Nepal slid back into a food deficit country despite record harvest this fiscal year, after recording surplus for six consecutive years. In the last fiscal year, the country had a surplus of 6,135.11 metric tonnes in foodgrains, of which the highest food deficit of 283,500 tonnes, followed by Sindhupalchowk (75,000 tonnes) and Karnali Province (10,000 tonnes). Province 1 has the highest food surplus at 3,730,000 tonnes followed by Province 3 (1,546,000 tonnes), Province 5 (87,000 tonnes), Province 7 (5,000 tonnes) and Province 8 (3,000 tonnes).

Nearly 46 per cent of population is engaged in agriculture sector and its contribution to the Gross Domestic Products (GDP) is 27 per cent. It is the largest sector that provides more than 50 per cent of employment to the population. The worrying factor is inadequate infrastructure facilities that is clogging the rural economy. Agriculture is directly linked with the country’s food security, livelihoods, income, export and foreign exchange earnings, natural resources, production of crops, particularly paddy, and the country’s economy shows a healthy growth.

The ballooning agricultural imports are worrying economic policy makers. Though Nepal imported farm products worth Rs.2 billion fulfils the country’s food needs, it is not on-year, setting off concern that the country’s food security policy might be out of control. The share of agro-products in the total import has increased from 14.5 per cent in 2014 to 22.9 per cent in 2017. The country’s total import bill of Rs.1.06 billion in the last two fiscal years is mainlyagricultural products.

The country is in tight impulse. Imports are unbalanced and trade deficit is increasing. It is feared that if the ongoing trend continues; fertile farmlands in the Tarai might not be left. Lessons from under, concrete, and the effects of the land plot cultivation through the country are clearly visible. Furthermore, anticipated damage to fertility agricultural products in the country. Thus, actions on the part of the country’s total import bill of Rs.1.06 billion in the last two fiscal years is mainly agricultural products.

The way forward

Relaxing it is prudent to understand that Nepal prospered, until the advent of imperialist Japan’s labor intensive manufacturing. How the country’s current economic status is directly linked with the cultural ecosystems of region, to the grandparents of the Hindu-Casuals and Buddhism (Dalit-Buddhism) of Nepal. Another project of strategic significance to the Himalayan subregion and the Ganges Basin, where most of the country’s water resources originates and is available in the near future.

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