income, employment and rural growth. The paper noted the introduction of digital agricultural tools such as IoT, blockchain, GIS, drones and big data, with NITI Aayog estimating AI in agriculture to be worth $2.6 billion. Agristartups were found to promote circular economy practices through millet, organic and vertical farming, aligning with sustainability goals. The descriptive and exploratory study, based on secondary data from journals, reports and government sources, revealed that sustainable agriculture and organic farming were beneficial for both the economy and environment. Findings suggested that India was moving toward a sustainable green revolution in agricultural technology while advancing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. **Anand & Mahalakshmi (2026)** The researchers observed that agriculture had historically been the backbone of India's rural economy, providing livelihood, food security and raw materials for industries. Despite the achievements of the Green Revolution, structural challenges such as fragmented landholdings, declining cultivable land, labor shortages, poor infrastructure, post-harvest losses and unequal market access continued to hinder progress. Small and marginal farmers, constituting over 86 percent of households, were found to be particularly vulnerable due to limited resources and weak linkages. The study emphasized the urgent need for agricultural revival and sustainable rural development, resting on five pillars: technology, risk management, institutional support, skill development and policy reforms. Technological innovations like climate-resilient crops, AI and precision farming were identified as crucial for productivity, while risk management through insurance and credit schemes safeguarded incomes. Institutional frameworks such as cooperatives and rural credit agencies provided vital support and skill development empowered rural youth in agri-business and allied activities. Policy interventions, including the New Agricultural Policy 2020, aimed to modernize markets, encourage contract farming and attract private investment. The paper further stressed diversification into allied sectors and government initiatives like PM-KISAN, Operation Greens, Soil Health Cards and MGNREGA as essential for inclusive growth. Looking ahead to 2035, sustainable agricultural strategies were deemed indispensable to meet rising food demand, reduce poverty and secure national development. **Malik (2023)** this paper was theoretical and exploratory in nature, aiming to develop and propose a framework for India to achieve self-reliance in foreign trade of goods. It suggested a two-way strategy: first, increasing exports by promoting excellence to positively influence economic performance and second, reducing imports of products that were critically draining resources and weakening the economy. Within this framework, the author identified three critical export areas where India should focus to generate multiplying effects on growth. Simultaneously, three import areas were highlighted that were depleting resources and dragging economic progress, which could be curtailed through self-reliance under the vision of *Atmanirbharta*. **Kumar (2021)** According to researchers, the soils of Bundelkhand originated from Vindhyan rocks that were rich in Deccan trap granites and gneiss, with ferruginous layers and sporadic soft limestone. The soils were widely divided into red and black varieties, according to the report. Due to frequent and unseasonal extreme weather events like droughts, brief rainfall and flooding, the region's agriculture was primarily rainfed, diverse, difficult and dangerous. Due to low productivity, low profitability and high danger associated with subsistence farming, as well as bad administration, a significant portion of the local people had migrated. According to the report, Bundelkhand's economy is still mostly focused on agriculture and raising livestock is an essential part of rural life. It also made clear how urgent climate change was, with Bundelkhand being among the most affected areas and more vulnerable to extreme weather occurrences like heat waves, droughts, strong winds and unplanned heavy rains. **Sinha (2007)** Researcher investigated how the World Trade Organization (WTO) influenced institutional development and policy responses in India. It emphasized that, despite India's historical resistance to outside pressure, membership in the WTO sparked changes in trade policy procedures, bureaucratic politics, institutional innovation and connections amongst policy experts. The author contended that while international regulations both increased transaction and sovereignty costs and sparked the development of new domestic capacities and governance mechanisms, the connection between globalization and national institutions should not be seen as a zero-sum game. India's participation in the WTO served as proof for this claim, which was bolstered by comparative data from China, Brazil, Japan and the US. The results were derived on 18 months of fieldwork in Geneva, Washington, D.C. and India, as well as 100 interviews and a newspaper database. **Priyadarshi (2002)** reviewed the impact of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) more than seven years after its signing, noting both benefits and drawbacks. For developing countries reliant on agricultural exports, the AoA had not succeeded in opening markets in industrial nations. More critically, low-income and resource-poor farmers in vulnerable countries continued to face food insecurity while struggling against import surges and global competition. The study highlighted that the new round of agricultural negotiations, reinforced by the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration, offered an opportunity to correct these imbalances. It argued that a revised agreement should provide developing countries with greater flexibility to adopt domestic policies aimed at enhancing production and protecting rural livelihoods. **Trebilcock & Pue (2015)** examined the exceptional levels of protectionism in the agricultural sector, particularly in developed countries. It reviewed the main protectionist measures such as domestic subsidies, price supports, production restrictions and border controls and briefly outlined the disciplines governing these under WTO law. Empirical evidence was surveyed to show the extent of agricultural protectionism across nations. The study then evaluated normative justifications often advanced for such protectionism—ensuring affordable food, securing farmers' incomes and preserving rural lifestyles—but found these arguments not especially compelling compared to other sectors or alternative policy responses. Political economy explanations, including Public Choice theory and the transitional gains trap, were also considered but deemed insufficient to fully explain the phenomenon. The article concluded with observations on how liberalisation of agricultural trade might be advanced in the future.

Research Methodology

Research methodology provides a systematic framework for conducting the study and ensures the reliability and validity of the findings. The present study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design to examine agricultural trade reforms in India from an international trade perspective, with specific reference to the objectives of *Self-Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat)*. The methodology is designed to capture policy developments, trade trends and structural aspects of agricultural trade reforms.

Nature of the Study

The study is **descriptive as well as analytical** in nature. The descriptive approach is used to explain the concept of agricultural trade reforms, self-reliance and international trade policies, while the analytical approach helps in examining trends, patterns and implications of reforms on India's agricultural trade performance. This approach is appropriate for policy-oriented research where interpretation of existing data and documents is required.

Sources of Data

The study is based entirely on **secondary data**. Relevant data and information have been collected from reliable and authentic sources, including:

- Publications of the **Government of India**, such as Economic Survey, Ministry of Commerce and Industry reports and agricultural policy documents
- Reports and databases of **international organizations** such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Bank and UNCTAD
- Trade statistics from official portals and published government records
- Research articles, books, working papers and conference proceedings related to agricultural trade and international economics

The use of secondary data ensures consistency and allows for a broader analysis of long-term trends in agricultural trade reforms.

Period of Study

The study primarily focuses on the **post-Atmanirbhar Bharat period**, with reference to recent years in which significant agricultural trade reforms have been implemented. Wherever required, earlier data have been used for comparative analysis to understand changes in trade patterns and policy orientation over time.

Tools and Techniques of Analysis

The collected data have been analyzed using **qualitative and simple quantitative techniques**. These include:

- Trend analysis of agricultural exports and imports
- Comparative analysis of policy measures before and after major reforms
- Interpretative analysis of trade policies, reform initiatives and WTO-related frameworks

Simple statistical tools such as percentages and growth trends have been used where necessary to support the analysis. Emphasis has been placed on logical interpretation rather than complex econometric modeling, in order to maintain clarity and relevance to policy discussion.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to examining **agricultural trade reforms in India** within the broader framework of international trade. The study focuses on policy measures, export performance and institutional factors influencing agricultural trade. Regional or commodity-specific analysis is not undertaken in detail, as the emphasis is on national-level trade reforms and international integration.

Limitations of the Study

Like any research based on secondary data, the present study has certain limitations. The accuracy of the findings depends on the reliability of published data and reports. The study does not include primary field-level data from farmers or exporters. In addition, changes in international trade policies and global market conditions may influence agricultural trade outcomes beyond the scope of this analysis.

Agricultural Trade Reforms in India

Agricultural trade reforms in India have undergone significant transformation in response to globalization, changing domestic priorities and increasing participation in international markets. Traditionally, India's agricultural trade policies were largely protection-oriented, focusing on food security and price stability. However, with the gradual liberalization of the Indian economy, agricultural trade reforms have been introduced to enhance export competitiveness, improve farmers' income and integrate Indian agriculture with the global trading system.

A major aspect of agricultural trade reforms is export promotion. The Government of India has implemented several policy measures to encourage agricultural exports by providing institutional, financial and infrastructural support. Export promotion initiatives focus on expanding the export base, diversifying markets and promoting high-value agricultural products such as cereals, spices, fruits, vegetables and processed food items.

Institutions such as the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have played a crucial role in facilitating exports through quality certification, market intelligence and capacity building.

Tariff rationalization forms another important component of agricultural trade reforms. India has periodically adjusted tariff rates to align with international trade commitments while ensuring adequate protection for domestic producers. Import duties are used strategically to address price volatility and safeguard farmers' interests, whereas export policies aim to maintain competitiveness in global markets. Such tariff measures reflect India's attempt to balance domestic agricultural stability with international trade obligations.

Improvement in trade facilitation and infrastructure development has also been emphasized under agricultural trade reforms. Investments in logistics, cold storage facilities, warehousing and port infrastructure have helped reduce post-harvest losses and transaction costs. The simplification of export procedures, digitalization of documentation and improved coordination among trade-related agencies have enhanced the efficiency of agricultural exports. These reforms contribute to better integration of Indian agricultural products into global value chains.

Compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and agreements constitutes a significant dimension of India's agricultural trade reforms. As a member of the WTO, India follows multilateral trade disciplines related to subsidies, market access and export competition. At the same time, India actively advocates for special and differential treatment for developing countries to protect small and marginal farmers. Strategic utilization of policy space within WTO frameworks enables India to pursue agricultural development objectives while participating in international trade.

The Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative has further strengthened agricultural trade reforms by emphasizing domestic capacity building and value addition. Policies under this initiative encourage investment in agri-processing, food processing industries and export-oriented production clusters. The focus is on reducing import dependence, enhancing productivity and promoting value-added agricultural exports rather than relying solely on primary commodities. This approach supports self-reliance while reinforcing India's engagement with international markets.

Overall, agricultural trade reforms in India represent a shift towards a more balanced and strategic trade policy framework. These reforms aim to combine self-reliance with global competitiveness by strengthening domestic agriculture and expanding international trade opportunities. Effective implementation of these reforms, supported by institutional coordination and infrastructure development, is essential for achieving sustainable growth in India's agricultural trade sector.

International Trade Perspective of Indian Agriculture

From an international trade perspective, Indian agriculture occupies an important position in the global market due to its diverse agro-climatic conditions, wide range of crops and large production base. India is among the leading producers and exporters of several agricultural commodities such as rice, spices, cotton, tea, coffee and horticultural products. Participation in international agricultural trade enables India to utilize its comparative advantage, earn foreign exchange and strengthen rural livelihoods.

India's integration into the global agricultural trading system has been shaped by trade liberalization, multilateral agreements and bilateral and regional trade arrangements. As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), India adheres to international rules governing agricultural trade, including market access, domestic support and export competition. These rules influence India's trade policy framework and determine the extent of policy flexibility available to support domestic agriculture. While WTO disciplines promote transparency and predictability in trade, they also pose challenges for developing countries in managing subsidies and protecting vulnerable farmers. Agricultural exports play a significant role in India's international trade profile. Over the years, India has expanded its presence in global markets through diversification of export destinations and improvement in product quality. Major agricultural export items include cereals, marine products, spices, oilseeds and processed food products. Export growth has been supported by policy initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, logistics and compliance with international quality and safety standards. These measures enhance India's credibility and competitiveness in international markets. From an import perspective, agricultural trade helps India meet domestic demand for certain commodities and inputs that are either insufficiently produced or economically unviable to produce domestically. Imports of edible oils, pulses and certain raw materials reflect the interconnected nature of global agricultural markets. Trade policies related to imports are often adjusted to address domestic supply shortages and price fluctuations, highlighting the strategic importance of international trade in maintaining food security and market stability. India's agricultural trade is also influenced by tariff and non-tariff measures imposed by trading partners. Non-tariff barriers such as sanitary and phytosanitary standards, technical regulations and quality certification requirements significantly affect market access for Indian agricultural products. Compliance with these standards requires continuous improvement in production practices, testing facilities and institutional support. Addressing such challenges is crucial for sustaining export growth and enhancing India's participation in global value chains.

The vision of Self-Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat) aligns with an outward-looking trade strategy rather than economic isolation. From an international trade perspective, self-reliance involves strengthening domestic capabilities to compete effectively in global markets. By promoting value addition, agri-processing and export-oriented production, India seeks to reduce import dependence while expanding its export base. This approach reflects a strategic balance between domestic resilience and global integration.

In the evolving global trade environment, Indian agriculture faces both opportunities and uncertainties arising from changing trade policies, geopolitical developments and climate-related risks. Strengthening India's international trade position requires adaptive trade policies, institutional coordination and investment in technology and infrastructure. A coherent international trade strategy that supports self-reliance while leveraging global market opportunities is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of Indian agriculture.

Challenges and Issues in Agricultural Trade

Despite significant reforms and policy initiatives, India's agricultural trade faces several challenges that limit its full potential in the international market. These challenges arise from structural, institutional, policy-related and global trade factors. Addressing these issues is essential for strengthening India's agricultural trade performance while achieving the objectives of *Self-Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat)*.

One of the major challenges is **price volatility** in international agricultural markets. Agricultural prices are highly sensitive to changes in global supply and demand, climatic conditions and geopolitical developments. Fluctuations in global prices often affect export earnings and create uncertainty for farmers and exporters. Sudden changes in domestic trade policies in response to price movements may also disrupt long-term trade relationships and reduce the predictability of India's agricultural trade environment.

Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) imposed by importing countries present another significant challenge. Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, technical standards and quality certification requirements often act as constraints on market access for Indian agricultural products. Compliance with these standards requires advanced testing facilities, quality infrastructure and awareness among producers. Small and marginal farmers and exporters often find it difficult to meet such requirements, which limits their participation in international trade.

Inadequate **infrastructure and logistics** continue to affect the efficiency of agricultural trade. Issues such as insufficient cold storage facilities, poor transportation networks and high logistics costs lead to post-harvest losses and reduce export competitiveness. Although improvements have been made in recent years, gaps in infrastructure remain a critical constraint, particularly for perishable agricultural commodities.

Another important issue relates to **policy uncertainty and frequent regulatory changes**. Agricultural trade policies in India, especially export restrictions and tariff adjustments, are sometimes modified in response to domestic market conditions. While such measures aim to protect consumers and farmers, frequent changes can create uncertainty for exporters and discourage long-term investments in export-oriented agriculture. Stable and predictable trade policies are essential for building confidence among stakeholders.

Limited value addition and processing in agricultural exports is also a challenge. A large share of India's agricultural exports consists of primary or low-value products. Insufficient investment in agri-processing, branding and packaging reduces the ability of Indian products to compete in high-value international markets. Enhancing value addition is crucial for improving export earnings and reducing dependence on raw commodity exports.

Compliance with **international trade rules and WTO disciplines** poses additional challenges for India. While WTO frameworks promote fair competition, they also restrict certain forms of domestic support and export subsidies. Balancing the need to support farmers with international trade commitments requires careful policy design and strategic engagement in multilateral negotiations.

Overall, these challenges highlight the need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts to strengthen agricultural trade. Addressing issues related to price volatility, market access barriers, infrastructure, policy stability and value addition is essential for enhancing India's competitiveness in global agricultural markets and achieving sustainable agricultural development.

Findings and Policy Implications

Based on the analysis of secondary data and review of agricultural trade reforms in India, several important findings emerge that have implications for policy-making and sustainable development:

Findings of the Study

The major findings of the study on **"Agricultural Trade Reforms and Self-Reliant India: An International Trade Perspective"** are as follows:

- **Agricultural trade reforms have increased India's integration with global markets.** Since the economic reforms of 1991 and India's entry into the WTO, agricultural exports and imports have expanded significantly, making Indian agriculture more connected with international trade systems.
- **Trade liberalization has improved export opportunities for Indian agricultural products.** India has emerged as a major exporter of rice, spices, tea, marine products, sugar and cotton due to policy reforms promoting export-oriented agriculture.
- **The WTO Agreement on Agriculture has influenced domestic agricultural policies.** India has adjusted tariff structures, subsidy mechanisms and export policies in response to international trade commitments while continuing to protect food security and farmer interests.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat emphasizes both self-reliance and global competitiveness.** The concept does not promote isolation from global trade; instead, it focuses on strengthening domestic production capacity while increasing participation in international markets.

- **Infrastructure development remains a major requirement for export growth.** Inadequate warehousing, cold storage, transportation and logistics systems continue to reduce export efficiency and increase post-harvest losses.
- **Small and marginal farmers face challenges in benefiting from trade reforms.** Due to fragmented landholdings, limited access to finance, technology and market information, many farmers are unable to fully utilize export opportunities.
- **Agricultural exports contribute significantly to foreign exchange earnings.** Growth in agro-based exports has strengthened India's trade position and created opportunities for rural employment and income generation.
- **Global competition poses serious challenges to Indian farmers.** Farmers in developed countries receive heavy subsidies, making it difficult for Indian producers to compete equally in international markets.

Policy Implications

- **Strengthening Infrastructure and Logistics**

Increased investment in cold storage, modern warehouses and transportation networks is needed to reduce post-harvest losses and improve export efficiency. Digital trade facilitation platforms should be expanded for smoother export procedures.

- **Enhancing Value Addition**

Promote food processing industries, agro-clusters and branded exports to move up the value chain. Encouraging private sector investment in agri-processing can enhance product quality and competitiveness.

- **Compliance and Quality Standards**

Build institutional capacity for testing, certification and adherence to international SPS standards. Training and awareness programs for farmers and exporters will help maintain global market access.

- **Balanced Trade Policy**

Tariff and export policies should ensure domestic stability while remaining aligned with global trade commitments. Policy predictability and transparency are crucial for sustaining long-term export growth.

- **Strategic Engagement with WTO and Global Markets**

Active participation in multilateral trade negotiations can protect India's interests while ensuring market access. Leverage international trade agreements to promote exports and attract foreign investment in agri-business.

- **Promoting Self-Reliance with Global Integration**

Strengthening domestic production, infrastructure and processing should be coupled with strategic export promotion. This approach ensures India is self-reliant in critical commodities while remaining competitive in global markets.

Conclusion

Agricultural trade reforms in India, particularly under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, have played a pivotal role in strengthening the country's position in the global agricultural market while promoting domestic self-reliance. The reforms have enhanced export competitiveness, diversified markets and encouraged value addition, reflecting a strategic balance between domestic capability and international integration. Despite these positive developments, challenges such as price volatility, non-tariff barriers, limited infrastructure and inadequate value addition continue to constrain India's agricultural trade potential. Addressing these issues through improved logistics, quality compliance, stable trade policies and investment in processing industries is essential for sustainable growth. The study highlights that self-reliance and global integration are not mutually exclusive; rather, they complement each other. By implementing coordinated policy measures, strengthening institutional support and fostering innovation in agriculture, India can achieve sustainable agricultural development, increase farmers' income and secure a competitive edge in international trade. In conclusion, agricultural trade reforms represent a transformative step toward a future where India can simultaneously ensure food security, promote economic growth and maintain a strong presence in the global agricultural market.

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