Agriterra – CIFA Cooperation
April 2008 to March 2009

Summary of the implementation

CONSORTIUM OF INDIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS
(CIFA)
8/32, South Patel Nagar,
New Delhi – 110 008. ☎: 011-25842111
cifa_delhi@yahoo.com
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Chapter 1
CIFA Growth Story

The definition of farmers in Indian context is extremely complex with parameters like illiteracy; fragmentation; linguistic barriers; social and sectarian divisions; women exploitation; limited reach of government; lack of institutional support; lack of access to technology etc taking key positions against the farming community.

The Farmers Organisations (FOs) in India are also fragmented with some of them being government sponsored; some being promoted by NGOs which are prone more non democratic and non transparent approaches and the remaining are individual driven with limited scope and reach.

In this scenario CIFA has embarked on a mission to include the farmers’ organizations of the country and form what it envisages as a consortium encompassing all the FOs representing all the commodities encompassing whole of India. India being a huge country with several geographical and crop divergence factors; the mission of CIFA is sure to be of massive magnitude.

CIFA is of the stated opinion that no single organization (even though having membership of its own) cannot represent the farmers real problems in a huge country like India. As such, CIFA has taken up the model of federating all the producer organizations under an umbrella making CIFA a platform for all the FOs. This is a new model and a new untested initiative atleast in the agri sphere in India.

CIFA, a toddler in every sense, evolved by bringing together the consensus among the like minded FOs in the year 2004, has been rather successful in the process of taking along with it the member organizations situated across the country. CIFA was also involved in forming Producer organizations wherever they are not formed until now.

CIFA’s growth in the last few years lies in terms of the growth in membership; increase of number of states it is functioning; travelling from Hyderabad, as a state level organization to Delhi, encompassing various state; district level and commodity specific institutions into its fold.

CIFA has grown from strength getting recognition from the government; being called up for various deliberations at the highest policy corridors; getting representation in the committees at national and state levels; getting recognized as one important entity in the agri sphere when taking up decisions related to agriculture.

Thus CIFA for the first time has emerged as a pan India Farmers organization at the national level. The difference from the earlier efforts to CIFA is that, the CIFA has initiated itself as an umbrella organization of all farmers associations across the country rather than being a sole organization of its own, a trait, which has attracted many a organizations to come into the fold of CIFA.
CIFA, in the years by gone has had many success and many not so successful initiatives. However, it has to be seen from the Indian FOs lens. In this effort of CIFA the membership to the top of the ladder may not be very symmetrical; chronological or even logical at times. The reason is that the organization is yet to get spread evenly in all the states. It is at present effective in certain big pockets of the country rather than the country itself. The presence of so many back ward areas both in terms of social mobilization of farmers as well as in productivity; trainings and awareness which are interlinked at times is hampering the growth and it will quite a while before it becomes professional which any way is the objective of CIFA.

As such, the stable; interlocking executive council comprising all the states / areas may take some time; even the membership payment will be slow as some have requested some time span to pay.

The initial effort of CIFA is vertical expansion rather than horizontal integration which is time consuming and which a fledging organization like CIFA can ill afford. Even in taking up of commodities; some are being taken up; run until some time; then a new commodity is taken up; It needs to be construed that the back and forth steps are part of the process of growth. For example; initially horticulture was not there in the agenda; but when a good person to lead horticulture in the shape of Mr.Azeethan in Tamilnadu came forward it has been taken up. Similarly, the clarion call programme, which was good success, was not in the earlier agenda; but due to the impending elections, it evolved.

However, the final and the ultimate entity is to have an federated organization that represents all the Indian farmers which encompasses all the producer groups in the country. As such, we request that the performance of CIFA may be judged keeping in view many for and against factors that we encounter in our journey towards our stated objective. Many a issues which cannot be really log framed do occur in this journey. The mere judging of actions and results achieved as part of the submitted logical frame work gives only a limited view of the efforts in this mission.

ADD THE FINAL CONCLUDING SENTENCE
CIFA has been working on Indian national Farmers issues along with Farmers; policy makers; administrators; financial institutions and public representatives since many years in helping them make a knowledge worker.

The mission
The mission of CIFA was to represent the farm sector in India to the government the planning commission and other authorities for formulating proper policies of Agriculture, including export import policy, taxation policies, restrictive trade policies, Agricultural Reforms and for allocation of adequate budget, based on its contribution to National GDP and also on the basis of population, relying on agriculture and allied activities. CIFA attempts to work for providing employment security, income security and social security of all farmers as per the provisions of the Constitution.

CIFA strives to achieve adequate recognition to the farming community by participation of farmers in socio-economic developmental activities at all levels through organizing vibrant commodity farmers associations / organizations at State and National Levels. CIFA aims at creating a platform for the farmers associations at the national level through formation of a cohesive functional organization for effective lobby.

It also works with like-minded National and International organizations for improvement and upliftment of Agriculture Sector and create awareness amongst farmers on modern agricultural methods in the areas like bio technology; information technology; bio fertilizers etc.

For the realization of its objectives, the Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations either by itself or in association with other organizations, shall act as representative of Farmers and take up issues with the Central and State Governments, Financial Institutions, Public Sector Institutions like FCI, CCI, NABARD, NAFED, Agro-based Industries, Procuring Agencies, Ware – Housing Organizations and all other related institutions. In case of necessity empowered to enter into MOU on mutually agreeable terms and conditions.
Chapter 2

Summary of first year support from Agriterra

The first year of support from Agriterra has proved to be a year of consolidation for Consortium of Indian Farmers associations in bringing cohesion in terms of its activities. The sojourn of CIFA has been on a faster basis into many states in this year and the activities in the earlier states were strengthened considerably. CIFA has consolidated its presence in the earlier states where it was operating and has tread into new states. Thanks to Agriterra, Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations has spread its wings geographically to reach bigger canvass involving more farmers and more issues at the national level.

The CIFA was able to establish an institutional base for the Farming communities in the states that it is working. However, the base has mostly evolved through existing federations and organizations. The same components were utilized by CIFA for planning and implementing of services required for the Farmers as per the objectives of CIFA.

CIFA has forged partnerships with industry and other development organizations in facilitating livelihoods making it a public private partnership with facilitation from CIFA which in the ultimate analysis is intended for gainful employment, increased income and participating in policy making.

CIFA’s efforts to make the farmers unified voice at the highest corridors of policy making for relevant change in the policies that are favorable power to the farming community has achieved considerable success in this year. There were many issues that CIFA was able to take up at different levels. Pursuing this objective, further the CIFA has strived to create a powerful lobby both States and at National level with CIFA’s coordination.

CIFA in pursuit of expertise both in terms of technology and man power with requisite traits was able to get the services of advisers who are working on a voluntary / consultancy basis. Their services are useful in taking up issues at different levels.

CIFA has taken initiative in making linkages with the farmers of other states and mobilizing them into federations. In this journey CIFA has traveled to the states of, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Pondicherry, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Nagaland Bihar and Madhya Pradesh apart from the already existing states of Karnataka, Tamilnad and Pondicherry. CIFA has taken the lead in establishing the state units in those respective states involving the Farmer organizations and groups already established and are being formed in the process. However, not all the states mentioned above are having state units except for Karnataka; Tamilnadu; Pondicherry; Jharkhand; Rajasthan; Punjab; Madhya Pradesh and Bihar

The activities of Indian Parliament Members Forum of Farmers wherein Policy lobbying is done has been enlarged both in terms of quantity and quality with the number of members in the Farmers Parliament forum going up and the number of meetings by it also going the north way. The activities of Indian Parliament Members Forum of Farmers have seen keeping sustained pressure upon the government. The interaction with Confederation of Indian Industry; the FICCI; ASSOCHAM etc have continued. The interaction with input organizations of fertilizers; pesticides; seeds and other input industries continued.
The CIFA was involved in rallying opinion on various issues relating to agriculture. The parliament members’ forum was one such initiative which was successful in keeping sustained pressure upon the government. The interaction with Confederation of Indian Industry, the FICCI; ASSOCHAM etc have been taken up.

The CIFA opines that there is a complete lack of feed back system in the government spheres where the plight of the farmer rarely reaches the higher echelons of the policy makers. In this scenario, CIFA made efforts to bridge the gap both at the central and State levels to be pivotal in lobbying for the fair terms for the Farmers. The efforts in the highest corridors of policy making for relevant change in the policies have come through this year with the government coming out with some proposals favourable to farmers in the interim budget submitted in March 2009. CIFA is having effective parleys with the all the concerned Ministries to have a farmer friendly budget that may be submitted after the new Government takes over in India in May 2009 post the ongoing elections.

Clarion call to the farmers: Though this was not a part of the earlier Agriterra planned activity; CIFA with demands from various members went for a field based programme in several pockets of the country where CIFA has strength. Thanks to the institutional base that has been established, CIFA was able to give clarion call for the farmers across the nation to engage in various forms of protest to highlight their demands on 16th March 2009. The base of CIFA including federations and organizations at the grass level was an ideal platform to achieve a well coordinated protest across the nation. The clarion call programme made the all the field units abuzz with activity both in terms of lobbying and at the field level. CIFA with the effective set up was able to make converged effort and made the farmers associations affiliated to CIFA to come out openly for implementing their just demands.

The CIFA Annual Conclave
Lobbying and advocacy was taken up in an extensive scale in this year at all levels to influence the policymaking relating to the issues of Farmers and agriculture as a whole. In December 2008, CIFA conducted a massive meeting with almost all the major stakeholders along with the AGRICORD President Mr. Pallerin participating.

The meeting saw the participation of beuacrats, Central Ministers, senior public representatives and others. This convention, representing many personae from divergent economic social and political backgrounds has proved to be an ideal setting to arrive at a comprehensive policy for the country.

The delegations after the meeting has met the Prime Minister; Finance minister and Minister of Agriculture and submitted representations voicing the concerns and the suggestions that are needed to make agriculture a sustained livelihood.

Linkages with new Institutions like MCX, NCDEX, ISRO, and BARC etc
CIFA in this year has established linkages with institutions such as MCX and NCDEX in Commodity Stock broking, BARC for new seed varieties and ISRO for dissemination of space technology. The commodity exchanges meetings in this period were held comprising meetings and awareness sessions in association with MCX and NCDEX including Commodity Stock broking etc.
Challenges for CIFA
As the agricultural is in the sphere of public sector; and with the dwindling public sector resources and allocations both for extension and also tech transfer; there is a mandatory need for the multi – agency dispensation embracing diverse strengths in complementing the efforts of the government system.

However, there needs to be an agency with relevance, accountability, transparency and sustainability. CIFA is filling that particular role to a limited extent in the present times. For this CIFA has to embrace, in the changing economic scenario, various issues like food and nutritional security, poverty alleviation, diversifying market demands, export opportunities and environmental concerns which are posing new challenges to the farmers of the country.

In this pursuit CIFA needs to augment itself with sufficient expertise both in terms of technology and man power with requisite traits. Specific analysis on the subjects is becoming mandatory for the taking up of issues at different levels. However, with the present man power CIFA finds it taxing and wanting at times.

CIFA, from its inception, has maintained a equal distant approach from all the political parties and in other words it was apolitical all the way. However, the country is increasingly getting fragmented on political lines. Though this situation is hard reality and any apolitical party has to go along with it; but at times CIFA, particularly in the states is finding itself in piquant situations with political parties.
Chapter 3
Institutional strengthening

Monitoring and Evaluation strengthened
The M&E system was revamped with each State unit reporting to the central office in New Delhi. A central committee member was made responsible for the activities of the area and the regional incharge system was brought in. The central office was decentralized in terms of issues being dealt and a core committee was formed to deal the issues based on the expertise and with focus.

Operational efficiency
To enhance the operational efficiency the EC has taken up the services of an expert in organizational matters to look after the programmatic activities and other institutional matters.

Strengthening the base
The mobilization of the Farmers organizations from each of the 5 earlier states was taken up on an extensive scale. The states of Chhattisgarh; Madhya Pradesh; Rajasthan and Jharkhand; Gujarat; Haryana were added up this year into the CIFA umbrella.

The organized associations at the state level by CIFA has provided a stage to disseminate the knowledge, learning and trainings to Farmers on a pre determined basis in association with MCX; NCDEX; NABARD; FMC and others.

The efforts of the state level associations to bring in the farming community through mobilization at the village and mandal level have been fruitful to the extent that the number of ground level associations in CIFA has increased considerably in relation to the potential.

Membership of CIFA
The membership of CIFA comprises the following set of categories drawn from the grass roots level.

- The commodity associations across the states
- The government / agriculture departments promoted groups
- The farmers groups promoted by CIFA

The commodity associations across the states
India, with its vast area is the umbrella of different commodities. Over the years in the areas where the commodity is dominant in terms of cultivation; the local farmers of that area have formed that particular commodity associations. Some of the examples of these sorts of associations are
- Apple growers associations of Himachal Pradesh
- United Tea Planters Associations (UPASI)
- Pulses associations of Karnataka
- Various sugar cane associations affiliated to the particular Sugar factories etc
- etc
However, the problems of these commodities are not confined to only those local problems that these associations are taking up, but to various issues that are connected at the policy and marketing levels. Due to the confines they are being operated, these commodity associations were at a handicap with respect to the problems at policy level; multi state problems etc. Many of this sort of associations pertaining to different commodities, after observing CIFA’s tirade against the lopsided policies which hinder farm growth; were attracted towards CIFA and are joining as the affiliated members of CIFA.

The membership for these commodity institutions
While providing membership for these institutions CIFA applied the policy of direct and indirect membership that it had done in FFA. Under this policy the Core members of the commodity associations which include the Executive committee and others will be provided membership and are treated as full fledged members of CIFA. The general body of that commodity association (i.e all the members) will not be the active members of CIFA.

This way the association will be the member and the core members will become the direct members of CIFA. The membership is based on their tenure. If their membership expires in that commodity association and a new body takes over, those members will become the members of CIFA. In other words, the number remains the same but the people according to the position they enjoy in that particular commodity association; the membership of CIFA applies accordingly.

This decision has been taken to see to that CIFA involves in the problems of the commodity on a larger arena but not upon the individual members whose memberships is proportional to the tenure.

Organizational Issues;
The CIFA has an elected body changed every three years, which comprises persons from its affiliate Farmers Associations of the state. The general body meetings are conducted every year and the executive, which meets regularly, takes the major decisions. The overall administration is under the management of President/ Secretary General and other office bearers.

CIFA has brought a democratic setup of Farmers Organisations relevant to India. This is very pertinent in the sense that even though there exists 600 million farmers, there is no elected democratic and professional farmers organization. CIFA is the first of its kind to be established in 2004 and has now helped similar Federation activities in over 15 states of India. The main objective was to network the existing professional farmers organizations in the states and empowering them to articulate their issues at different levels.

Consultations with the Farmers Groups of the states
It is a known fact that to converge divergent farmers organizations from different states and to make an umbrella organization is extremely difficult. In addition, the running of the organization with hand to mouth funds is still difficult. However, many of the state units have cooperated well and all the farmers groups are being involved directly in deciding the issues.
As the empowering the Farmers for effective participation in decision making is the main aim of CIFA the consultations with different farmers groups and their member constituent groups is extremely important. However, during the discussions each and every group affiliated will have its own priorities and will generally ask to take up activities which are beneficial to them. In these scenarios CIFA executive need to chalk the plan of action according to the priority of the issue. The Executive of CIFA is composed of different associations from different states and as such the EC is taking up the main issues of Policy formulation, research, commodity committees, credit, insurance, and institutions, Industry etc., which needs to be dealt at higher echelons of the State and National governmental structures and have wider ramifications.

Affiliated Members of CIFA: The following are the member associations in CIFA as on March 2009 pertaining to various states. However, it is to be noted that the presence of an affiliated association does not necessarily mean that CIFA is fully present in that state. Due to the various efforts of CIFA at the national level, many organizations from the states where CIFA is not working also are approaching us. The states of North east like Meghalaya; Nagaland; Assam etc belong to that category.

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Chapter 4

Outline of Field Activities

The major initiatives of CIFA during this year are being presented here while the other initiatives that are not part of the budgeted activities are being presented at the end of this chapter in a nutshell.

CIFA’s Policy interventions

The CIFA has intervened in making the policies of the Government conducive to the farming community with a major role in many committees being constituted to probe the reasons and CIFA being made a member. The CIFA has interacted with many Secretaries of different departments in the GOI corridors of New Delhi on various pertaining to credit; problems of sugarcane; MSP of Paddy (Rice); rural credit system etc. The issue of minimum support price was almost taken to its logical end for this period with the CACP suggesting a price of Rs. 1200/- and the government accepting Rs. 930/- However, CIFA is advocating a price in tune with the Swaminathan Committee report which is binding upon the government to followbound which states that the price of the procurement should be the cost of cultivation plus fifty percent margin as remunerative price for the farmers.

The CIFA has conducted the cost of cultivation surveys in atleast six states for 5 different commodities of Paddy (Rice); Sugar cane; Cotton; Wheat and pulses. CIFA in convergence Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has brought forth the lopsided policies being followed for the cost of cultivation.

The CIFA has conducted many state level workshops which proved an effective medium for interaction between the government and the Farm community and other related stake holders.

The meetings with the Parliament members’ farmers’ forum proved to be an ideal platform for CIFA to relay the problems to the higher corridors of power. The Parliament members Farmers forum which initially was a limited number two years back has now swelled to about 50 members. Atleast 30 Parliament members of India attended to each meeting that has been conducted by CIFA on various issues over the course of this year.

These meetings were successful in bringing to the notice of larger society and the power structure including beurocrats that CIFA is a force to reckon with in relation to the espousing of farmers problems. This has helped CIFA bringing forth various reasons that were beneath the suicide of the Farmers en masse. FFAP has taken up the issue in several forums and submitted several representations and by itself has convened many seminars and conferences to high light the issue.

The government / agriculture departments promoted groups

The Government of India through its World Bank assisted programme of ATMA has formed many commodity Interest Groups in various parts of the country. These associations may or may not be a part of the existing associations of that state. However, CIFA has initiated cooperation with ATMA programme and is working in tandem with all these ATMA promoted CIGs along with the existing Farmer associations.
Trainings on productivity enhancement and competitiveness
CIFA has taken up multi pronged approach in making the agriculture more competitive through efforts at creating mass awareness on modern technologies to safe guard from hazards in increasing the yield; trainings with commodity exchanges on the marketing aspects etc
In this regard CIFA has made MOUs both with MCX and NCDEX for the propagation of commodity Spot markets concept into areas where there is need. The farmers, where the trainings were held were exposed to new techniques, ideas through traditional and multimedia efforts. The programmes, in this category included exposure visits, training programmes, awareness programmes, seminars and guest lectures etc.

Workshop on Commodity Interest Groups
The CIFA has organized a workshop on promoting and net working of Commodity Interest Groups under extension reforms in association with ATMA of MANAGE in Mysore. The workshop has discussed the problems of the farm sector and expressed concern over inadequate agri extension systems. Recommendations were made for necessary implementation.

Karnataka State Sugarcane growers meeting
Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations, Karnataka unit, organised sugarcane growers meeting at Hospet on 24th September 2008. About 300 sugarcane farmers attended the meeting. Sri. K. Prabhakar Reddy, Convenor, National sugarcane commodity committee of CIFA, and Sri. Kuruburu Shantha Kumar, President, Kabini Farmers Associations & President, Kabbu Ballegarra Sangh interacted with sugarcane farmers. Sri. Shantha Kumar while welcoming farmers stated that sugar factory owners are enjoying the benefits in the name of sugarcane growers. He urged farmers to fight united to achieve the goal of getting remunerative price for sugarcane. Sri. Prabhakar Reddy was critical over not providing loans to sugarcane farmers from Sugarcane development Fund at concessional rate of interest, instead, in the name of farmers loans are availed by sugar factories. He advised farmers to fight united to get justice. Production cost of sugarcane is Rs. 1,200 per tonne but sugar factories are paying Rs. 1,000/- per tonne only. On behalf of CIFA he demanded Central Government to fix remunerative price, Rs. 1,500/- per tonne of sugarcane.

CIFA Tamilnadu unit conducts conference on Sugarcane issues
The CIFA unit of Tamilnadu convened an Interactive meeting on 11th November 2008 to discuss the strategies on pressurising the central and state governments in view of the unacceptable support price announced by them to sugarcane for 2008-09 crushing season.

The National convener Shri.Prabhakar Reddy and the president of the PMK party Shri.G.K.Mani presided over the function. In his special address Mr. Prabhakar reddy spoke elaborately on the history of sugarcane cultivation in india from pre- British period till today and remembered the great leader of punjab Chottu Ram who fought for the socio economic equity of farmers in the society and also quoted about the book on sugarcane written by the economist Shshri. Sanjay Baru. He made a fervent appeal to the leaders from various sugar cane associations to understand the system adopted by CACP to get the data of cultivation cost from DES (statistics dept.) where by lot of procedural lacuna and inept details are being sent to the commission leading to low fixation of support price. There are sixty centers for collection of cost data in tamilnada
Mr. A.M. Raja, President of CIFA tamilnadu read out the resolution that in order to attract the attention of the state and central government towards the widespread resentment on MSP of sugarcane, "DHARNAS" in three stages will be conducted on 21th NOV'08 at all factories or respective district collector offices and on 26th NOV'08 at Chennai with all the supporting Farmers associations and thirdly on 13th Dec'08 at Delhi. He also made a request to the leaders for a large turnout of sugarcane farmers all around the state. Earlier Mr. Virudhagiri, Secretary of the state unit welcomed the gathering and Mr. Nagu subramanian, secretary of sugarcane commodity proposed the vote of thanks. Later Mr. Prabhakar reddy also called on the BJP state president Mr. Ela. Ganesan on the subject matter who assured his support at all levels.

CIFA organizes South Indian States Pulse farmers technical workshop in Gulbarga

The Consortium of Indian Farmers Association, Karnataka unit has organised a two day Southern States pulse farmers' technical workshop at Gulbarga on 25th and 26th October 2008 in association with Karnataka Red gram growers Association. Red gram growing farmers of Southern States, Red gram development Board representatives, Agriculture Research Station, Gulbarga, Krishna Grameen Bank, NABARD representatives and Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in the deliberations.

Sri. Basavaraj Ingin, President, Karnataka Red gram Growers Association welcomed the representatives. Sri. S.A. Ravindranath, Hon.ble Minister for Agriculture, Karnataka State was the Chief guest and inaugurated the workshop. Sri. K. Prabhakar Reddy of CIFA, Andhra Pradesh unit actively participated in the deliberations.

Sri. S.A. Ravindranath, Hon.ble Minister said there was a dire need to increase Red gram yield by introducing high yielding varieties resistant to pest attacks and reduce cost of cultivation. The State Government had initiated several measures to reduce cost of cultivation of agricultural produce by promoting organic farming, he added. A mission had been constituted, and Rs. 100 crore had been set aside to popularise organic and natural farming to reduce farmers' dependence on chemical fertilizer. Rs. 500 crore had been released for paying Rs. 1,000 each to small and marginal farmers as pre-sowing expenses. The Hon.ble Minister promised to take up the issues with Hon. Chief Minister, Karnataka State and provide relief to Red gram growing

Jharkhand State committee meeting

The executive meet of sugarcane commodity council of Jharkhand met at Ranchi in October '08. The gathering and explained the purpose of this meet is to unite all the representatives of co-operative and private sector sugar mill cane growers as the CIFA motto is "one family and one voice" and to debate and prioritize the confronting issues before us to effectively focus on the collective outcome on the tripartite meeting for fixing of state advisory price (SAP) to 2008-09 season.

Most of the people spoke were to implement the CACP recommendation of 15500/- for nine percentage recovery in this 2008-09 season and to appeal to the State Government to issue a G.O to implement the absorption of transportation cost by the private sugar mills, the benefit that was announced by the state last year is available only to cane growers of co-operative sugar mills.
Fruit & Vegetable summit at New Delhi
Organized by C.I.I on 12th and 13th May at New Delhi was attended by Sri P.Chengal Reddy, Secretary-General, CIFA and Mr. Vijay Kumar, Project Director. The Summit is aimed at developing a strong value chain which will benefit all the Stake-holders – Farmers – Processors- Marketers- Exporters and Consumers. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Sharad Pawar and attended by delegates of Industry, Officials and farmers. Sri P.Chengal Reddy participated in the panel discussions of “How to covert Fruit & Vegetable retail strategy – action”. The success story of CIFA/FFA joint partnership with Coca-Cola, where in 6000 Mango Farmers from Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh, India was presented during the deliberations of the meeting. The Mango farmers Commodity groups, trained on the Management processing and established link with processors including coca-cola and also Commodity trading under NDD, is trend-setter. After the presentation, the Executive of retail-chains have agreed to join hands with CIFA to explore partnerships in various parts of the Country.

Linking with retail market chains
Linking with retail market chains for the farmers groups specially commodity producers plays a significant role in the future development of agri sector. CIFA has organized interactions of the farmers groups with major retail chains in atleast 6 cities including Hyderabad; Chennai; Mysore; Jharkhand and Chandigarh.

These interactions proved to be a starting point for the Farmer – retail chain partnership. The farmers raised the issue of transportation; procurement problems etc while the retail chains raised the issue of uniform quality. However, in all the workshops both parties agreed that there is enough need and scope for both to work in tandem and unison to reap higher profits.

The retail chains on the other hand have asked CIFA to make the farmers into viable groups either by village wise or taluk wise as it will be difficult for them to interact with small groups below ten members. The issue of training the farmers on the quality that is needed by the retail chains was also raised by CIFA in reply. The chains have reacted very positively and opined that in the same way the farmers require trainings for better quality; the retail chains also require the farmers to be imparted requisite trainings for better quality.

CIFA - North Zone EC members Meeting
CIFA convened a meeting of ECs members and important leaders of the representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in June 2008. It was aimed at preparing a program for each state priority will be given to organizing meetings with parliament members during the budget session, Shri. Sarad Pawar, Union Minister for Agriculture, has agreed to participate in the deliberation

Interaction with ICAR
Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations leaders Shri. K. Prabhakar Reddy and Basavaraj Ingin were invited by ICAR to address the Agriculture Scientist at the annual conference at New Delhi in July 2008, it was pointed by both the leaders, that the Agriculture Scientists in India working under government must come out with change their strategies to conduct research in a time bound manner to meet the needs of local farmers ICAR has agreed to arrange for more interaction in future.
Consultations with the Farmers Groups of the states: The CIFA Executive committee meeting was held on the eve of the ESFIM meeting held in Hyderabad in association with IFAP during February 2-4, 2009. The consultations with different farmers groups and their member constituent groups is extremely important as the CIFA is a conglomeration of divergent producer groups with different priorities and a consensus on the road for the way ahead is extremely important. CIFA executive committee chalked the plan of action for the clarion call on March 16th, 2009 during this meeting. It was also suggested that awareness building activities be taken up during the elections.

CIFA’s response to the WB’s World Development Report:
During 2008-09, two major reports were announced in India which included, the World Development Report by the World Bank; standing committee on agriculture, GOI gave its recommendations on Agriculture. CIFA has taken up these two reports and initiated process for the implementation of these reports at the ground level. The tirade of CIFA in this aspect is in addition to the efforts being put on the implementation of Dr. Swaminathan Committee Report recommendations.

Farmer’s conventions: The CIFA has convened region wise conventions comprising of not only EC members but also prominent farmers leaders of that area and also the affiliated organizations in that region. Such conventions were held in Maharashtra on the 25th February; at Kurukshetra in Haryana on 3rd March; in Gujarat on 12th March and at Bhopal on 18th March 2009. These conventions were useful in prioritizing the issues of that area and also make the field level organizations affiliated to CIFA from that area to come into the core discussions of CIFA. From May 2009 CIFA is planning to have these sorts of conventions in South India.

Partnership with Industry: The partnerships with Industry and other rural development organizations in facilitating livelihoods are moving with a rapid pace. The partnership with Coca cola which was initially started by FFA in Andhra Pradesh has been now taken up by CIFA in moving it into other states. This season (in MAY) the Coca Cola in all probability will be purchasing Mangoes from the farmers of identified areas of Tamilnadu.

The activities with retail chains: The interactions with retail chains in particular with vegetable and Mango and other Horticulture commodities has dominated the three months of the reporting period. The Mango farmers meetings of Tamil Nadu with Coca Cola; the vegetable farmers meetings of Haryana with retail chains were all conducted in this period. groups

These interactions will be fructified in the coming months. The issue of transportation; procurement problems etc were discussed. The CIFA has facilitated some MOUs at the ground level to be signed in between the farmers groups and the respective retail chains. The CIFA has acted as the facilitator and the third partner.

Tobacco Farmers convention held: On the 9th % 10th March Tobacco producers groups has held a meeting at Mumbai to meet the FAO attaché CIFA, which was instrumental in holding the conference, has demanded an alternative crop to Tobacco. The event has received good publicity in the media.
Foreign visits by CIFA EC members: Mr. Chengal Reddy, the Secretary General of
CIFA has participated in the Institutional Global Leadership meet held in Singapore
organized by Syngenta.

Similarly, Mr. Bhavani Prasad, of CIFA participated in the 5th World Water forum meeting
held in Istanbul, Turkey on behalf of CIFA which discussed water conservation issues.
Mr. Prabhakar Reddy of FFA has participated in ESFIM conference of IFAP in Cambodia
in the fag end of March which apart from ESFIM programme also has discussed the
issues relating to Farmers in Asian region

Election Lobbying - Clarion all to the Farmers:
The CIFA has launched a campaign to empower the farmers in exercising their franchise
in the elections for the Indian Parliament and some Indian states which are scheduled
during April and May 2009. The CIFA in asking farmers to vote with wisdom has given a
call with demands including the implementation of recommendations of National
Farmers Commission, headed BY Prof. M. S. Swaminathan.

The CIFA has led the farmers in the country by giving a clarion call to observe March
16th 2009 as demands observance day. The clarion call called ‘Sankharavan’ in Indian
languages was a form of protest blowing the conch and has been taken up throughout
the nation at all important places right from Kashmir in the North to Cape Cammorin in
Kanya Kuumri in South Indian tip of Indian Ocean. The Clarion Call which was
inaugurated in front of the statue of Swami Vivekanan-da at Kanyakumari on March 12
continued in all the states and culminated in massive protests in the shape of Dharnas;
agitations and road stoppages in some place

CIFA has printed few lakh pamphlets emphasizing the demands of the farmers and
distributed not only to the farmers but also to the other voters.

The charter of demands includes:

A. MSP to be at least 50% more than c2 cost: The Commission on Agricultural
Costs and Prices (CACP) should be an autonomous statutory organization with
its primary mandate being the recommendation of remunerative prices for the
principal agricultural commodities of both dry farming and irrigated areas. The
MSP should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production.
The “net take home income” of farmers should be comparable to those of civil
servants. The Membership of the CACP should include a few practicing farmers.
The scope of the MSP programme should be expanded to cover all crops of
importance to food and income security for small farmers.

B. Creation of agri risk fund: An agriculture risk fund should be set up to insulate
farmers from risks arising from recurrent droughts and other weather aberrations

C. Commodity-based farmers’ organizations needed: There should be a system
for promotion to combine decentralized production with centralized services such
as post-harvest management, value addition and marketing, for leveraging
institutional support and facilitating direct farmer-consumer linkage.
D. **Social security for farmers needed**: coverage of farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural workers, under a comprehensive national social security.

E. **Including agriculture in the concurrent list**: The central and state governments to consider seriously the question of including agriculture under the concurrent list and entrust panchayats with responsibility for agriculture planning, including agricultural extension.

F. **Adequate credit and full insurance cover**: The banking system needs to meet the large unmet credit potential. Credit should for a credit cycle of 4-5 years and include consumption credit, so that the farmer has the capacity to spread his/her liabilities and meet the repayment requirements. The banks need to liberally provide pledge loans. Farmers need user-friendly insurance instruments covering production, right from sowing to post-harvest operations and also to cover the market risks for all crops.

The protests across the country: The protests usually largely included the congregation of the farmers at a particular designated area usually in the center of the town and included are the vocal form of protests and distribution of pamphlets and speeches by some important leaders. The farmers' leaders made it a point to include people from all walks to come out and participate in the protest to give a comprehensive picture. It also served the purpose of bringing awareness on the farmers problems to the other sections of the society.

In KANYAKUMARI down south on 16th March 2009 the protest took of with a customary prayer at the Goddess Bhagavathi (the local deity) who is the incarnation of goddess PARVATHI to bestow wisdom to the political leaders and rulers to redress the grievance of the Indian farmers. The awareness call stated at 11.00 A.M before the Mahatma Gandhi Smarak Mandir (The holy ash of Mr. Gandhi was kept at this place on 12th Feb.1948 for dissolution in to the TRI SEA point). The CIFA Tamilnadu State President Mr. A.M.Raja spoke to the leaders of various commodity groups to go to each village panchayat and towns and effectively work to propagate the demands among all political leaders and party people as well as to the majority electorate.

Mr.K.V.Rajkumar distributed brochures and appealed to the leaders to include important local issues of common and region specific interest in their demands. Mr.V.Kannan, the paddy commodity secretary gave a brief description of CIFA 's effort in effectively working for the cause and upliftment of farmers and the betrayal of the present government to the farmers. The event was well covered by the media including print and electronic media.

Mr.Viridhagiri, Secretary took all the leaders before the 133Ft tall stone statue of saint 'Thiruvaluvur' and read the resolve to work together and make the political parties understand our strength and unity that will ponder their thinking of our demands .Mr.Yoganathan, principal secretary, Mr.Buthisikamanil, Mr.K.P.Ramalingam, Mr. Ponnumsy and others also spoke in support of the effort. Mr.Ajeethan, Technical secretary co ordinated the startup programme proposed thanks and bestwishes for the endeavours.
But it did not go so smoothly in other places. In some places there were Road stoppages which included the stopping the traffic for a specific period of time. The police intervention was also there in many places. The event was covered extensively by both electronic and print media in all the states. The officials, intellectuals and urban people appreciated the idea of the campaign by Farmers and many expressed their sympathy, solidarity and support for the cause.

Other activities:

Apart from the activities mentioned in the budget, CIFA, in the capacity of organization representing farmers and the Office bearers of CIFA in organizational capacity has either conducted; attended; actively participated or invited as speakers to various events, conferences and seminars. Some of the below mentioned events will throw light on the wide canvass of activities CIFA is involved with:

- Mr. Prabhakar Reddy met the Executive committee of the Maharashtra Cooperative Sugarcane Federation and has coordinated the entry of the organization into the CIFA fold. The Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar factories have around 173 factories under its fold.

- In April 08, Mr. Prabhakar Reddy interacted with the executive committee of Maharashtra Sugar factory in an effort to invite them into CIFA.

- In April 08 CIFA has attended a meeting in Bhopal on the marketing issues of Agriculture with several state level beaurocrats participating in it.

- CIFA in April 08 has participated in the International Sugar Technologists conference held in Pune under the auspices of Vasanth Dada institute Sugar research.

- The ambassador of Mozambique visited the Delhi office of CIFA and FFA office at Hyderabad and has held wide range of discussions on the possible cooperation of CIFA and Mozambique in issues relating to agriculture in Mozambique. A delegation of CIFA is planned to visit Mozambique in order top assess the areas of cooperation.

- On the 23 rd May 2008, Mr. Chengal Reddy participated from the New Delhi embassy of United States of America in a Global Teleconference with the World Bank president on agriculture issues of the country.

- In June 24th CIFA represented by Mr. Prabhakar Reddy has participated in the meeting with CACP chairman.

- In June 2008 CIFA has held the Karnataka Northern districts Sugar cane farmers meeting with around 2000 members attending it.

- In July 2008, the state level farmers’ meeting has been held in Karnataka which ahs discussed the organizational issues and also opening of state office.

- In July 08, CIFA has held a commodity meeting in Hoshangabad; Madhya Pradesh, on paddy and also Water users Associations.

- In July 08, the Tamilnadu state unit has held the convention for the 6 districts under its fold in Trichy.
Again in August 08, the CIFA under the sponsorship of Bramha Kumari has held the farmers’ convention in Karnataka.

In Trichy again in Aug 08, the sugar cane farmers conference was held by the Tamilnadu unit of CIFA.

In September 2008, the Karnataka unit of CIFA has held the convention of the state unit under the Basava trust.

In October 08, the CIFA state unit and CACP have held Joint Press Conference in Chennai.

In October 08, Jharkhand, the EC Member Mrs. Susmita organized paddy conference

In November 08, the Punjab state unit has organized a protest in Chandigarh on the lifting of ban on rice by the government of India.

In November 08, the Tamilnadu Executive Committee has held its state meeting in Chennai.

In November 08, in Jharkhand, the EC member, Mrs. Susmita has organized an organizational meeting for the consolidation of Farmers membership drive in the state.

In November 08, the Pondicherry state unit has held its executive committee meeting.

In January 08, the Tamilnadu state unit has held a protest on the prices and has conducted a hunger strike with 3000 people participating in it in Erode.

In September 08, the Belgaum district Sugar cane factory farmers’ meeting was held. The meeting is crucial in the sense that the Belgaum district is having around 22 factories

In September 08, the CIFA state unit has called upon the Chief Minister and represented him of the farmers problems.

In September 08, the Karantaka state unit has held the mandya district unit meeting with sugar and raagi farmers participating in it.

Mr. Santha Kumar, the Karnataka unit chief has conducted the State level conference of the CIFA unit with around 3 to 4000 farmers participating.

In December 08, Mr. Prabhakar Reddy has participated in the International Sugar cane research center in Coimbatore.

In January 2009, Mr. Prabhakar reddy has participated in the conference of Systemic Rice Intensification of rice in Agriculture.

Mr. Chengal Reddy participated as a speaker in the conference of Good Governance held in new Delhi during November 2008.
- Mr. Chengal Reddy in the capacity of Secretary General CIFA and Hon. Chairman FFA has visited Warsaw, Poland to participate in the Worlds Farmers Congress from 30th May to June 7th.

- On May 24th Mr. Prabhakar Reddy, the convenor, National Sugar Cane Council has participated in an interaction with CACP chairman in Bangalore on the modalities to be followed in fixing the cane price for the crushing season of 2008-09.

- Mr. Chengal Reddy on 16th July has participated on invitation for an interaction with New Zealand High Commissioner on agriculture issues of India.

- On 16th July Mr. Reddy and other Office bearers of CIFA has participated in the Joint press conference of the input industry and CIFA in New Delhi.

- Mr. Bhavani Prasad, the Executive member of CIFA, in July has participated in the Paddy conference held at Bellary, Karnataka.

- Mr. Chengal Reddy has participated in the World Bank-IMF annual convention on invitation from 7th October to 14th October in Washington, USA.

- On 22nd November, the Agriterra team comprising of Mrs. Bertken and Mr. Michel visited the CIFA office in New Delhi.

- On 12th December, the delegation of CIFA has visited on the Chairman of the planning commission.

- On the 17th December 2008, Mr. Ingin of Karnataka has participated in the Jharkhand Farmers meeting.

- On 28th January, Mr. Chengal Reddy has interacted with Secretary of Agriculture, United States of America, Mrs. Holy Higgins, in the US Embassy in New Delhi.

- During 14th-16th February, Mr. Chengal Reddy has participated in the Syngenta sponsored Global Leadership Summit in Singapore.

- On 20th February, Mr. Chengal Reddy participated in the Confederation of Indian Industry conference, on Agri issues in New Delhi as a panel speaker.

- On 25th February 2008, the Karnataka State Unit organized the pandapipur area sugar cane growers conference.

- On 27th February Mr. Prabhakar Reddy, the national sugarcane growers federation president and Mr. Ingin, the National Pulses Association President met the Union Minister of Agriculture and discussed the extension reforms.

- On 28th February Mr. Prabhakar Reddy and Mr. Ingin and Mr. Tambake, have participated in the CACP meeting in New Delhi on the SMP of sugar cane and MSP of paddy issues.

- On 1st of March CIFA organized Wheat farmers conference in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- On 3rd March, the Haryana affiliated Organisational of CIFA met in Kuruksetra and discussed organizational issues of Haryana state unit.
- On 4th March, 2009, the CACP final meeting on prices was represented by K. Prabhakar REDDY AND Mr. Ingin from CIFA

- During March 16-17, Mr. Bhavani Prasad, the EC member of CIFA visited Istambul, Turkey and participated in the World Water conference.

- During March 29th - April 4th, Mr. Prabhakar Reddy has participated in the ESFIM conference in Vietnam on the invitation of IFAP.

**Publications**

CIFA has published various booklets bringing into fore the issues that are maligning the Indian Agriculture. CIFA has brought out six publications this year showcasing the problems and the required solutions to various maladies that engulf Indian agriculture. The monthly magazine, *Agri Policy and Advocacy*, is being sent to all the farmers' leaders and associations across the country apart from identified individuals who includes; Economists; intelligentsia and other sectors of the society. The publications are being well received and the individuals are responding through mails extending their support to the effort of CIFA.
Chapter 5

The CIFA Conclave

The annual convention of Consortium of Indian Farmers' Associations (CIFA), was successfully conducted during 11-12th December 2008 at New Delhi. The convention was the 5th in row for CIFA. The meeting was attended by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Minister for Rural Development, GOI who has inaugurated the conclave. The other dignitaries participated in the conclave includes Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, National Commission on Farmers & Member of Parliament and Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, GoI.

The international farmers associations were represented by Mr. Laurent Pellerin, President, AgriCord, based at Brussels and President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), who has actively participated in the two day deliberations. Mr. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General, CIFA and other Farmers Leaders facilitated the discussions.

1500 farmers' leaders and delegates representing 200 farmers organizations from various States along with Economists, Scientists, Bankers, other operational groups apart from print & electronic Media representatives participated in the conclave.

The proceedings: The 1st day i.e. on 11-12-2008, Sri P. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General, CIFA, welcomed Farmers' Leaders and delegates to the conclave and requested dignitaries to occupy dais. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh while delivering inaugural address highlighted Agriculture Development Programmes implemented by U.P.A. Government. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Prof. Abhijit Sen presented overview of agricultural sector, made suggestions for accelerated development, strengthening and role to be played by farmers' organizations. Mr. Laurent Pellerin while complimenting the efforts made by CIFA in organizing massive event, delivered message on *Strong, self sustained, democratic and genuinely representative, viable and autonomous farmers' and rural members' organizations*. The dignitaries released CIFA souvenirs of Hindi & English Languages.

The souvenir of the 5th convention was released by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, National Commission on Farmers & M.P. in Hindi and Mr. Laurent Pellerin, President, AgriCord has released in English language.

The post lunch session has witnessed the farmers' leaders and delegates of various States presenting the problems confronted by them in respective States and suggested a plan of action to be pursued. The long interaction session was followed by passing of resolutions on various subjects for presenting to concerned ministries in Government of India (GOI).

CIFA has elected a new Executive Committee for the years 2008-10. The election for other committees includes Managing Committee, As the term of Mr. Sanath Mehta as President of CIFA has got completed the conference has elected a new President with Sri Basavaraj Thambike, a senior farmer leader from Karnataka taking that position. Mr. P. Chengal Reddy, a senior farmers' leader from Andhra Pradesh were elected as Secretary General respectively.
Technical Sessions: The 2nd day i.e. on 12-12-2008, Six Technical Sessions were held. The details of themes subjects and technical experts participated are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical Session No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Name of the Dignitaries presented theme papers</th>
</tr>
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| I                     | Innovative Economic Policies and market linkages for agriculture development in 2008-2015. | Chairman Mr. Surendra Sood  
**Panel Members**  
Dr. Haque, - Ex. Chairman – CACP  
Dr. U.A.S, Mr. Anjani Sinha – ED- MCX  
Mr. Ganesan – Advisor - CIFA |
| II                    | Technologies and research priorities to achieve food security and sustainability. | Chairman Dr. Patil  
**Panel Members**  
Dr. Dhiraj Pant, Dr. Rishendra Verma, Dr. M.S. Sachdev & Mr. Bahuguna |
| III                   | Organic farming – potential for production and marketing. | Chairman Dr. Yadav  
**Panel Members**  
Mr. Basavaraj Ingin, Mr. M. Sekhar Raju & Mr. Aluvar Swamy |
| IV                    | Women farming in Indian Agriculture. | Chairman Mrs. Sushmita Soren  
**Panel Members**  
Mrs. Susheela Bai Rathod & Mrs. Parvin Kesar |
| V                     | Indian farmers – International relations. | Chairman Mr. Laurent Pellerin.  
**Panel Members**  
Mr. Deepak Ahluwalia, Mr. Dan Miller & Mr. P. Chengal Reddy. |
| VI                    | Agriculture – value addition – partnership with industry through Co-operatives. | Chairman Dr. Pathak  
**Panel Members**  
Mr. Chada & Mr. K. Somasekhar Rao |

Meanwhile, CIFA delegation of 20 farmers’ leaders of various States called on Sri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, GOI and presented memorandum for initiating necessary action on pressing demands. Among others, the following resolutions were passed on pressing issues for presenting to GOI for initiating immediate action and providing necessary funds in the 2009-2010 Budget.

A. POLICY REFORMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>SUBJECTS / ISSUES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Agriculture and Irrigation should be included in the concurrent list.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Agriculture Budget allotments should be in the line with GDP and 67% Agriculture population.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>To have a separate budget for Agriculture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Irrigation to be treated as an Infrastructure by GOI and necessary resources be provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Commodity Boards to be handed over to Farmers Associations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
1. To decentralize the Research Institution Management so as to meet the local farmers aspirations including Extension Services.

2. GOI to take responsibility of total seed replacement.

3. GOI to take charge of breed improvement to be completed in 5 years and also preserving local breed.

4. Implementations of recommendations of National Farmers Commission in a time bound program.

5. The present market interventions scheme should be automatic, whenever there is a fall in the respective commodities.

6. Aromatic and medicinal plants sector should be clubbed and brought under the Ministry of Agriculture.

7. Vermi compst, Vermi wash, Organic manures etc. should be standardized and subsidy extended on par with chemical fertilizers.

8. To provide necessary funds for above mentioned research and developmental programs.

9. M.S.P. for Agriculture products be fixed as recommended by National Farmers Commission by adopting C2 + 50%.

10. Recommendation on Tobacco
   1. Acreage under tobacco cultivation should not be reduced.
   2. Sulphate of potash should be supplied to tobacco farmers at subsidized rates.

C. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. Simple Interest of 4% be charged on all kinds of Farmers Agricultural loans.

2. Crop Insurance premium should be 1% Assessment of damage on individual basis and all risks covered.

3. Loan Waiver on two successive Crop failures.

4. Interest Waiver on one Crop failure.

5. One time investment of 80,000 crores by G.O.I. for completion of on going irrigation programmes duly approved, or provide free power.

6. Waiver of Excise duty on all Agriculture Inputs:
   a) Pesticides
   b) Veterinary – Vaccines etc
   c) Plastic and steel used for Agriculture implements / equipment, drip, drums

7. Waiver of Excise Duty high value biscuits.

8. Relief of Excise on Food processing equipment.

9. Tribal Councils in all tribal areas be empowered to provide credit on par with SHG.

10. Income tax levied on Co-operative Banks and Co-operative should be withdrawn forthwith.

11. Income tax exemption to Private Sector on investment made for Agriculture Research, Extension, Training and also infrastructure.

12. **RECOMMENDATIONS ON TOBACCO**
   1. Reduce the duty differential between cigarettes and other tobacco products.
   2. Taxes on cigarettes should be kept stable.
   3. The specific duty structure for cigarettes must be retained.
   4. Cigarettes should be exempted from the VAT regime and AED on cigarettes should continue.
D. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

1. To democratize Commodity Boards with producers farmers and Processors.
2. To evolve long term Agricultural products export policy.
3. To establish regulatory body with Farmers as members.
4. SEZ’s to acquire lands by directly negotiating with farmers. Government as a mediator.

E. ISSUES RELATED TO STATE GOVERNMENT

1. To Repeal Revenue Recovery Act for farmers dues.
2. To hold elections to Democratize Market yards.
3. To Democratize Co-operative Institutions and amend State Co-operative Act.
4. To hand over Management of Water Users Association to Farmers.
5. To have farmers representatives on the Management of Electricity Boards.

F. ISSUES TO BE PURSUED WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

1. Encourage contract farming.
2. Private agro processing industries, Sugar factories, Dairy’s to have farmers nominees of the Board of Directors.
3. Agro process industries to allot shares to its farmers.
4. Industries to take up agriculture development as social responsibility.

Conclusion:
CIFA through all these efforts in the by gone year expects the political parties to include many of the recommendations of the National farmers Commission. CIFA also expects that the new Parliament member candidates will declare their support for agriculture and farmers CIFA believes that the year 2009-10 will make the Government of India to commence the implementation of the national farmers Commission and other reports. However, the impact that has been achieved was on the top of the administrative structures and in some pockets in the field. As such there is a need to create more impact in the public through galvanizing public opinion through organizing meeting; raising awareness through publications etc.
Chapter 6

The Staffing and other issues

CIFA in view of the limited resources has gone for a combination of staffing pattern in sync with the resources. As such, the experts, except a few were being taken on a consultancy and retainer basis. These consultants will render services as and when requested and also based on their expertise and the issue at hand.

Some employees from Hyderabad are also associated with CIFA and they will be doing the consultancy job for CIFA for some more time. This arrangement is more due to the expertise gained by the said personnel over the years in being a part of the FFA and being a part of the evolution of CIFA.

However, some top personnel from various Industries and organizations like IFFCO etc are providing their services voluntarily with out charging CIFA. This is more out of passion and service minded approach towards the Indian agriculture. CIFA is suing such services mostly in lobbying and advocacy sphere.

Here with below list of people associated presently with CIFA in various capacities are presented. The persons are being governed under various terms including Consultant; Advisor and Retainer basis.

**Advisors**:  
1. Prof. Milind Murugkar  
2. Dr. Gopal Saxena, Executive Director, IFFCO  
3. Prof. Anirudh Sinh Vaghela  
4. Mr. Mahendra Joshi  
5. Mr. K. Rama Subba Reddy  
6. Mr.Kishore Shah  
7. Mr.Sanjay nath Singh  
8. Mr. Rambabu  
9. Dr. Alpas Nath Singh  
10. Mr. Ganesan  

**Consultants**:  
1. Mr.Ajay Kumar  
2. Dr. Giri  
3. Mrs. Lovelen Choudary  
4. Mr. Aluvar Swamy  
5. Mr. Jaideep Singh  
6. Mr. Sunil Khairnar  
7. Mr. Vijay Sardana  

**Persons working from FFA (Hyderabad)**:  
1. Mr. Subbaiah Chowdary  
2. Mr. Pradeep Reddy  
3. Mr. Vijay Kumar  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Expertise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economist</td>
<td>Cooperative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oil Seeds</td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Policy</td>
<td>Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agri Economy</td>
<td>WTO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>Aqua culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women Issues</td>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Extension Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Trade</td>
<td>Credit and Policy issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and other projects</td>
<td>Marketing; Donor reporting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**New Delhi Office**

1. Mr. Chengkap Reddy : Secretary General Policy - Lobbying & Advocacy
2. Mr. Kapil Mishra : Policy Analyst
3. Ms. Bharati : Administrative Officer
4. Mr. Keshav : Secretarial Assistant
5. Mr. Satya Prakash : Media
6. Mr. Rajesh Jain : Coordination
7. Mr. Rajeev Gupta : Social Mobilization
8. Mr. Ramesh : Info Exchange
9. Ms. Renu Sharma : Gender Problems

Regarding the trainings for the CIFA personnel in Delhi office; they were being brought to Hyderabad office and are being trained initially on the nuances of the farmers activity; the efforts over the years; the linkages partnerships etc. The secretarial staff of Delhi office however, is being trained by Mr. Ajay Kumar; Consultant in CIFA office of Delhi only on the issues they need to gain for the day to day working. All other trainings of the office bearers and grass roots level leaders of CIFA are being done as part of the budgeted programmes at designated places.

The new Executive committee that was elected in December is meeting once in three to four months and is reviewing the issues relating to finance; staffing requirements; infrastructure; partnerships; projects with third aprties and others. The whole list of the new Executive committee is being presented in the annex 1.
Chapter 7

Results; Conclusions and Recommendations

The activities of CIFA are based on the need of the farmers and the approaches that are designed taking into consideration the ever changing dynamics at the center and state levels with reference to the problems that evolve are left unsolved.

The activities for various organizations or states are not similar but vary according to the situation specificities and the issues and activities taken up to address those that evolve periodically ranges on a wide canvass. As such, many activities which are not initially envisaged or not there in the log frame do appear atelast as far as CIFA is concerned.

**Current FY 08 activities would be sustained:** The programmes and activities in the states are being oriented along the lines of improving livelihoods in agriculture and allied fields with many efforts already had been initiated in the present year. CIFA feels that there is much work to be done in the sphere of improving the lives of Indian farmers. The advocacy and lobbying efforts taken with strenuous efforts are beginning to bear the fruits with many of the Government organizations recognizing the efforts and accorded the status of a recognized institution representing the farmers on a comprehensive scale. CIFA wishes to utilize the mileage accorded to it and channelize it towards providing much needed succor to the farmers by way of striving for favorable policies and much needed trainings.

In addition, CIFA with the experience gained over these years in project implementation and mobilization of the Farmers and the administration of other project components, it is herewith proposed to enter into the marketing side of the agriculture while, with the Mango project being taken up in Karnataka and Tamilnadu states along with Andhra Pradesh where it is being run by FFA. The respective local associations will be dealing with the actual procurement while, overall market linkages, development of training modules linkages with universities etc to be facilitated by the CIFA.

**Farmers Groups involved**
The farmers groups are being involved directly in deciding the issues of production, price negotiation etc. Empowering the Farmers for effective participation in decision making is the main aim of CIFA. The struggles against the Minimum Support Price for Paddy etc are results of such consultations with the associations spread across the country. However, each and every group affiliated will have its own priorities and will generally ask to take up activities which are beneficial to them. In these scenarios CIFA EC will chalk the plan of action according to the priority of the issue. The issues that the EC generally take up on its own is that of the Policy formulation, research, commodity committees, credit, insurance, institutions, Industry etc which needs to be dealt at a higher echelons of the State and National governmental structures.

**Training the regional farmers associations:** CIFA was involved on providing training on HRD; productivity related issues; industry partnership; retail chain linkage; policy advocacy issues etc which are the major mandates of CIFA. These trainings will lead to economic benefit as well as process of empowerment. Incidentally, women farmers, socially underprivileged sections and tenant farmers also are being taken into account while dealing with the issues to be taken up. The trainings will cover not only issues relating to productivity but also on leadership awareness on new issues etc.
Linking with retail market chains
Linking with retail market chains for the farmers groups specially commodity producers will play a significant role in the future development of agri sector. CIFA is already initiated this activity and is planning to take up this partnership activity with the retail industry in a big way. CIFA will continue its efforts of linking the Farmers to the industry through associating the domestic commodity exchanges and procurement agencies of both public and private sector.

The partnership with industry will provide backward and forward linkages. They include understanding the consumer preferences and adopt suitable productivity changes and have access to inputs, extension and market facilities. This will be in 3 tiers of meeting the demand, viz., at the local level, regional and international level utilizing the international opportunities. To achieve all this in a systematic fashion, there is a need of sustained trainings to the related farmers and only after imparting the trainings will the farmers be able to know the nuances of the issues.

Women involvement: The role of Women in decision making activities is to be increased. The role of Women in CIFA and its activities is constantly being re assessed and it was decided to have a women set up separately and efforts for it are on the swing. It was also decided that from the next CIFA conference in December 2008 the number of Women in the EC will be increased from the present strength. Apart from all this, Women need to be involved in programmatic activities. Owing to the cultural ethos the entry of women into agri activities is less and only due to the efforts of our coordinators and the recent emergence of self Help Groups, some of them are now venturing out into the open to take up Agri activities.

Organisational Strengthening
CIFA which is a fledging organization is saddled with many organizational set up problems. The membership issues ; the fee payment; the service charges; the self sustainability etc are some of the organizational issues that CIFA has taken up as priorities for the year 2009.

The Mandate
Helping Farmers organizations to empower is all but helping them to get organized and making them articulate. Therefore, the resource poor farmers cannot get empowered if they are not organized at the local, mandal, district and regional levels. But in a country like India, where the literacy levels are low and more so in the farming community, there cannot be one organization which can have a sway over the entire community. There are different farmers organizations some very small in size and some with a considerable following helping the farmers at the grass root level. CIFA’s objective is to federate all these organisations and be a nodal agency for the grass root farmers organizations

The Membership
The Membership of CIFA comprises of many grass roots level organisations that are affiliated to CIFA as its constituent members.
**Farmers associations getting Federated:** Irrespective of the type of the Farmers organizations, the main characteristics of effective farmers organizations are those that are freely established (based on a common vision), have voluntary membership, are legally owned and controlled by persons whose benefit, accrue to members in accordance with their participation in the organizational activities. To be a viable farmers organization, the need have to be clearly defined and common goals that all the members endeavour should be decided. The viable farmers' organizations are those guided by democratic principles. They need a maturation period to function effectively, those initiated from the bottom seems to working effectively, and viable rather than those that have been decided from the top. This was the same ethos that CIFAs parental body, the FFA has been following until now.

**Bringing Farmers Associations on to a Platform**

CIFA right from its inception, has taken up the route of bringing the Farmers on to a platform along with forming new associations. The formation of new associations is not viable both economically and financially but also leads to duplication. As such to federate already formed organizations and take up new membership recruitment in the areas where the farmers are not mobilized appeared to be a viable proposition. The rippling effect that has prompted CIFA to take up federating route is manifold. This is the same successful formula of FFA that CIFA is following in a much larger scale enveloping the whole country.

**Membership Categorization:** CIFA has made the differentiation of DIRECT Membership and INDIRECT Membership to categorize the nature of membership. When the society/ Farmers Organisation / Producer Organisation was taken as a member, the core members of that organization were taken as Direct Members and the normal members as INDIRECT members.

The differentiation stemmed from the fact that the DIRECT members pay the membership fee while the indirect members may not pay the membership fee. However, there are some instances where the indirect members also has paid the fee voluntarily as a donation to CIFA but which is not mandatory.

**Activities with Farmers Associations:**

The members who come under the Direct membership category are trained and are being made as stakeholders in all the programmes devised by CIFA and implemented. These members are assumed to be TOTs (Trainer of Trainers). While some programmes are implemented directly, not all the activities of the federation may go to all the people. Moreover, at times it may not be necessary also.

The EC in its meeting has decided that these organizational activities should reflect directly in the process of evolving: Policies; Implementation; Management; Lobbying etc.

The CIFA as like other Farmers associations members have an elected body changed every three years mostly during the CIFA conference in December which is also used as a pre budget session. The EC comprises persons from its affiliate Farmers Associations. The general body meetings are conducted every year and the executive, which meets regularly, takes the major decisions. The overall administration is under the management of president / Secretary general and other office bearers.
Its activities include Participatory policy planning needed for lobbying and advocacy efforts vis a vis, the Government, bureaucrats, policy makers, public representatives and other stakeholders on issues like, credit, insurance, banking facilities for farmers, export support for farmers, The activities include member consultations, commodity committee formation, policy level support, research support, facilitation of resource persons, mobilization of farmers at the grass roots level into viable platforms and institutional building, development of training modules, holding seminars, dealing with institutions, Industry and others. The Monitoring and evaluation needed for the activities of the member organizations, hand holding, guiding, admin support, publications, and other activities will be taken up accordingly.

The cooperation of CIFA with Agriterra has started in the FY 08 and as has been told at the initial remarks; it has been a year of consolidation for CIFA thanks to the cooperation of Agriterra. CIFA, which has been working for the past four years for the cause of Farmers with the set goal of developing Indian Farmer as a knowledge worker and India as an agricultural Super Power. The efforts of CIFA are slowly moving towards an institutional phase. The CIFA will continue its endeavor in achieving its stated objective of making the farmers a knowledge worker and Indian agriculture competitive.

In its pursuit, CIFA hopes to sustain the present activities and add one to two new activities in the ensuing Financial Year or project period of April 2009 to March 2010.

**The Project Extension**

In the above scenario, a project proposal depicting all the activities envisaged has already been sent. The Executive committee of CIFA hereby requests the AGRITERRA to extend the CIFA – Agriterra cooperation programme. The budget that is probably required was also sent as part of the proposal along with the log frame for the programme. The activities that were there in the present reporting project proposal of April 2008 to March 2009 needs to be and will be continued as many of the project processes are in the mid way and have not yet reached the threshold level.
## CIFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone No./ Fax/E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shri Basavraj Tambake</td>
<td>President, Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA), Karnataka Rajya Raith Sangh At/PO-Talmadgi, Taluk Humnabad District Bidar, KARNATAKA.</td>
<td>08483-279828, Mobile: 09448349823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shri P. Chengal Reddy</td>
<td>Secretary General Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA), Flat No.209, Vijaya Towers, Shanti Nagar, Hyderabad- 500028.</td>
<td>040-23319643, 66665191, Fax: 040 23378046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Indian_farmers_federation@yahoo.com">Indian_farmers_federation@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shri Sanat Mehta</td>
<td>Ex-Chairman - CIFA Gujarat Kapas Utpadak Hate Rakshak, Atyoday Bhavan, Opp. Railway Police Parade Ground, Raopura, VADODARA-390001 GUJARAT.</td>
<td>0265-2431383, 2423282, 2653155 (R), M: 09825046722 Fax:0265-2420838 <a href="mailto:svs@d2visp.com">svs@d2visp.com</a> <a href="mailto:svsbrd@igra.net">svsbrd@igra.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shri K. Prabhakar Reddy</td>
<td>Convener, National Sugarcane Commodity Committee, Indergiri Colony, Alampalli Road, Vikarabad, Rangareddy District, A.P.</td>
<td>08416-252060, M: 09440001614, 09866399706 <a href="mailto:kprfarmersfederation@yahoo.co.in">kprfarmersfederation@yahoo.co.in</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shri Yerneni Nagendranath</td>
<td>President, Rythanga Samakhy, Village Kondur, Post Kondur, Via Kaikalur, Krishna Dist., A.P.</td>
<td>Mobile: 09849559955, Fax 08674 243071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Shri K. Somashekar Rao</td>
<td>Ethonda Post, Kotuir (MAW), Nizamabad District, A.P.</td>
<td>08467-286264, Mobile: 09440546228, 040 2316186, <a href="mailto:kotha_somashekar@yahoo.com">kotha_somashekar@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Shri Sivaram Prasad Gadde</td>
<td>General Secretary, Federation of Farmers Associations, A.P. Tobacco Growers &amp; Welfare</td>
<td>Ph: 08645 243163, Mbe 9849874567, 98105 94029, Fax 08643 243149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Shri Lal Shankar Upadhyay, Gujarat</td>
<td>President, Gujarat Khedut Samaj Farmers Organization, C/27, Navjivan Society, 1st Floor, Dahej by Pass Road, Bharuch, GUJARAT.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aska_farmers@yahoo.com">aska_farmers@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Mr. Vipinchandra Bhai Patel, Gujarat</td>
<td>Vice-President, Gujarat Khedut Samaj Farmers Organization, 12/A, Vallabhnagar Society, Opp. Mental Hospital, Karelibaug Baroda GUJARAT.</td>
<td>0265-2425841, 0266 62464780,232346 Mobile: 9426066750 Fax:0265-2338664 <a href="mailto:btcindia2001@yahoo.com">btcindia2001@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Shri Gurudayal Singh Malik, Haryana</td>
<td>Kissan Vikas Club, Kurukshestra, President, Village &amp; Post- Umri, Distric Kurukshestra-136131, HARYANA.</td>
<td>01744-278215 Mobile: 098120 80465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Smt. Kesar Parveen, Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Legal Advisor, Aromatic Medical Plants Growers Associations, W/o Shri Sham Gorkha, Village-Jinder Melhu, (P) R.S. Pura, Dist. Jammu, JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR.</td>
<td>01923-206325, 2543442 <a href="mailto:thakurrandhirSingh1@yahoo.co.in">thakurrandhirSingh1@yahoo.co.in</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Contact Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Shri Sivanand Gurumat</td>
<td>E.C. Member, CIFA, At-Post-Alaadakati, Taluk-Haveri, District-Haveri-581110 KARNATAKA.</td>
<td>08375-233508 Mobile: 09448786675 Fax 08227 260439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Smt. Sushilabai Bhai Rathod</td>
<td>Plot No. 67, Ashwini Nilay, Janki Nagar, Kedan Road, District-Gulberga, KARNATAKA.</td>
<td>Mobile: 09972156736, 09743037963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Shri Siby J. Monipally</td>
<td>Advocate, 6B, J.M. Manor, Sastha Temple Road, Kaloori, Cochin-682017, KERALA.</td>
<td>0484-2538988, 0482-2243081, Mobile: 09447038988 <a href="mailto:monipallymark@rediffmail.com">monipallymark@rediffmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:sibyjm@bsnl.in">sibyjm@bsnl.in</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Shri Leela Dhar Rajput</td>
<td>President, Kranti Kisan Parishad, Madhya Pradesh, S/o Shri C.S. Rajput, Village-Suparli, Post-Dolariya, District-Hoshangabad-461116 MADHYA PRADESH.</td>
<td>Mobile: 09424437386, 09827514818 Fax 07572 240021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Shri Raghunath Ramachandra Patil</td>
<td>Shetkari Sangathana, At/Post-Sakharale, Taluk-Walva, District-Sangli, MAHARASHTRA.</td>
<td>02342-269029, Mobile: 09422406188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Shri Satnam Singh Behru</td>
<td>S/o Shri Foza Singh, All India Farmers Association, Member, Village-Behru, Taluk-Behru, District-Patiala (PUNJAB).</td>
<td>Mobile: 09888072753, 9814149077 Fax: 0175-5000830</td>
</tr>
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<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Shri A.M. Raja</td>
<td>Bikaner, RAJASTHAN.</td>
<td>President, CIFA, Tamilnadu, Raja Farm, Aiyampalayam &amp; Post, Kavidiapadi(Via), District Erode –638455, TAMILNADU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Shri K.V. Rajkumar</td>
<td>Tamilnadu.</td>
<td>General Secretary, Tamilnadu Sugar Cane Farmers Society T.V. Malai (TASFASOTV Malai), 17/A, C.C. Road, Polur District Thiruvannamalai -606803 TAMILNADU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Shri R.V. Giri</td>
<td>Tamilnadu.</td>
<td>General Secretary, CIFA, Tamilnadu, Melpalaiyur, Cuddalore Dt,Tamilnadu. 606110.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Shri S. Thanikachalam</td>
<td>Tamilnadu.</td>
<td>President, Horticulture Crops Growers Association Federation, (HORTIFED), Dist. Cuddalore -607401, TAMILNADU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Shri G. Ajeethan</td>
<td>Tamilnadu.</td>
<td>Joint Secretary, CIFA, Tamilnadu, 24/13, Agraharam Street, Mohanur Post, Namakkal District, TAMILNADU-637015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Shri Kanan Pillai</td>
<td>Tamilnadu.</td>
<td>Secretary, CIFA, Tamilnadu, Omappuliur Road, Tumanarkudi (P), Chithaambaram Taluk, District Cuddalore, TAMILNADU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Shri S. Yoganathan</td>
<td>Tamilnadu.</td>
<td>Secretary, CIFA- Tamilnadu, Embavai, Manai, Madras-Post, Sirkali-609106, TAMILNADU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Shri A. Ramaswami</td>
<td>Tamilnadu.</td>
<td>Vice-President, L.B.P. Farmers Federation, 49V, Shakti Complex, Mettur Road, Erode-638011 Tamilnadu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Shri Yogesh Kumar Dahiya</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh.</td>
<td>S/o Shri Mahavir Singh, Farmers Farm Saharanpur, President, (V)-Sawalpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Contact Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Shri Ullas Menon</td>
<td>Secretary General, UPASI Glenview, Coonoor 643101, Nilgiris, TAMILNADU.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Permanent Invitee)</td>
<td>M: 09842230460, Fax: 0423-2232030, <a href="mailto:upasi@sancharnet.in">upasi@sancharnet.in</a>, <a href="mailto:sp@upasi.org">sp@upasi.org</a></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tamilnadu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Shri Gopal Saxena</td>
<td>Executive Director, IFFCO Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Permanent Invitee)</td>
<td>IFFCO Sadan, C-1, District Centre, Saket Place, NEW DELHI-110017.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>011-42592626, 011-42592609, 011-26519824, Fax: 26475035, M: 09810199834,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:gnsaxena@iffco.nic.in">gnsaxena@iffco.nic.in</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Shri Kishan Jakhad</td>
<td>Khait Khalilhan Morcha Village: Sangaria, Post : Hetrampur, Dhanban Tehil,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Special Invitee)</td>
<td>Hanumangarh-335063, RAJASTHAN.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>01499-250555, 01499-250468, 01499-280444, M: 09414091200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Shri Thakur Randhir</td>
<td>Former Minister, National President, Aromatic Plants Growers Association of India,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Singh (Special Invitee)</td>
<td>298, E.P. Flat, Wazarat Rd, Jammu Tawi 180001, JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>0191-2543442, Mobile: 09419192677</td>
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</tbody>
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### ANNEXURE 2

**DEMANDS’ SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE UNION BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2009-2010**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & CO-OPERATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Position</th>
<th>Demand by CIFA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of 1) National Commission on farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan made specific recommendations for accelerated development of farm and non-farm sectors. 2) He has also recommended allocation of Funds for each development activity in the Budget. 3) The GOI even after laps of 2 years failed to allocate funds and diluted recommendations by releasing a in-effective National Farmers Policy-2008.</td>
<td>1) All recommendations made by National Commission on farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan be implemented immediately by allocating funds for each development activity in the Budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixing MSP for various Agricultural Commodities.</td>
<td>1) Recommendations of various Committees under Costs of Cultivation Scheme be implemented and all costs actually incurred by farmers taken into consideration while computing costs at grass root level. 2) CACP to be made an autonomous Institution as suggested by above Committees. 3) The Whole system be reviewed, transparent procedures, methodology evolved and CACP strengthened by making it more Farmers representatives including women by Statutory status and storage is not in conformity with the cost index. 4) MSP should be all costs actually incurred by Farmers by adding working against the interests of farmers minimum 50% of it i.e. (C2+Minimum) 5) There is no relevance between the costs actually incurred by Farmers, the data obtained by field assistants, computed by Agricultural Universities, State Governments, Directorate of Economics Statistics, analysed by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and finally fixed by GOI. 6) MSP be increased proportionately whenever agricultural inputs prices are increased by taking into cost of index. 7) The MSP fixed by GOI is only Political Support Price (PSP) but not based on the data obtained from various sources, harvests reach markets as the case of salaries of employees of various sectors. 8) According to Govt. sources Rs.1 hike in diesel price increases the cultivation cost by Rs.100 per hectare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Training be imparted to agricultural graduates, progress farmers and seed societies for producing quality seed.

9. Farmers' institutions, NGOs and other private organizations be encouraged for seed production with incentive packages for seed producers and distributors.

10. National policy on soil health be revised to regulate soil testing laboratories in the presence of farmers.

3. Mobile soil testing laboratories be introduced and soil tests made available at the different places of farmers.

1. National policy on soil health should be such that soil testing laboratories are easily accessible to farmers.

2. Budget allocations of Rs. 75 crores made during the current fiscal year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research &amp; Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The research and development failed to produce short term duration and drought and flood resistant varieties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. No plan of action for producing required quantities of breeder, foundation and certified seed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Priority be assigned for development and supply of High Yielding and Hybrid Varieties. |
| Development of varieties suitable for Rainfed/Limited Irrigation condition be ensured. |
| Development of storage structures and control of storage pests be ensured. |
| Rodent control technologies be developed and implemented. |
| The research institutes should honour its primary responsibility and develop elite germplasm and release high yielding varieties regularly. |

| Transfer of improved production technologies remain as most neglected component and consequently the benefit of system approach rather than a single crop approach. |
| Dissemination of improved technologies from lab to land consumes long time and adoption by Farmers is not ensured. |

| Emphasis be given on a cropping approach. |
| Improved crop production technologies be propagated based on agro-climatic zones through demonstrations on Farmers fields and organizing training programmes for Farmers including women. |
| Quick dissemination of knowledge on improved technologies be ensured. |
| Aggressive transfer of production technologies be ensured through Frontline demonstrations and Block demonstrations involving SDA, KVKs, NGOs, SAUs and private sectors. |
| Bottom up approach of technology development and dissemination by
1) Agriculture labour shortage is a major production constraint in completing sowing and harvesting operations in time.
2) Urban migration for better jobs and physical drudgery involved in culture practices driving away the workforce.
3) Traditional culture practices consume more man hours and also physical drudgery on the part of both labour and animals.

1) Innovative bullock and power drawn modern implements be invented and introduced for timely completion of sowing and harvesting operations.
2) The agricultural implements be provided with 75% subsidy without ceiling on subsidy amount.
3) Agricultural implements be made available for customs service through village panchayats, co-operatives, self help groups.

Insurance

1) The premium collected on crop insurance ranges from 2% to 7% by Govt. as in the case of other countries.
2) Procedures adopted for indemnifying losses are against the interest of farmers.
3) The premium be reduced, subsidizing interest if any payable after due date.
4) In the case of automobile and industrial sector actual loss is indemnified and in the case of agriculture 5 years average yield is adopted.
5) The village is not adopted as unit.
6) The insurance claims are not settled in time and farmers are required to pay extra interest on the loans borrowed.
7) In other countries the premium is subsidized and farmers remote sensing technology be applied.

Agriculture

1) Reach to the fields very poor.
2) The agri-extension services be strengthened at Grampanchayat level.
3) Multiple jobs to attend and therefore no focus on [Local Govt.] by competent officer.
4) Professionalism and specialization – sometimes unsuitable for special crop extension services.
5) No knowledge / skills on markets and their operations.
6) No knowledge / exposure of private sector inputs / products.
7) Mobility and communication not optimal the case may be, be employed by the Grampanchayat.
8) Most of the precious time lost in data collection, meetings, etc.
9) Most countries in the world have an effective extension system.
10) GOI is not taking interest in Extension.

Unfortunately we have not got any computer with agri-information Network to provide online market and crop related information.
6) CDs and DVDs on relevant crop practices be made available in all libraries.
7) The financial support for maintaining the Libraries be provided by the GOI.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>keting</th>
<th>Market yards are managed by committees nominated by the Government with local politicians traders and middle-men affiliated to the party in power.</th>
<th>Market yards be managed by farmers who grow crops and utilize the services of Market Yards. The Committee be formed by election with stake holders.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i)</td>
<td>No proper accounting of arrivals and sales.</td>
<td>Innovative electronic equipment be introduced for accounting arrivals and sales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii)</td>
<td>Non-functioning electronic weighing machines.</td>
<td>The arrivals in the market yards be weighed with electronic machinery only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv)</td>
<td>Market yards' labour domination results in excess expenditure and waste of produce.</td>
<td>Labour domination be checked. Option be provided to farmer to handle with his produce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v)</td>
<td>Traders form into syndicate and create an atmosphere for distress sale of commodities.</td>
<td>Minimum support price be fixed by market. Auction be conducted transparently. Video graph carried out during auction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii)</td>
<td>No proper storage and cold storage facilities.</td>
<td>Storage and cold storage facilities be provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viii)</td>
<td>No pledge loan facilities.</td>
<td>Pledge loan facilities be provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ix)</td>
<td>Commission is collected at 8 to 10 percent.</td>
<td>Cess collection system be tightened. Sale accounted for with innovative electronic devices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x)</td>
<td>Receipts are issued on white paper.</td>
<td>Permanent official printed receipts be issued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xii)</td>
<td>In the name of grading and quality 1 to 2% cut is imposed on quantity of the produce.</td>
<td>No cut be imposed on the quantity of produce by the Farmer to market yard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xiii)</td>
<td>No scientific equipment for grading or testing quality.</td>
<td>Scientific equipment be introduced for grading and testing quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xiv)</td>
<td>No waiting or resting facilities to farmers in the market yards.</td>
<td>Waiting and resting facilities be provided to farmers in market yards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xv)</td>
<td>Accountability and liability be fixed on officials who violate the rules in force.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1) Breed improvement be taken up on war footing has
2) A National Policy be evolved to improve breed under a
3) Import of quality semen be allowed freely.

1) Whenever the farmers are affected by natural calamities, neither the State Government nor Central Government is coming to the rescue of farmers and out of the above providing instant relief. 2) The Farmers Welfare Fund be operated by an autonomous agency constituted by the agriculture is State subject and the State farmers. Government blames GOI for not releasing funds. 3) Funds be collected for Farmers Welfare Fund. 4) Farmers Welfare Fund will reduce burden of State and Central Governments from charging such expenditures from Budget of respective Governments. 5) The relief and rehabilitation to the affected farmers can be extended out of the above fund.

1) The Governments are acquiring valuable Agricultural lands for Organizing SEZs, Export Zones and establishing major industries.
2) The farmers are not paid proper compensation when the lands are acquired.
3) No rehabilitation package is extended to farmers.
4) In such situations rural folk are forced to migrate to towns and cities.

1) The crucial policies for agricultural development and financial resources are handled by Government.
2) However agriculture is in the State List.
3) 67% total population depend on agriculture and contribute 20% to GDP.
4) GOI allocates negligible funds to agriculture sector less than 5%.

1) Agriculture subject be included in current list and separated from financial resources are handled by Government.
2) A separate Union Budget be presented for agriculture and all funds on par with farmers population.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

 Provision Agriculture credits.
The realistic Agriculture Credit requirements would be as under:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>(Rs. in Crores)</th>
</tr>
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1) All Agricultural holdings in the Country be tagged on to one of the Banks located in the area, prov
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>RAINFED CROPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Average minimum cost of cultivation for rainfed crops is estimated at Rs.10,000 per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>Cropped area under rainfed conditions – 30 crore acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>Total credit requirement 30 crore acres x Rs.10,000 = 30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2.</th>
<th>IRRIGATED CROPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Average minimum cost of cultivation for irrigated commercial crops is estimated at Rs.20,000 per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>Cropped area under irrigated conditions – 20 crore acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>Total credit requirement 20 crore acres x Rs.20,000 = 400,000</td>
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<tr>
<th>3.</th>
<th>RAINFED LAND DEVELOPMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>10% of 30 crore acres i.e. 3 crore acres for irrigation and land development per year (Term Loans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>If 5 acres is assumed as command area under each unit of well / bore well, the total units will be (3 crore acres divided by 5 acres = 60,000,000 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>If term loan of Rs.50,000 is assumed per unit, the credit requirement would be 30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be 60,00,000 units x</td>
<td>Rs. 50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Animal husbandry activities</td>
<td>2,70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>10,00,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

e) But the GOI is allocating only ¼ of the requirements.

1) Different Banks are charging different rates of interest ranging from 7% to 14% on Agricultural Loans.
2) Lesser interest is charged on housing and Industrial Loans.
3) Agriculture is in priority sector and hence lesser rate of interest is required to be charged on Agriculture Loans.
4) The National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan recommended 4% rate of Interest on Agriculture Loans.
5) The Banks are charging compound interest, service and other charges etc.
6) The banks are insisting no due certificates from farmers.

1) Interest free agriculture loans, without collecting any service and other charges provided.
2) Instructions be issued to banks for not insisting no due certificates from farmer.
3) Adequate credit must be provided to farmers.
4) The practice of charging higher rate interest after due date be scrapped in the case of agricultural loans.

Waiver of total loans on failure of two crops or failure of two crops and failure on one crop.

1) Failure of two consecutive crops either in dry or irrigated conditions will cause irreversible damage to the family of the farmer.
2) The agricultural activity is spread over long term.
3) It is not possible under any circumstances to recoup the loss. The Crop Insurance Schemes in principle and interest in the case of very place are against the interest of Farmers.
4) Re-scheduling of crop loans is not beneficial to the farmer as he cannot increase the production or crop loss.
5) Therefore the farmer cannot repay the losses sustained in two years.

1) Agricultural debt waiver and debt relief scheme, 2008 has not provided anticipate to the family of the farmer.
2) All outstanding Agriculture Loans and the farmers not only invest money but also their own family labour.
3) It is not possible under any circumstances.
4) Interest be waived in the case of or the farmer as he can not increase the production or crop loss.
5) Therefore the farmer cannot repay the losses sustained in two years.

Accepting agricultural lands and Rural properties as collateral security by Banks.

1) The banks are not accepting agricultural lands.
2) The banks are insisting Urban properties as collateral security for sanctioning Rural Agricultural based Industrial loans.
3) The agricultural lands and rural properties are also valuable as in the case of Urban properties.

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3) The agricultural lands and rural properties are also valuable as in the case of Urban properties.

Natural Calamities and Relief

1) The Agricultural Sector is contributing major share to the GDP.
2) Whenever the farmers are affected Acts and Rules.
by crop losses due to Natural2. The roles of GOI and State Calamities, the GOI is not providing Governments be specified without any instant relief and rehabilitation, scope for ambiguity in providing relief to 3) The loss suffered by farmers and the affected farmers, assessed by Indian Administrative3. The state governments be made Service (IAS), officers are not accepted responsible for providing instant relief and by GOI rehabilitation out of their own funds and 4) Deputation of Junior IAS Officers of GOI for verifying crop losses assessed by Senior IAS Officers of State Governments is time consuming and no purpose is served. 5) In the name of GOI teams visit the State Governments are reluctant to extend instant relief and rehabilitation to the affected farmers. 6) The state governments are of the opinion that the GOI should come to the rescue of farmers and the GOI is of the opinion that agriculture is state subject and they should provide instant relief to the affected farmers without waiting for GOI grants.

1. Excise duty on all agriculture inputs. 
2. It will help in conserving water.
3. The cost of cultivation is enormously increased.
4. Income Tax exemption be provided to Private Sector on investment in agriculture research, extension, training and infrastructure.

Income Tax exemption on investments for Agriculture research, Extension, Training and infrastructure by Private Sector.

1) The performance of Commodity Boards has not been satisfactory during the past 2 decades due to progressive lack of professionalism on market intelligence on2) The Board of Management be constituted with the part of CEOs, professionals.
3) Small Countries like Gouthamala & Vietnam has taken India in production and marketing of exclusive Commodity Board for chilies be constituted.
pepper and cardamom. 3) China & Mozambic have over taken India in production and marketing of tobacco.

1) Government is importing Wheat, Sugar, Spices and other commodities at a very high cost. Agricultural Commodities. 2) Government is importing Wheat even though there was huge stock within the Country. Strictly adhered. 3) The Import Policies are arbitrary. Farmers Associations are not consulted. be constituted to fix import duties. 4) The import of spices from Sri Lanka has caused huge losses to spice farmers obtained regarding import & export of Agricultural Commodities. 5) The free trade agreements on edible oils have not taken Indian farmers interest in to consideration.

6) There is no long term export & import policies on agricultural commodities. 7) Import duties are levied arbitrarily.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

1) All professional subjects are included in school except Agriculture. School education with a view to attract youth towards Agriculture. 2) Agriculture is also a professional subject. Agriculltural profession. 3) The drop-outs at school level find it difficult to take-up agriculture in absence of such facility in schools. 4) Such drop outs migrate to towns and cities.

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

1) 55% of dry land farmers are dependent on rains. which are highly unpredictable and are causing difficulties to farmers. 2) The ground water user farmers be provided free electricity to 3) The farmers depending on groundwater are completing on going irrigation projects be provided. investing Rs.1.5 to Rs. 2 lacs on bore-well and pump set.

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

1) All lands in the country be provided with irrigation which are highly unpredictable and are causing difficulties to farmers. 2) The ground water user farmers be provided free electricity to 3) The farmers depending on groundwater are completing on going irrigation projects be provided. investing Rs.1.5 to Rs. 2 lacs on bore-well and pump set.

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

1) We have adopted democratic Form of Governance under a written constitution. The word “SOCIALIST” is included in the preamble of our constitution of India. 2) The Supreme Court in their Judgment in respect of SCC 305, 325 and 326 of 1983 (D.S. Nakara Verses Union of India) has defined the meaning and scope of Word “Socialist” which was introduced in the preamble by the 42nd amendment of the constitution vide Act of 1976. 3) The basic frame work of “Socialism” is to provide a decent standard of life to the working people and especially provide security from
| cradle to grave. | 4) To provide economic equality and equitable distribution of income. | 5) But, the farmers' suicides across the country in lakhs, clearly indicate that the Government both Central and State have failed to fulfill the above constitutional obligations. |

| 1) Local self Governance Under Constitutional Amendment 73 of 1993, i.e., 11th Schedule (Article 243 G) the Local Government i.e., Gram Panchayat is to be devolved with certain powers (29 Subjects) i.e., Agriculture, Agriextension, Minor Irrigation and Water Management etc., | 1) All the 29 Subjects which are listed under 11th Schedule (Article 243 G) be devolved Amendments and devolved powers onto the Gram Panchayats and necessary funds be made available. |