FARMERS-DEMAND …
… EQUITABLE & INCLUSIVE GROWTH

BRIDGING - “BHARAT” & “INDIA”...
...“FARMER” & “TECHNOLOGY”

CONSORTIUM OF INDIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS (CIFA)

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10TH NATIONAL FARMERS CONFERENCE
CIFA MANDATE TO FARMERS OF INDIA - 2014-2019

What Farmers Demand from Nation:

Short and Long Term Security
The very nature of our profession is very risky. Year-on-Year we face the nature's wrath and incur huge losses. We hence need:
1. Guaranteed income, education & health facilities for our families.
2. Risk mitigation in our profession and facilities in our old age.
3. Credit and crop insurance to be provided to all farmers and tenant farmers.

Ideas Produced by CIFA's Think Tank for Farmers' Empowerment and Progress

1. Policies - Separate Agriculture Budget
There should be a "Separate Agriculture Budget" in the Parliament and State Assemblies. It will contain equitable budgetary allocations, adopt policies that will empower the farmers and get the results perceived to us. It will enable us to evaluate our progress.
2. Implementation of National Farmers commission report
Implement NFC Report to get minimum support Price at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production, to provide timely and adequate supply of credit, the basic requirement of small farm families and to establish an Agriculture Risk Fund to provide relief to farmers in the aftermath of successive natural calamities.
3. Comprehensive Long Term Export & Import Policies
Long term comprehensive export & import policies to be established to encourage farmers to produce more food grains like pulses, oil seeds and cereals, other commercial crops, animal husbandry and fisheries.
4. Recognised Farmers Associations
Farmers Associations across the country will have Elections & the elected bodies should be recognized by the Governments. The Panchayats, water users, cooperatives to be democralized.
5. Investments on Irrigation Projects and Linking of Rivers
The highest priority is to establish a "National Water Authority" similar to "National Irrigation Authority" to mobilize resources for time bound completion of 400 pending irrigation projects and linking of rivers as directed by Supreme Court in India.
6. Use of Technology & Mechanization in Farming
The physical drudgery faced by a farm woman is an insult to human dignity.

What do we need?
1. Total mechanization
2. Water conservation through cement lining.
3. Drip irrigation by providing water through volume metric quantity on cost basis.
4. Animal husbandry must be an integrated activity to every farmer.
5. Information Technology should be used for extension services, and remote sensing for crop evaluation.
6. Farming Practice Mechanization, Rural Godowns, Cold Storages, Food-Processing units should be encouraged to curtail wastages and crop losses.
7. The policies of modern technologies & private investments including FDI which are currently implemented in other industry - manufacturing, Retail, Infrastructure, nuclear and defense domains must be provided in the farm sector.

We can then reap the following benefits:
1. It will permanently solve problems of 330 million farmers in the rain-fed areas thus cultivating 40 million hectares.
2. It will increase productivity of all crops, make self-sufficient in oil seeds and pulses.
3. It will stop migration of small farmers, landlords, labors to towns and cities.
4. It will solve mal-nutrition problem which is a major concern in our nation.
5. It will create employment and stop suicides.
6. It will indirectly lead to huge industrial goods productivity.
7. Research & Access to Latest Technologies
Every year there is a loss of over Rs. 1, 30,000/ - crore due to pests, diseases, weeds, drought, floods, heat and cold wave and salinity. These issues must be solved by adopting the technologies of Genetics, Nanotechnology and bio-medical methods. Productivity is stagnated in all crops except BT Cotton and few hybrid vegetables. Technology research must be encouraged through public & private with due care taken in its evaluation. Technology should be easily accessible to farmers at affordable price.
8. Liberalizing Markets, Promoting Partnerships & Leveraging the Industry
1. Producer groups should be encouraged and guided in partnering with processing input, industries, retailers and exporters to develop long-term contract farming.
2. Building a trusted brand image for INDIA is the key to earn a place in the International markets.
3. Adjusting to the constantly changing consumers' needs requires in-depth understanding of consumer behavioral and spending patterns. To address this, industry and Farmer Interactive Sessions and Workshops with advice from experts should be made institutional.
4. The CIFA activities by all the Industries must spend 50 % on farmer's knowledge building, health & education.
5. Networking & Lobbying
Commodity (Producers) groups will be in the forefront of consolidating the farmers Unions. Water/ Electricity users, Cooperatives, farmers companies, dairy, fisheries, sheep-rearers,normals, and tenants will be worked at different levels and linked with the State & National Committees.

The task of each group is to sensitize their M.Ps, M.L.As, and persuade them to take up these issues with political, administrative and judicial institutions. These groups will deal with productivity issues in the village, negotiate with processing industry, monitor the markets and pursue the policies.

They will also participate in ACP, Planning Commission & Pre-Budget meetings so also World Bank, FAO & others. They will monitor working of FC & CII. They will keep a watch on their programs, their implementation and the results thereof.

Role of CIFA
1. It will endeavor to enlarge the membership and consolidate the Association.
2. It will provide administrative facilities and will train the leaders on HRD, Advocacy and other issues.
3. It will act as a calyx in the unification of the associations by building consensus and resolving disputes among them.
4. It will strive to make farmers as knowledge workers.
5. It will encourage commodity trading & work towards long term export policies.
6. It will fight for the removal of essential commodities act, restrictions on inter-state movements and other trade issues that hamper free market economy.
7. It will monitor WTO so as to make it an opportunity.
8. It will build relation with international farmers and arrange for "Farmers Exchange Programs" by developing agriculture tourism and experience sharing.

CIFA will be a TRUSTED FRIEND, PHILOSOPHER & GUIDE to the FARMERS of INDIA

Permissions & Approvals:
1. Registration under societies Government of NCT, Delhi: 5-535/08 of 2008
2. Income Tax PAN number: AAAC6591N
3. IT exemption under section 80G
4. FCRA No: 2316612777 (Social)

Prelude

The Incredible India
India is reckoned as a global economic power with 6 Lane-Roads, 5 Star Hotels, World-Class Airports, Indian CEO's heading MNC's, Unmanned Rockets reaching the Moon, 400 million Middle-Class, One million Military, 250 million tons of Food Production and Public Distribution System (PDS) for all the Poor People and many more.

The Other Side of Bharath – Betrayed & Pitiable State of Farmers
Inspite of all these advancements, we, the 600 million farmers are a very unhappy lot. We are continuously betrayed by policy makers, exploited by the organized sector, neglected by the intellectuals and orphaned by the media. The illiteracy, language barriers, policy vacuum and social divisions have kept us caged. We have neither security nor growth, we at best are doomed slaves of the organized sector.

Our Pledge

Farmers Will Be United As One Family, One Voice
Consortium of Indian farmers associations (CIFA) is a beacon to 600 million farmers across India, touching 5 lakh villages of sub-continent encompassing women, tenants, tribals, nomads, landless laborers and articans.

Our Commitment
We, farmers collectively pledge and commit:
1. To the Rest of the Nation - Guaranteed supply of sufficient and quality food.
2. To the Policy Makers - Achieving 5% annual growth.
3. To the Industry - Sufficient quality raw material to enable produce finished goods of international standards.
4. To the Exporters - Assistance to make them internationally competitive and reputed.

CIFA's Proclamation
On the eve of 10th the National Farmers Conference CIFA proclaims its mandate and ask the Nation to do Justice to the farmers by providing them economic equity on par with organized sectors. Even though we were neglected by way of meager resources, lack of technologies, restrictions on markets etc, we continue to provide to this nation the much-needed food security. But the nation's neglect has made us feel orphaned.
We hence demand a rightful share in the fruits of National development which were denied to us for 67 years since Independence.