Empowering the Indian Farmers

Strengthening of Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA)

Submitted by

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Part I

India has one of the largest and most complex agricultural systems in the world, with more than a century of organized application of science to agriculture. A proactive policy by the government toward agricultural research and education coupled with support from a number of bilateral and multilateral donors has produced an institutionally diverse research systems and achieved production most notably the Green Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s. The country commands a strong position in world markets for some commodities.

However, notwithstanding the achievements that the Indian agriculture had in the past, the agriculture system in India, as a whole, must now address a more complex and expanding agenda of sustaining natural resources, enhancing product quality, and ensuring food safety, in addition to increasing household food and nutritional security and reducing poverty. These new challenges require a rematching of needs with resources, and a reorientation of research, policies etc. A redirection of policies and strategy in terms of the 550 million farmers engaged in agriculture, research activities needed, extension facilities, productivity, marketing, support price, exports etc need to be made which must be in tune with national and international developments, situations and markets.

The reforms and the economic growth accelerated in all the sectors have unfortunately not traversed to the agriculture sector. The economic reforms were not targeted towards agriculture, and in fact liberalization of the agricultural sector has lagged behind that of most other sectors. During last two decades the help offered to farm sector has been cosmetic and no effort has been made to bring about structural changes in the policies of Government on agriculture. In fact the policy makers are not clear about the ground realities

Introduction

New challenges prowling around: The increasing role of markets, growing participation of the private sector in research, rapid advances in science, and strengthening of intellectual property rights have a significant bearing on the organization and management of agricultural both off and on the filed. The Indian system has also reached a stage where it must address ‘second-generation problems’ relating to organizational rigidities, inefficiencies, and difficulties in sustaining funding. These issues are particularly important in an era of a liberalizing economy, India’s entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), and a tightening of the public purse.

Farmer Empowerment process: The age old adage that Indian agriculture is successful and Indian farmers suffer proves that the Indian Farmer is not empowered to demand his share in cultivation. The hapless condition of the farmers stems from the state of no or nil bargaining power.

The empowerment process is all about helping farmers to get organized. Therefore, the resource poor farmer cannot be empowered if they do not have an organization that can represent them at the local, district, state and national level. However, the farmer
groups at various levels in the bottom will be fragile if they do not structure at the higher levels. Equally, the higher levels will be fragile if the grass roots farmers’ organisations are not empowered, trained and comprehensively representative.

**Need for a national organization of farmers which takes up policy issues:**
India, over the years had a vacuum at the national level with the lack of a viable organization which intends to work along with the Government on policy issues relating to agriculture. There were no efforts of doing lobbying and advocacy on a sustained scale on issues relating to agriculture. In addition, a platform which is comprehensive in terms of covering the whole farmers of India is absent. The CIFA intends to create a platform which does not confine only to activism but strive to create a congenial and favorable policy making atmosphere towards the farmer policies.

One other reason for a comprehensive federation at the national level stems from the diversity of crops grown across diverse areas of the country. India has a variety of crops grown in irrigated and rainfed areas. Rice, wheat, jowar, maize and bajra are the major foodgrains. Oilseed, sugarcane, cotton and jute are the important cash crops. Likewise, tea and coffee are important plantation crops. India’s agricultural production systems also include a wide range of horticultural crops. Rice is widely grown in Southern, Eastern and Northeastern states. Wheat is mainly grown in Punjab and Haryana. Jowar and Bajra are important foodgrains in dryland areas. Assam and West Bengal are famous for tea, whereas Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are coffee and coconut producing states.

In this scenario, nothing less than a national level presence of an organization will help the farmers and the agriculture as a whole to derive any feasible benefit from the efforts. As such, the partnership with industry is critical for production, marketing and export and it needs to be there on a pan India presence and deal all the crops and commodities and markets.

**Genesis of CIFA**
Feeling with a strong desire and objective to unite the farmers as there is an immediate need to organize the farmers and make them speak in one voice so that the policy makers can hear their woes, the **Federation of Farmers Associations** was started in the year 1998. In the years to follow until 2004, the Federation of Farmers Association has organized 600 Farmers’ Associations in Andhra Pradesh. The Federation has held several interactive meetings of the member-Associations and seminars and attempted to provide technical advice to the farmers through the member Associations by taking experts to the fields.

After achieving considerable success in Andhra Pradesh with the formation of more than 600 farmer’s organizations at the village level which formed a stable base for FFA AP, it was thought that the same efforts if emulated at the national level with all the states contributing their mite, it will augur well for the farmers.

**CIFA evolved in 2004**
Against this background, in the year 2004 the like minded people and organizations involved in taking up policy issues relating to agriculture in different parts of India have come forward for the establishment of a platform which can provide a unified voice for the farmers.

In 2004 with the logistic support of Agriterra – the Netherlands and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), FFA initiated efforts to start the consortium at the national level. FFA has initially started the operations with the Federation of farmers Associations
which were already in operation in many of the states like Karnataka, Rajasthan and the national level farmers organizations like Upasi, Maha Grapes of Maharashtra, etc were made to come together to get united under a unified umbrella of farmers organisations under the name of Consortium of Farmers Associations.

CIFA over the last two years

The Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations during the last two years of its existence took up intensive lobbying with the Policy making organizations, senior bureaucrats and Members of Parliament on matters pertaining to Policies affecting farm sector and the need to give representation to farmers associations on policy making bodies.

CIFA with its head quarters in the country capital New Delhi has organized various workshops, seminars, and conferences on the farmers and had a one-to-one direct interaction with policy makers, panel of ministers, bureaucrats, industry, corporates etc.

CIFA and its activities: CIFA, the umbrella organization of many Farmers Federations in states intends to take up macroeconomic and sectoral policy issues in the context of agricultural development in India. The CIFA intends not to be in the confines of pure agriculture in the field but take up the issues of sources and trends in public funding and human resources and the allocation of funds to the agriculture in the country as it is the most important area which the Indian farmer has not given much of a thought until now. CIFA intends to work along with the GOI in framing the new policy issues for agricultural, research and extension in India.

CIFA apolitical in strict sense: In a big democracy like India lobbying plays a vital role. The farmers' organizations which are affiliated to political parties need to change their tune as per political convenience. As such these organizations are not in a position to effect any major policy level changes with the existing political system. The farmers continue to be in a hapless position. Therefore, from the inception, CIFA was made to be apolitical in its strict sense and the political parties were not asked for any resources what so ever for its functioning. As such, the CIFA will always consistent and irrespective of the political party in power and can lobby for the rightful demands of the farmers with the policy makers, politicians, bureaucrats, and parliament and get the rewards for farmers.

Member organizations of CIFA: The strength of CIFA in being apolitical has helped CIFA to quickly spread its wings. Many of the associations came forward to get organized under the umbrella of CIFA. The CIFA which started with three states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Rajasthan was quickly able to spread to around 8 states by the next two years. Several Farmer and farm based organizations like Upasi, Kamal Morarka Foundation, Maha Grapes of Maharashtra, Himachal Apple Growers Association, Sugarcane growers associations of Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra, Fishermen associations of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Nagaland etc started working with CIFA and in the course have become permanent members.

Establishing Indian Farmers & Industry Alliance (IFIA): The CIFA was instrumental in setting up IFIA with partnership of Industry in 2004. This is a joint venture between CIFA and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), which is India's leading Apex Industry Association. The objectives include identifying important issues for agriculture development, welfare of farmers, growth of agro-based industries and exports which it will pursue them with Government of India, Planning Commission, Financial Institutions, Members of Parliament, Intellectuals, international organizations & others in order to
develop favourable policies, obtain resources, build infrastructure and initiate other appropriate measures.

The Pre budget and post budget sessions: The CIFA in its efforts of bringing the problems concerning agriculture to the fore through appropriate policy level changes has convened the pre and post national budget conferences in New Delhi in 2005 December and 2006 March, involving not only the Farmers organizations but also the policy makers and public representatives. While the pre budget convention has attempted to study the possible recommendations that can be incorporated into the ensuing budget, the post budget naturally has deliberated on the policies that were helpful to the farmers in the 2005-06 union budget presented.

The representatives from the Parliament who attended the conclave were from all the parties. Apart from the main stream political parties at the national level, many of the regional parties at the different states have sent their representatives strengthening the commitment of CIFA’s apolitical platform.

Some of the recommendations which CIFA made in its convention has made eventually into the national budget.

Parliament members’ farmers’ forum: The CIFA which has recognized that lobbying and advocacy on favorable policies is one of the prime issues that needed to be taken up has rallied the Farmer leaders in the Indian parliament members. CIFA has formed the Indian Parliament Members Farmers forum and has been regularly convening meetings with these policy makers.

Publication of ‘Agri policy advocacy’: In a bid to reach out to the policy makers, bureaucrats, political representatives and farmer leaders, the CIFA has initiated the publication of ‘Agripolicy Advocacy’ which was well received by all the concerned. The monthly publication was able to bring to the fore many issues that require the immediate attention of the policy makers.

Strengthening CIFA further: After all the efforts at the national and state level, CIFA now wants to take up the issue of farmers into a new plane with renewed and concerted efforts and knock the door of the policy makers with comprehensive policy and lobbying efforts. The next few pages as part of the project requirements report will project the intended working of CIFA at the state and central levels, the solutions advocated by CIFA for the maladies engulfing agriculture, future mandate of CIFA, resources required and etc.

While the part I has provided the introduction and evolution of CIFA, the Part II will detail the present working model of CIFA and the envisaged working and operation of CIFA comprising of activity blocks etc. The Logical frame work analysis follows after the operational details of Project CIFA. The annexure in Part III gives a broad view of the problems overwhelming agriculture which promoted the evolution of CIFA and the ways to provide remedies as advocated by CIFA.
Part II

Empowerment of Indian Farmers

The strengthening of consortium of Indian Farmers Associations

A) Development Goal

CIFA envisages farmers’ empowerment through achieving economic growth and social equity and improve the livelihoods of the farmers in India. It will evolve an enabling policy environment through training, human resource development, policy advocacy and lobbying efforts, partnering with Industries and effecting technology transfer.

The Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations has recognized the need of an agency outside the ambit of the governmental realm to harness the energies of various stakeholders right from the producers, government machinery, training agencies and the agriculture research agencies in a concerted manner such that it is channelized in the right direction for the benefit of the farmer as the ultimate goal.

B) Functional Objectives

i. A Growth rate in excess of 4 percent per annum in the agriculture sector.
    ii. Establishment of a centralized platform for farmers to voice their perceptions
    iii. Agriculture growth that is based on efficient use of resources, and conserving soil, water and bio diversity.
    iv. A farmer community that is networked all over the country and empowered to demand for its needs
    v. A growth with equity, i.e. growth which is widespread in terms of all commodities regions and different classes of farmers.
    vi. Integrating investment credit and production credit and raise the scale of finance
    vii. Strengthening linkages between production, marketing and post harvest activities.
    viii. Reclamation of waste/fallow lands
    ix. Credit expansion in drought prone areas
    x. A growth that is demand driven and stabilizes domestic markets and maximizes benefits from exports in the face of global Challenges.
    xi. A growth that is sustainable, technologically, environmentally, and economically.
    xii. Food and Nutritional security for the nation
    xiii. Farmers to get benefited through the generation and transfer of technology
    xiv. Improvement of input efficiency and budgeted incentives for agriculture
    xv. Increased budgeted investments in agriculture vis a vis the share in GDP
    xvi. Strengthening of institutional infrastructure for better risk management
    xvii. Connectivity with international Farmers organizations
    xviii. Develop productive and sustainable module for small farmers in developing nations
    xix. To reduce physical drudgery for women and promote gender specific policies
C) **Functional activities**

   i. The functional activities that CIFA intends to take up as part of achieving the overall development objective of empowering the farmers may be divided into five areas with each area being mutually inclusive of all other functions. The functional objectives include:

   i. Networking
   ii. Empowerment
   iii. Policy Advocacy
   iv. Partnership
   v. Technology Transfer

D) **Activities envisaged**

CIFA has clearly defined the activities that are to be taken up for the achievement of the objective of empowerment of Farmers. The activities that are to be taken under each area were devised as under. Many of the activities hereunder have been taken up by CIFA in the States that are presently under the CIFA purview. However, the efforts will be strengthened not only with the addition of more states but also new activities as under.

(i) **Networking:** To establish a network among farmers associations of different states and different commodities, whereby farmers can raise their voice on issues problems and recommendations that concern them and relating to agricultural policies and farmer well being at the state and national level. The functional activities include:

   i. CIFA will help the state federations in establishing vertical and parallel organizations to promote commodity groups interests
   ii. CIFA will make efforts to expand the state level organizations under its fold from the present 7 states to at least 18 states by the end of 2008-09.
   iii. CIFA will make efforts to comprehensively cover and mobilize all the farmers under its umbrella through the establishment of State level farmers’ organizations in all the states in the project period.
   iv. The CIFA will network various people’s and farmers organizations with Policy makers, bureaucrats, public representatives, members of Indian Parliament, Research Institutions, Government departments, Corporate houses, Banks, Financial Institutions, media and others
   v. The present states i) Andhra Pradesh, ii)Karnataka, iii)Tamil Nadu, iv) Maharashtra, v)Gujarat, vi) Rajasthan and Pondicherry where CIFA is operational will be strengthened at the grass roots levels so as to have a comprehensive representation of the farmers in each state.
   vi. The states that CIFA intends to initiate operations shortly, viz.; Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Nagaland, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand will be intensified.

(ii) **Farmers Empowerment:** To facilitate the empowerment of farmers through assistance for mobilization, organizing into associations, cooperatives etc. for their increased participation in planning, marketing, technology dissemination and agro-processing etc. The functional activities include:
i. The farmers will be enabled to make interactions with the Government of India, State governments, industries etc
ii. The CIFA will be a centralized activity of all the programmes of the Farmers in the country
iii. CIFA will make efforts to promote comprehensive administrative structures with experts and professionals at all State federations to enable technical assistance and policy advice
iv. To coordinate with national and international organizations by disseminating the information for raising the support in terms of resources and services for helping the farmers in improving the incomes from agriculture.
v. Helping the state organizations to establish a strong, well organized and capable apex body at the state level
vi. Establishing agribusiness information centers
vii. Facilitating international and domestic farmers exchange visits
viii. CIFA will take up activities to promote gender specific initiatives to involve more women in farming and improving the status of women in farming

(iii) Policy Advocacy: To identify, reduce and eliminate policy level hindrances in the formulation of policies at structural, institutional and implementation levels to create better and pro farmer policy environment. The functional activities include:

i. To establish a Policy Advocacy hub at CIFA head quarters in NEW DELHI
ii. To equip the Policy Advocacy hub with requisite resources in terms of experts in the fields of identified commodities of agriculture, relating policy issues for advocacy and lobbying
iii. To strengthen the forums of forums of MPs and MLAs to support the cause of farmers
iv. To make efforts in obtaining required policy changes and resource allocation from the respective governments at the state and national level.
v. To analyze, study and take appropriate steps and deal with issues connected with patent rights and WTO
vi. To lobby for the inclusion of the local-level accountability of extension workers to farmers
vii. To demand for the inclusion of social science and information technology (IT) components previously not incorporated into training of extension workers.
viii. To demand for the provision to privatize the ‘private goods’ elements of extension and co-financing of extension via farmers’ organizations.

(iv) Partnership: To lobby and facilitate with national and international organizations and industries for raising the support in terms of resources for helping the farmers in improving the incomes from agriculture. The activities envisaged include:

i. To assist the farmers and the Industries in enforcing linkages in terms of processing facilities, contract farming and commodity trading
ii. Building partnership with processing industries, exporters and trade with industries in consultation with Industry organizations such as Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
iii. CIFA will create the vast data base and will enable the government and industries and others to have the unified source of information and facilitation for the Government to deal with Farmers
iv. To support agriculture extension in-service training programmes and other relevant agricultural curricular activities to support gender-sensitive extension agents.

v. To enforce linkages through partnerships with private and other public agencies in extension provision, including public funding of private provision, cost-recovery for some services, skill enhancement among farmers and linking of technology advice to new market opportunities.

(v) Technology Transfer:

i. The CIFA will create awareness on modern technologies on an ongoing basis through traditional and multimedia methods for all State federations.

ii. Raising the awareness amongst the intellectuals on the key role of agriculture and valuable contribution by farmers as an important component of social development of the country.

iii. Build global competitiveness through technology up gradation, organic farming and research.

iv. Put in place appropriate institutional mechanisms for information exchange and cooperation between the agencies that focus on women's affair and agriculture-related technical activities.

v. To provide technology training and input support to women to take advantage of emerging high-value agribusiness sector including bio-technology and forest products.

vi. Facilitate the farmers of the country to obtain the carbon credits based on their extent of their crops and trees.

vii. Translating training modules, including into local languages and into different formats appropriate for a range of different stakeholders.

viii. To strive and facilitate the strengthening research-extension linkages.

The outputs envisaged

i. The efforts of the project will see the strengthening of the CIFA to a strong, well organized and capable Farmers Apex body at the National level.

ii. The CIFA will become a comprehensive institution taking care of the farmers as per its objectives and would bring substantial change in the policy environment, pertaining to agricultural activities and support to farmers from national and international level organizations.

iii. The farmers will obtain the ability to identify issues that concern them and articulate by themselves.

iv. The Farmers will have a well trained leadership at the national and local level with all working facilities.

v. The farmers will evolve to a position wherein they would be able to demand the policy changes and resource allocation from the government.

vi. An institutional framework such as cooperatives, processing industries, direct marketing facilities, contract farming etc will evolve which would help the farmers in avoiding the middlemen and create value addition for their produce and increase income.

vii. The income from agriculture is increased, whereby its livelihoods and quality of life has improved.
viii. The CIFA will become a platform for the farmers at the national level to voice and participate in policy making
ix. The farmers are linked with national and international level organizations and obtain support through resources and services.

**Programme time frame**
The project will be implemented over a period of three to five years to achieve long term development objectives. CIFA intends to take up various activities which further the achievement of said objectives.

**Funding Currently Available**
CIFA is presently working with the support some initial contributions to the organization by public and private donors.

**Funding sought**
In the longer term, it is expected that CIFA might need funds to carry out the activities as it envisaged and to be largely self-sustaining with its operating budget.

The CIFA plans to structure its fund accrual not only based on the sponsoring but also based on a business plans it intends to develop for its services. The structure and management of CIFA will be made such that the self generation of funds is possible.

The business plan is intended to provide sustenance in the long run with decreasing direct support from donors. However, the initial years of CIFA will be requiring funds until it gets sustained on its own in the next few years.
Project Operationalisation

Working of CIFA

I. Coordination and Implementation: The CIFA headed by the Chairman and the functional Secretary General, will be located at New Delhi. All activities are coordinated by the Managing Committee at New Delhi with CIFA itself being overseen by an Executive Board of Board of Trustees. CIFA works with the state partners organizations in the States and provide them with extensive training in the administration structures as well as technical and financial aspects of agriculture and agriculture policies. The technical and scientific expertise, knowledge and experience imparted to the State organizations would be used to develop further and to seek further partnerships in order to be able to replicate and to transfer more knowledge to other farmers.

II. Experts placed at CIFA head quarters:
The project activities of CIFA which are being taken up at three levels, national, State and field levels will be taken up functionally through three activity blocks which includes:
- State Units block
- Commodities Committees block
- Information center

Given the diversity of the agro-ecological system and the resulting wide varieties of farming systems, various policies governing the sector, it is imperative that the head quarters is equipped with experts who have requisite experience in the concerned fields. In addition, the data on all the aspects of agriculture in terms of technical, financial, policy level etc would be placed in the head quarters in a segregated fashion pertinent to local situation of the states. Typically, the personnel manning each unit at the CIFA head quarters will be comprised of four to five professionals experts in the fields concerned.

1. The State Units Block
The major activity in this block would be to take care of expanding the territory of CIFA by identifying and mobilizing the farmers, farmers organizations, at the State level and forming State level farmer bodies. The pre requisite for the formation of the state bodies would be to form and strengthen the grass roots level farmers organizations at the ground level in all the states.

The other activity of this unit would be to coordinate all the programmatic activities concerning the States. The block will be a bridge between the States farmer bodies and CIFA board of Trustees at the national level.

Staffing: Typically the staffing requirements for this functional block would be experts with requisite experience to take care of Institutional building, of State and field associations, policy and advocacy exports possessing rich experience in state and central level agri policies, experts on the issues pertaining to gender, communication and Monitoring & Evaluation studies. The Research officers and the secretarial staff will be assisting the experts in the procuring, aggregation and consolidation of data.

The activities of State Units block:
- Organizing regular meetings of the representatives of the State FFAs would continued to be taken up as is being done presently
- Review work and plan the strategies based on situation specific problems
iii. Assessing the need for further capacity building needs etc.
iv. Formation of State level bodies
v. Coordination with the state level bodies for the identification and mobilization of the farmers at the village and district levels.
vi. Assessment of the respective state level policies relating to agriculture
vii. Lobbying at the state level for favorable farmer policies.
viii. Calculating the crop wise requirements of each state and assess the supply demand of inputs, fertilizers, credit requirements etc
ix. Interacting with policy makers, parliamentarians and bureaucrats on policies required for agriculture
x. To maintain the relations between the State bodies and the CIFA national board of trustees.

The main actors in this block would be FFAs of the states (existing and planned ones) who would be the link between CIFA in New Delhi and the farmers and Farmers bodies. The state FFAs would play a critical role in identifying the farmers, mobilizing them, assessing their problems and bringing them to the fore at state and national level and interacting with policy makers, legislatures and support organizations at the state level.

To maintain the relations between CIFA and State Organizations: The State units block will take up regular meetings of the representatives of the State FFAs and other local organizations with the CIFA national board of trustees to review the work and plan the strategies based on situation specific problems and assess the need for further capacity building in the states. The state federations will be called as Federation of Farmers Associations, the name of the State coming as suffix after that. For example, if the state organization of Punjab is formed it will be called as FFA Punjab.

2. Commodity Committee block

The second and the most important activity after the mobilization of the farmers into viable units is to rally them around respective identified commodities. The CIFA is planning to take up the issues concerning certain identified commodities at the national level to focus upon exclusively in terms of training required, present and anticipated productivity, problems being faced, the policy level changes needed to make the commodities remunerative, enhancing the export potential, marketing efforts etc.

The following commodities have been provisionally decided to be taken up. Some of these commodities have already been taken up by CIFA at the national level like Sugar cane, and Mango in horticulture and has tasted considerable success. The total commodities that are in the operational purview to be taken up by CIFA include

- Sugarcane
- Cotton
- Horticulture and in particular, Mango and Grapes
- Pulses
- Paddy
- Chillies
- Castor
- Wheat

The commodity block will work with the state level commodity committees of identified crops on the identified issues, which includes:

- Policy and planning focus
- Arrangements of capacity building and technology transfer
- Partnerships with national and international organizations
- Common issues of commodity farmers across the states
- Linkages with the processing industry

**Policy and planning focus:** The current efforts in the training of farming systems across the country would be co-ordinated and the available information would be fed into the planning process. The trainings and planning at the district and village level would be gender-sensitive and would have gender/sex-segregated information to support for local development efforts. CIFA will coordinate with all the agricultural education institutions and training centers to develop regular curricula to integrate all the approach in all technical areas of agricultural sector.

**Arrangements for Capacity-Building and Technology Transfer:** Although the ideal approach would be to provide farmers with direct access to the information and knowledge they require, taking into consideration the vast expanse of the country and the 550 millions of farmers in the country, a training of trainers approach would be practiced. As such, CIFA has chosen to initially target agricultural professionals and Farmers leaders to be trained on all aspects. They are the individuals who are best positioned to help farmers access the information and knowledge they need for to benefit from knowledge-intensive, sustainable management practices. The other stakeholders who will be involved would be extension and development agents, NGO workers and community based (farmer) organisations, academics and employees of agri-food companies etc.

**Partnerships with national and international organizations:** The partnership goals of CIFA is to expand the outreach globally through raising awareness in these regions of what is offered and also linking up with local and regional agricultural universities, as well as government and non-government organisations and farmer groups. The Commodity block will take up the initiatives required for enforcing the linkages and partnerships.

The CIFA relies on collaborative relationships with a range of experts including staff of leading educational institutions in the region and beyond for effective transfer of technology.

**Gender promotion:** CIFA is fully aware of the key role and critical importance of women in the successful promotion of sustainable agriculture. Every effort is made to attract women participants to enroll in our capacity building programmes. CIFA will organize the services of facilitators from agricultural universities who can give a women's perspective on approaches.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning**
The monitoring and evaluation of the project would be taken up in a participatory way. The monitoring would be multi-pronged – MIS from the field (through the FFAs and local organizations), Quarterly/Half-yearly Reports, monthly meetings of project management team and FFAAP and quarterly meetings of all the FFAs and local organizations, annual workshops, Internal Visitors and External Visitors, Study Reports and document. All reports would include critical reviews of project activities, problems encountered and how they were overcome, the strengths and weaknesses and lessons learned during implementation and suggested revisions to Project level implementation.
The external process monitoring would be taken up in coordination with the project partners and project staff to identify problems and positive aspects of project and suggest ways and strategies for further implementation of the project.

Monitoring, evaluation and documentation of the entire project activities as a whole would be the responsibility of CIFA at the New Delhi office. A system where performance indicators vis-à-vis expected results, processes, plans and budgets are measured would be developed in the project with all key stakeholders so as to ensure consistent monitoring, evaluation and feedback. This system would enable documenting of lessons learned and best practices, as well as to allow adjustments and fine-tuning the project activities for better results, during the course of the project itself. Where possible participatory evaluation would be carried out to share lessons, innovations, and challenges that were overcome and problems addressed.

Further, all activities of the project would be documented for the purpose of dissemination. The CIFA would monitor the documentation of the entire activities of the project, lessons learned and results obtained, to ensure a systematic and unified approach through out the process.
The Consortium of Indian Farmers Organization
Presence in the states
## Logical Framework Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Objective</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions/Risks</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Development Goal</strong></td>
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<td>Number of State associations formed and number affiliated with CIFA.</td>
<td>- The annual report and mid-term evaluation report.</td>
<td>- Political compulsions of the coalition governments at the central level</td>
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<th>Outcomes/ Output</th>
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<td>1. To establish a network, whereby farmers can raise their issues, concerns, problems, suggestions and recommendation related to agricultural policies at Central and State level.</td>
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<td>Reports/ Minutes</td>
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**Activities**

- CIFA will help the state federations in establishing vertical and parallel organizations to promote commodity groups interests.
- CIFA will make efforts to expand the state level organizations under its fold from the present 7 states to at least 18 states by the end of 2008-09.
- CIFA will make efforts to comprehensively cover and mobilize all the farmers under its umbrella through the establishment of State level farmers' organizations in all the states in the project period.

The CIFA will network various people's and farmers organizations with Policy makers, bureaucrats, public representatives, members of Indian Parliament, Research Institutions, Government departments, Corporate houses, Banks, Financial Institutions, media and others.

The present states, i) Andhra Pradesh, ii) Karnataka, iii) Tamil Nadu, iv) Maharashtra, v) Gujarat, vi) Rajasthan and Pondicherry where CIFA is operational will be strengthened at the grass roots levels so as to have a comprehensive representation of the farmers in each state.

The states that CIFA intends to initiate operations shortly, viz., Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Nagaland, Jharkhand and Uttarakhal will be intensified.

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<tr>
<th>Indicators / Budget</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
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<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>List of Partners in various states</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of meetings</td>
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<td>Number of groups</td>
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<td>Budget</td>
<td>See the budget outlay</td>
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2. Farmers Empowerment: To facilitate the empowerment of farmers through assistance for mobilization, organizing into associations, cooperatives etc. for their increased participation in planning, marketing, technology dissemination and agro-processing etc. The functional activities include:

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<th>Outcomes/Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers Empowerment: The empowerment of farmers facilitated through assistance for mobilization, organizing into associations, cooperatives etc. for their increased participation in planning, marketing, technology dissemination and agro-processing etc.</td>
<td>The farmers will be enabled to make interactions with the Government of India, State governments, industries etc.</td>
<td>The CIFA will be a centralized activity of all the programmes of the Farmers in the country</td>
</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Inputs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To coordinate with national and international organizations by disseminating the information for raising the support in terms of resources and services for helping the farmers in improving the incomes from agriculture.</td>
<td>Helping the state organizations to establish a strong, well organized and capable apex body at the state level. Establishing agribusiness information centers Facilitating international and domestic farmers exchange visits Invite farmers from various states with the support of State FFAs and other local organization for meetings, workshops and conferences with farmers.</td>
<td>See Project Outlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIFA will make efforts to promote comprehensive administrative structures with experts and professionals at all State federations to enable technical assistance and policy advice.</td>
<td>Commission studies to analyze certain policies in detail and/or identify the gaps, constraints and hindrances in the policies related to certain agricultural commodities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIFA will take up activities to promote gender specific initiatives to involve more women in farming and improving the status of women in farming</td>
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</table>
3. **Policy Advocacy**: To identify, reduce and eliminate policy level hindrance at formulation of policies at structural, institutional and implementation levels to create better and pro farmer policy environment.

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<tr>
<th>Outcomes/Outcomes</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Advocacy</strong>: Outcome</td>
<td>The farmers will be enabled to make interactions with the Government of India, State governments, industries etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in policy level hindrances in formulation of policies at structural, institutional and implementation levels</td>
<td>Helping the state organizations to establish a strong, well organized and capable apex body at the state level</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Creation of a better and pro farmer policy environment.</td>
<td>The CIFA will be a centralized activity of all the programmes of the Farmers in the country</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Output</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To establish a Policy Advocacy hub at CIFA head quarters in NEW DELHI</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Inputs</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To strengthen the forums of forums of MPs and MLAs to support the cause of farmers</td>
<td>Equip the Policy Advocacy hub with requisite resources in terms of experts in the fields of identified commodities of agriculture, relating policy issues for advocacy and lobbying</td>
<td>See Project Outlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To make efforts in obtaining required policy changes and resource allocation from the respective governments at the state and national level.</td>
<td>Organising conferences and seminars with Farmers from various states</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To analyze, study and take appropriate steps and deal with issues connected with patent rights and WTO</td>
<td>Coordination with national and international organizations by disseminating the information for raising the support in terms of resources and services for helping the farmers in improving the incomes from agriculture.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To lobby for the inclusion of the local-level accountability of extension workers to farmers</td>
<td>Establishing agribusiness information centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>To demand for the inclusion of social science and information technology (IT) components previously not incorporated into training of extension workers.</td>
<td>Facilitating international and domestic farmers exchange visits</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To demand for the provision to privatize the 'private goods' elements of extension and co-financing of extension via farmers' organizations</td>
<td>Regular interaction of farmers with media and press to highlight and disseminate their problems and issues at National level and making policy documents</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Invite farmers from various states with the support of State FFAs and other local organization for meetings, workshops and conferences with farmers.</td>
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</table>
4. **Partnership:** To lobby and facilitate with national and international organizations and industries for raising the support in terms of resources for helping the farmers in improving the incomes from agriculture.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes/ Outcomes</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partnership:</strong> The national and international organizations support CIFA and other farmer organizations in terms of resources for helping the farmers in improving the incomes from agriculture.</td>
<td>Partnerships and linkages built with industries and organizations related to allied of agriculture</td>
<td>Documents / Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creation of a vast data base by CIFA</td>
<td>Audio visual reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extension services provided through linkages with private and other public agencies</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Information technology introduced in the curriculum of agriculture extension education</td>
<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Inputs</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To assist the farmers and the Industries in enforcing linkages in terms of processing facilities, contract farming and commodity trading</td>
<td>CIFA recruits suitable personnel at the CIFA's head quarters in all the disciplines needed</td>
<td>See Project Outlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building partnership with processing industries, exporters and trade with industries in consultation with Industry organizations such as Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)</td>
<td>The services of the experts at the CIFA head quarters will be placed at the disposal of the states units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIFA will create the vast data base and will enable the government and industries and others to have the unified source of information and facilitation for the Government to deal with Farmers</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enforce linkages through partnerships with private and other public agencies in extension provision, including public funding of private provision, cost-recovery for some services, skill enhancement among farmers and linking of technology advice to new market opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>To support agriculture extension in-service training programmes and other relevant agricultural curricular activities to support gender-sensitive extension agents</td>
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</table>
5. **Technology Transfer** The CIFA will create awareness on modern technologies on an ongoing basis through traditional and multimedia methods for all State federations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes/Outcomes</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technology Transfer:</strong></td>
<td>Number of exchange programme and number of Farmers benefited</td>
<td>Minutes and reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Amount and type of support mobilised in kinds and services</td>
<td>Audio visual clips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output</td>
<td>Increased use of better and more inputs in agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government schemes availed by farmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Inputs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minutes of these events</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build global competitiveness through technology upgradation, organic farming and research</td>
<td>CIFA recruits suitable personnel at the CIFA’s head quarters in all the disciplines needed</td>
<td>Copy of document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate the farmers of the country to obtain the carbon credits based on their extent of their crops and trees</td>
<td>The services of the experts at the CIFA head quarters will be placed at the disposal of the states units</td>
<td>Record verification and discussions with the farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translating training modules, including into local languages and into different formats appropriate for a range of different stakeholders</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To strive and facilitate the strengthening research-extension linkages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raising the awareness amongst the intellectuals on the key role of agriculture and valuable contribution by farmers as an important component of social development of the country</td>
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<tr>
<td>To provide technology training and input support to women to take advantage of emerging high-value agribusiness sector including bio-technology and forest products</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To put in place appropriate institutional mechanisms for information exchange and cooperation between the agencies that focus on women’s affair and agriculture-related technical activities</td>
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Annexure- Part III

Annex 1

Problem Analysis

Some policy level gaps identified by CIFA
The following are some of the policy level gaps identified by CIFA during its course of interactions with various farmers, institutions, policy makers, public representatives etc. All the problems are situation and state specific. The possible remedies along with the maladies are also presented along with.

Agriculture in concurrent list of State and union governments
The "Agriculture" is listed as a State subject in the constitution of India. But the Government of India has full control on,
• Irrigation
• Agricultural Credit
• Crop Insurance
• Minimum Support Price
• Exports and Imports
• World Trade Organization
• Marketing
• Agricultural Research
• Seed Policy
• Disaster Management etc.

While formulating the policy issues on the above subjects, the role of State Government is nominal. Article 48 of the Constitution has cast a constitutional responsibility on the Indian State with regard to Agriculture. Hence, this dichotomy in approach towards agriculture should be removed. There is no point in stating that agriculture is a state subject and having many key areas in the purview of the central government. As such CIFA demands that 'Agriculture' should be brought under concurrent list so that, the Union Government also shares the responsibility of providing proper environment for the growth of Agriculture.

Alternatively, it is suggested that a ratio be fixed, say 40:60 between the Central and State Governments for providing funds to the Developmental activities framed by the State Governments.

Co-ordination among the various ministries dealing with Agriculture produce and issues:
There are number of Ministries dealing with Agricultural Production, value addition and marketing etc. Eg.
• Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation
• Ministry of Commerce
• Ministry of Water Resources
• Ministry of Food Processing and Civil Supplies
• Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology.
• Ministry of Forests
• Ministry of Rural Development
The decisions or the policies adopted by these Ministries are going to have an impact on the farmers and farm labourers. While taking the decisions the Ministries are not giving a comprehensive look keeping in mind the interests of farmers or the farm labour. As such CIFA has been advocating strongly that all these Ministries be brought under a single authority to coordinate and synchronize plans and policies connected to the Agricultural Sector both in the States as well as at Central level. The institution may be named as “AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY” and should be headed by the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India as well as the States.

Presentation of Union Budget
At present, separate budget is being presented by Ministry of Railways. The Agricultural Ministry budget is being presented by the Finance Minister of Government of India. The needs and priorities of Agriculture Sector can be rightly placed by presenting a separate budget. The conflicting interests of the Associated Ministries can be neutralized and confidence can be built among the farming community and the agro based industry. CIFA has been advocating that the Union Government must take a decision to present the Ministry of Agriculture Budget Independently.

Seed act:
At present, Seed Act of 1966 and the Seeds (Control Order) of 1983 are covering the issues of production and supply of the Seeds. In addition, the Transgenic Seeds have come in to operation. However, the present Seed Act of 1966 is unable to cope up with the issues of the present day. The government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed a draft Seeds Act of 2004 for the consideration of the Government of India, which is yet to be discussed and passed in the Parliament.

The Present Seed Act is unable to control the activities of any individual/company/dealer in supplying under quality / spurious seeds to the Farmers. There is no opportunity for the Farmer groups to be a part of the monitoring activity on Seeds production and distribution. At present, it is estimated that 15-20% of Quality Seeds i.e., (Breeder, Foundation and Certified) are supplied to the Farmers. The Balance 80-85% is procured by the Farmers either by exchange among themselves or from the private seed Industry. In this scenario, there is no opportunity to assess the quality parameters of the Seed at Farmer level. “The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Bill 2001” has been passed by both the houses of Parliament and the Presidential assent was given on 30.10.2001 (Act No.53 of 2001). The Guidelines or the Executive Instructions for implementing the Act are yet to be issued.

Water resources
At present, irrigation subject is dealt by the respective State Governments as per the Constitution of India. However, the Government of India is providing funds for the Projects which are recognized as ‘national in character’ and to other Water resources in a nominal manner. Farmers have no role to play either in the survey, construction and Operation & Maintenance of any Project in the Country. It is estimated that the Water Use efficiency under the command areas is around 30-35% only and there is a scope to improve the efficiency by another say 10-15%. While undertaking the construction of Irrigation Projects, rehabilitation and resettlement of people became a nightmare and the compensation is not paid for years together and there by the beneficiaries have became paupers.

CIFA suggest that We suggest that the on-going 439 major and medium Irrigation Projects in different States be provided funds by disinvestment of public sector undertakings to the extent
possible (by keeping 51% and above to keep the control) and the proceeds be pooled into a CORPUS FUND and priority be given for allocation to the Irrigation Sector from this Corpus Fund. The completion of the projects must be time-bound. The traditional sources of irrigation like tanks are to be preserved and maintained by the participation of the local Government and the community. Necessary funds be provided in this regard.

Credit Disbursement
CIFA in its various forums have come out very strongly on the credit needs of the farmers which is paramount for the cultivation. Agricultural Credit assessment be made realistically, keeping into account the total cropped area and agricultural holdings in the country. Short, Medium and long term credit requirements be assessed holistically. All villages and agriculture holdings should have access to institutional credit. The accountability and liability be fixed to banks for achieving the target fixed by Reserve bank of India. The Banks should not insist “No Due certificates” from farmers. The procedures be simplified and no service charges collected. The diversion of funds to RIDF and showing it as part of Agriculture Credit is to be dispensed with. The Rate of interest on Agriculture loans be charged at only 6% by all financial institutions. The Compound interest should not be charged on Agricultural Loans. The Agricultural credit be disbursed through Kisan Credit Cards and the scale of Finance be fixed based on the actual Cost of Cultivation of different crops. CIFA also demanded that the Prof VAIDYANATHAN Committee recommendations which are fortunately taken up A.P government need to be implemented in whole of the country to save the cooperative sector and the political interference in functioning of these institutions be totally eradicated and autonomy protected.

Animal breed improvement
40% of the livestock owners live below the poverty line. More than 76% of the milk supplied comprise women and weaker sections. Coupled with this, the taxes on processing machinery and veterinary medicines are high. All these, exhorts us to look at the current amenities available for improving the animal breed, which in turn will help at least few of the livestock owners to cross over the poverty line as it will directly help 300 million farmers. It will provide increased income of Rs. 8000 to Rs.10,000 per annum for 10 years to a livestock owner. CIFA suggests that the cost of artificial insemination per animal should be brought down to Rs.600 and a tax holiday be announced for hybridization and processing.

Hybrid seed supply
Quality seed can improve the productivity by 50% and by using new and robust strains every year, the quality of the seed can be maintained. But only 10% of the seeds are replaced every year. Also, the productivity is low in dry and backward areas due to non-availability or inferior nature of the seeds. At the macro level, the problem is compounded by taxing the seed industry at various points from processing to marketing thus spiraling up the costs. CIFA emphasizes the importance of changes at the policy level by calling for many structural changes in terms of government providing incentives for private seed research and declaring seed processing industry as an infrastructure industry. CIFA exhorts the government to provide grant to states for the replacement of seed to all small and marginal farmers. Apart from that appropriate channels have to be structured to make the seeds reach the poor farmers.

Mechanization of agriculture
Mechanization of agricultural had been in debate from the turn of the century. It was felt that physical drudgery is driving rural youth from agriculture. It’s a proven fact that the mechanization improves the productivity of agriculture, increases the efficiency of the farmers and the quality of the produce. Tractors have become unaffordable to small and marginal farmers due to 18% excise duty on them. Even on the hand implements of the farmers, the excise duty if fixed at 16%.
This makes both kinds of implements unreachable to the farmers leaving them in the middle of nowhere. Even for availing loans, the procedures are so complex and above that security for loan is demanded that the farmer is discouraged to pursue agriculture or he is driven to traditional money-lenders. The CIFA calls for transparent and lucid procedures for the benefits to reach the farmers. It feels that the tractors must be made affordable and should be sold at nominal prices to marginal and backward class farmers. This will not only reach the rightful beneficiary but will also improve the social equality between the rich and the poor farmers. With regard to agricultural hand implements, FFAAP suggests to the government that all excise duties have to be removed till 2010.

Quality pesticides and their accessibility to the farmers
Pesticides when used in appropriate quantities act as a crop protection mechanism. Pests cause investment losses to the tune of Rs.5000 crores and Rs.30,000 crores of crop loss. Marginal and small farmers do not have access to pesticides due to non-availability as well as high costs due to heavy taxation. This is causing the manufacture of spurious pesticides that cause more harm than good to the farmers. This problem is heightened by lack of indigenous research in pesticides and organic methods of farming. CIFA has suggested that suggests that government should provide subsidy to small and marginal farmers for the purchase of quality pesticides. At the policy level, as recommended in earlier issues, the excise duty has to be removed and rigorous adulteration laws have to be implemented to punish the culprits who make a business out of need of the farmers. In the direction of organic farming.

Crop insurance
Crop insurance is becoming “Bank insurance”, instead of a useful scheme to the farmers. There are delays in the settlement to the claims of the farmers. The premium is pegged anywhere between 2% to 8%. The penal interest is slapped at farmers for the premium due from 1st April 2004. Also the farmers are not eligible for fresh loans. CIFA recommends that the crop insurance should become mandatory to all the farmers. The bank should settle the claims of the farmers within 45 days of the crop failure. It was also recommended that the insured farmers’ account would not come under Non-performing Assets (NPA). Lastly, it was argued that the farmers should be eligible for fresh loans.

Unified Food Laws
Unified food laws will facilitate easier and quick decision-making. This will also facilitate single window clearance and thus avoiding complex procedures involving too many departments. CIFA also suggested that poultry and aqua-culture be given a status of agriculture. The CIFA emphasized the role of commodity boards in reaching out to the farmers and thus help in networking of different farmers associations. It is the thinking of CIFA that the farmers should be empowered to manage the existing commodity boards and new boards to be established for all the existing crops as the current boards are inadequate to service all the farmers. The restructuring and formation of new boards should be undertaken in a participative manner involving the farmers.

Food Processing
Food processing is becoming a costly proposition due to heavy taxation and thus inaccessible to middle-class. Coupled with this, the taxes on machinery and the processing procedures accentuate the problems. The CIFA has asked for excise duty exemption on food processing equipment till 2010 and removal of taxes on processed food. Encouragement to contract farming and incentives to food chains should also be on the agenda of the government.
Excise and Import Duties

Coming to the duties, CIFA is in favour of rationalizing export and import duties as there is no parity between the two. For protecting the local produce, it was suggested that the imported agricultural products must have higher duty than the local taxes. By encouraging the industries using indigenous raw-material by giving sops and relaxation of regulations, the local production of the local produce can be heightened.
Annexure 2

Problems galore in Indian Agriculture

India has the second largest population with over one billion people. 70% of the population in India is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. With around 190 million hectares area under total gross cropped area Indian has the largest cultivable land in the world. Even today, Nation’s GDP is largely dependent on agricultural production. Despite this, all has not been well with Agriculture sector in India. Farmers have been facing several complex problems such as growing costs, low productivity, lower market prices for agricultural produce immediately after harvesting season, high interest rates in rural credit market, spurious seeds and pesticides etc. The successive Governments have done very little to address these problems. Farmers in India are most disorganized and suffer silently. An increase in onion prices results in widespread protests by the highly organized urban middle class forcing the Government to curb experts and increase the supply in domestic markets. No analysis has ever been made of impact of such a step on onion farmers.

During last two decades the help offered to farm sector have been cosmetic and no effort has been made to bring about structural changes in the policies of Government on agriculture. In fact the policy makers are not clear about the ground realities. As the liberalization is bound to be taken over into the Agricultural sector through the impending implementation of WTO and GATT, the need to clearly define the role of the state, enhance the efficiency of state interventions, and promote partnerships with the private sector is the need of the day.

INDIAN FARMER: ISSUES CONFRONTING

The average land holding is of 35 hectares. The major problems of farmers are they are not organized as other service sectors, natural wagers, illiteracy, small - holdings, unrealistic loan and insurance policies etc. Agriculture as a whole has improved technically and yielding-wise, but
the lives of farmers in becoming increasingly miserable and pathetic as the saying goes ‘Indian farmer is born in debts, lives in debts and dies in debts’

The green revolution and white revolution have been successful in changing the outlook of agriculture as a whole. These have helped India to achieve the following --

- Highest milk production in the world - 78 million tones.
- Second highest production of wheat and rice in the world.
- Second highest production of vegetables in the world - 43 million tones
- Third rank in the world in production of cotton, groundnut and fruits
- Fourth rank in the world in production sugarcane and potato

Despite these achievements, the benefits from these revolutions have not trickled down to the farmers. They are still marginalized, neglected and unable to reap the benefits all these revolutions and technological changes. This has led to unhappiness, dissatisfaction and frustration among them. Some of them have been driven to suicides also due to this.

Ground level Problems
The farmers are facing multi layers problem. There are problems at government policy level, business/market level as well as at village/individual levels. All these coupled together creates a vicious net for him, which is beyond his level to address and solve alone. The following at various layers are given in detail in below.

Farmer level:
- Agriculture is no longer a respected occupation in India, therefore more and more youth are looking for employment outside.
- Income from agriculture is not guaranteed and sufficient also.
- Although agriculture has grown due to revolutions, it has benefited only large farmers. The growth and development have not trickled to small and marginalized farmers level.
- The growth in terms of purchase of new lands, tractors, new house, cycle, fan, phone etc.
- Non-availability of quality inputs – access, easy availability and at lower price.
- Failure of Prompt extension – advice services
- Water and electricity are not regular in supply. This creates problems as most of the Indian agriculture suffers from water shortage.
- Since around 60% area small and marginalized, there land holding sizes are very small. This has made these units non viable for mechanizations.
- Since small and marginal farmers do not have access to heavy mechanical equipments on account of lack of money and economies of scale, the physical drudgery is very high in Indian agriculture.
- Most of the farmers do not have access to market information.
- Wiggeries of weather keeps the crop production uncertain, therefore most of the farmers do not plan to invest more. Even if they invest, returns from it are not certain due to weather.

Business/Market level
- Adulterated inputs chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides, and spurious seeds
- Seasonality of prices
- Inverse relation between crop production and market prices, which keep more or less their incomes equal irrespective of the crop production
- Cheating in weighing
- Exploitation by agents and middlemen
- Heavy interest on private borrowing

Policy level problems
- Less budget allotment by Central and State Government for agriculture
- Crop Insurance – no suitable schemes are available to cover the risk related to crop production. Whatever schemes are implemented by government from time to time, claim and getting the claim money is an issue.
- Restriction by Government on storage, movement, processing and exports of agricultural commodities.

**Agriculture in India**

The Indian economy is significantly dependent on agriculture. It contributes to 27% of total GDP, whereas industry contributes to 23% and service sector contributes to 50%. However, 67% of total workforce of India is employed in agriculture, whereas only 13% and 20% of that in industry and service sectors respectively. In other words, however, agriculture contributes less in the economy, but provides employment to more people.

Agriculture sector has been very slow due to various reasons. This has been less than 2% per annum.

**Agriculture growth during 1995-2002**

**Growth rate in various sectors (in %)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total GDP</td>
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</table>
Lack of extension services for the farmers

In the context of meeting the holistic needs of increasing agricultural production by providing the farmers with all the necessary input services, yet to do so in a sustainable manner, agricultural extension has a crucial role to play. The public research and extension services played a major role in the post-independence agricultural revolution in India. However, in the present times, extension faces important challenges in the areas of relevance, accountability, and sustainability. The changing economic scenario in the country and the need for appropriate agricultural technologies and agro-management practices to respond to food and nutritional security, poverty alleviation, diversifying market demands, export opportunities, and environmental concerns is posing new challenges to the technology dissemination system.

It is becoming increasingly evident that public extension service by itself is not enough to handle the multifarious demands of the farming systems particularly when public funding for sustaining extension infrastructure is also under considerable strain.

Though agricultural extension was considered the monopoly of the public sector, with the wide range of demands for agricultural technology in the changing scenario there was recognition that public extension cannot meet the specific needs of the farmers' altogether. However, the nature of extension services have undergone phenomenal change from the traditional requirements and with the inadequate human infrastructure at the disposal of the government, the outlook is for a new policy which will bring more people's participation in the programme. The wide ratio between the number and amount of services of the extension workers and the farmers, low level of technology adoption, inadequate infrastructure, lack of sustained organizational financial sources there appears a wide gulf on the extension services front.

The initiatives needed: The present outlook is that there is need for multi-agency dispensation comprising different strengths. The normal task of transferring and disseminating appropriate technologies and agronomic practices would not be sufficient. Though there are various government agencies working on for providing different extension services to the Farmers, the sheer number of farmers waiting for the services and the type of demands that evolve makes it very difficult for the government agencies to cater.

There is a need to have a more proactive and participatory policy in terms of involving people into the system. The farmers, by themselves have to become information agents, by gaining sufficient knowledge, inviting and facilitating meaningful and equitable knowledge based transaction within the farmer community. There is need to bring convergence in the efforts of agricultural researchers, trainers and primary producers.

Agriculture – whose baby it is anyway?

It is not an exaggeration to say that in the last five decades, a majority of the farmers in India have become poor and harried outcasts in their own country, with no respectful place in the Governments' scheme of things. Today they are on the margins of India's economic, social, cultural and political life. It is definitely considered view that India will not become a strong, prosperous and confident nation until and unless there is a qualitative improvement in our rural economy.

All this apart, the central and the state governments are not willing to take responsibility of agriculture on their shoulders completely. Who will take care of Agriculture is perhaps the unanswered question in this federal setup of the Indian country for the past 59 years. Neither the union nor the state governments want to take the full responsibility. The irony is that the union government takes care of railways which is providing the transport for the people but not the agriculture which is providing the food for its people.
It has become the piecemeal approach with the centre and the state governments taking small cakes piercing the agriculture sector. The figure below gives an idea that how the departments pertaining to agriculture are under the control of state and central governments.