Federation of Farmers Associations, Andhra Pradesh

A Brief Profile

Federation of Farmers Associations, A.P
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FEDERATION OF FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS
ANDHRA PRADESH (FFA, AP)
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FEDERATION OF FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS, AP was got registered in 1998 under the “A.P. (Telangana Area) Public Societies Registration Act, 1350 Fasli (Act 1 of 1350 F) Vide registration no.3579/2000”. Sri P. CHENGAL REDDY is the Founder Chairman of the Organization.

THE FEDERATION OF FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS (FFA) is a unified, independent, apolitical, grass roots farmer’s organization with innovative programmes and dynamic action plans to contribute to Agriculture and Rural Development. FFA has been envisioned on the premise of turning agriculture into a profitable occupation to reassure farmer and restore his dignity and foster social equity.

The FFA AP envisages accelerating all round Development, Economic viability and sustainability of Agriculture to reduce gap between urban and rural, organized and unorganized sectors in terms of growth, guaranteed take home income and quality of life and to improve standard of living of farmers, agriculture labour and rural artisans.

At grass roots level the FFA AP takes up awareness programmes to farmers on Soil fertility, Quality Seed, Innovative Culture Practices, Water Management, Pre & Post Harvesting Technologies, Agriculture Crop Insurance, all the programmes connected with economical well being and health of farmers Agriculture and allied activities. The health sector is given considerable importance in the whole scheme of things of FFA in the sense that the farmer community feeds the whole of India and the vigour and the range of activities depends on him and his family health.

The FFA enjoys Membership of about 850 Grass Root level associations, who in turn have substantial direct and indirect membership.

STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP

The FFA which is affiliated to its apex organization CIIFA- Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations located in New Delhi, is governed in the State by a Executive Committee, which includes eminent people in the field of Agriculture and other related fields. The Executive committee is headed by the President who was elected by the Executive committee members. The executive committee members are in turn elected region wise by the Farmers associations to represent them at the state level. The Executive committee apart from the President also elects the Secretary, Treasurer and three Vice presidents from each of the three regions to run the activities of the organisation.

Organisation and Operational Structure

Mr. Chengal Reddy, who was the founder president of the organisation has since turned into honorary Chairman and is the mentor of the organisation. The decisions regarding the policy making and implementation are taken up by the Executive committee in its various scheduled and specific meetings. A Managing committee with the Chairman, President, Treasurer and a Vice President and some other EC members who are in proximity to Hyderabad is formed and regular activity Implementation is monitored by the core committee

Operations: FFA AP presently operates in 16 districts of Andhra Pradesh state with head quarters in Hyderabad. Further, the FFA AP has working branch offices in Tirupati, Chittoor, Vijayawada, Gudavada, Eluru, Mahabub Nagar. All the branches are being headed by the respective Executive members of the organization.
To carry out the operations and activities of the organization, each district is manned by one to two coordinators based on the potential of activities. In case of specific projects like projects with ICRISAT and Mango value chain project in Chittoor separate coordinators are appointed apart from the regular coordinators.

**Infrastructure available**
The FFA AP has independent full-fledged office and is well equipped with computer facilities for all core members including Laptops, two Xerox machines, laser printers, video cams, cameras etc.

**Library and Documentation**
The FFA AP has a vast collection of collection of reports, books and journals relevant for its areas of interest. In addition it subscribes to more than a dozen important journals. The library is manned by a professional librarian.

**The Board Members of FFA AP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Members</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>In charge since</th>
<th>Experience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hon. Chairman</td>
<td>P. Chengal Reddy</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>In public life since 25 years in various capacities. Secretary General of Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>M. Balaram Reddy</td>
<td>April 2005</td>
<td>In public life for over 30 years; GoAP award winning farmer; Member of A.P Horticulture task force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mr. Ramachandra Raju</td>
<td>April 2005</td>
<td>Vast experience in Public sector organization, BHPV and since turned into farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Mr. Venkatesh Yadav</td>
<td>April 2005</td>
<td>A farmer and the Secretary of the A.P Small ruminants Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Mr. Seshagiri Rao</td>
<td>April 2005</td>
<td>Tobacco farmer from West Godavari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Mr. Somasekhar Rao</td>
<td>April 2005</td>
<td>In Cooperative sphere for over 20 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Mr. Pradeep Nindra</td>
<td>April 2005</td>
<td>A business man turned into farming</td>
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**OUR ASPIRATIONS:**

- To develop Indian into an Agricultural Super Power.
- To represent, on behalf of the Farm Sector, to the Planning Commission, Govt. of India and other concerned for formulating proper Agricultural Policies, Agricultural Reforms & also for allotment of budget basing on the contribution to the national GDP and also the population of agri-sector.
- To Propagate Modern Agricultural Techniques/methods to ensure high yielding.
- To bring good recognition to the farming community, by the participation of Farmers in the socio and economic developmental activities.
- To establish independent Commodity Farmers Associations/Organizations at State / National levels.
• To associate with like-minded national & international organizations functioning independently for the improvement of agriculture sector.
• To create awareness among the agriculture sector on Modern Agricultural Methods, Biotechnology, Information Technology, methods to combat viral diseases, HIV AIDS etc.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF FEDERATION OF FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS:
• To unite all the Registered and Unregistered Farmers Associations into a cohesive and functional organization.
• To create awareness and propagate about Modern Agricultural Methods/Techniques, Biotechnology, Information Technology, Central and State Government rural Schemes and guide rural youth, women and farmers on marketing. Financial plan/outlays on all related areas for improvement of their social and financial status by organising/conducting Workshops/seminars/Conferences/Get together Meetings, training courses convening at various levels like Village, Mandal, District, State, Inter State, National and International Level. And also by audio, video, Brochures/Phamplets etc. and various ways and means.
• To assist in establishing and effective functioning of Village / Mandal / District / Commodity, Associations and Cooperatives and make them members.
• To represent Planning Commission, Govt. of India, other concerned for formulation of Proper Agricultural Policy/Reforms and for sorting out amicably Farmers practical problems for better standard of living of Farmers and Rural Population for and on behalf of Farmers and for prosperity of Farmers.
• To bring recognition, importance to the farm sector and make participation of Eminent Farmers/Farmers Associations/Organizations to involve them in the formulation of major Policy matters in the connected Advisory Committees of Central/State Government /Public Sector Undertakings/Banks/Financial Institutions for prosperity of Rural areas in all angles.
• To become a member in the national / international level, Agricultural Organizations/ Associations to exchange of Technical know how, comparative study of systems being carried in the development of rural areas.
• For the realization of its objectives, the Federation 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, MARKFED, 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.
• To create awareness of the key role of agriculture and valuable contribution of farmers as an important and integral component of economic and social development of the country, among politicians, administrators, scientists, academicians, judiciary, journalists, members of organized sectors and other urban elite about the problems confronted by farmers and intricacies involved in agriculture. In case of necessity empowered to form Forums like MPs, MLAs, Experts/Professionals, etc.,
• It will make efforts to create awareness among farmers, agriculture labour and rural artisans about their fundamental rights of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.
• To promote, pursue and assist in raising the living standards of farmers and farm labour, rural artisans and others connected with agriculture and allied sectors in harmony with the environment.
• To establish agriculture clinics to provide extension services to farmers.
• To prepare feasibility project reports and rendering consultancy services for establishing farming, horticulture, animal husbandry, agro-processing Industries, exports and all other related activities.
• To promote dissemination of knowledge, information and technologies relevant to farming and rural development by establishing technology and information centers by itself or in association with like-minded organizations.
• To organize social, cultural and sport events to encourage talents, sportiveness, integration among farmers and rural youth and women.

• To disseminate and update knowledge of agriculture and its related subjects through utilization of mass-media, electronic media and other ways.

• To sponsor eminent Farmers to Seminars/Workshops/Conferences being taken up at State, National level and International level at different places in India and in other countries with or without financial assistance.

• To develop a database on agricultural production, processing, marketing & exports and make it available to farmers and others through agri-information centers.

• To analyze, study and take appropriate steps and deal with the problems connected with patent rights and creating awareness on World Trade Organizations (W.T.O) agreement related issues and other issues that has come up due to globalization and liberalization.

• To Propagate / opt for usage of available everlasting non-conventional energy sources like Family Size biogas, improved chulhas, Solar Gadgets, Biomass Power Projects, etc., for environmental cleanliness, to support deforestation programme, to safeguard women health and to reduce pressure on conventional energy sources.

• It shall constitute Commodity-wise Sub-Committees for quick feed back on the study and evaluation of practical problems and representing them to Concerned for redressal. For Constitution of Commodity wise Sub-Committees Executive Committee/Governing Body/Board is empowered.

• To encourage and honor eminent innovative farmers, farm labour, engineers, scientists, officials, social workers who work for the welfare of Farmers and rural areas development shall organise/facilitate Annual Awards with association of other Organisations on mutually agreeable terms and conditions.

• To raise/receive and acceptance of funds for accomplishment of aims and objectives by means of Membership fee, donations. Contributions, Programme support, etc., by way of Indian Currency and Foreign Currency from all connected Organizations for general purposes and specific purposes.

• In case of necessity funds shall be raised by means of Unsecured Hand Loans to the extent necessary without interest or with bank rate of interest at the discretion of Executive Committee. However, the amount receivable at a time shall not exceed Rs.50, 000 and maximum receivable Unsecured Hand Loans without interest shall be Rs.5, 00,000 in any financial year.

• Any other connected/related activity for prosperity of Farmer, Rural Population and common man.

FFA’s Linkages with other Institutions

• **IFAP**- Member of International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), Paris.

• **AP WTO Committee**- Member – State WTO Advisory Committee on Agriculture – Headed by Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of AP

• **Jayathi Gosh Commission**- FFA was a member of the Jayathi Ghosh commission set up by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to probe into the suicides of Farmers in the state.

• **ICRISAT** – Exploring Marketing Opportunities through a Research, Industry & Users Coalition – Sorghum Poultry Feed – Implemented in Mahaboobnagar District.

• **BARC**- Partnership with BARC in joint hosting of National Symposium on the propagation of Radiation technology.

• **GoAP Task force committee on Horticulture** : FFA is the member of the Government of Andhra Pradesh Task force committee on Horticulture

• **Tuskegee University**- Partnership with Tuskegee University of USA in joint holding of National symposium on the issues relating to Bio technology

• **MANAGE** – Consultant – NATP (ATMA) Project.

• **APEDA**- Conduct of awareness programmes and capacity building sessions for Mango farmers in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh

• **ANGRAU**- Partnered with ANGRAU in the conduct of awareness sessions and training programmes on Organic farming and Biotechnology
NABARD: National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development (NABARD), Govt. of India has asked FFA, AP to form 50 numbers of VV Clubs and 48 clubs were formed and the other two are on the way.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) – Member – Sub-Committee on National Agriculture Council.

Indian Farmers & Industries Alliance (IFIA) – Co-Chairman.

Parliament Member Farmers Forum (PMFF) – Coordinator.

PTRFF: Assisting in Biotechnology Propagation in association with ‘PEDDIREDDY THIMMA REDDY FARM FOUNDATION’.

FAPCI: Membership in the board of FAPCI Andhra Pradesh in the Rural Development sub committee.

INITIATIVES OF FEDERATION OF FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

1. PARLIAMENT MEMBERS FARMERS FORUM:
   In the past few years, agriculture Sector has not received due attention in resource allocations, and planning. Dependence on monsoon, inability to build strong infrastructure, provide resources and access to technologies has hampered the growth of agriculture. This realization has propelled MPs with Agricultural background and interested in welfare of farmers to establish MPs Farmers Forum.

   The Members comprising from both the houses of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is established to hold regular interactive sessions for identifying issues and pursuing them in Parliament, Government and others.

   Activities of Parliament Members Farmers Forum:
   • To assist farmers to regain their Honour & Dignity in Indian Society.
   • To interact with Farmers Organizations, agro-processing and agri-input industries, scientists, economists and others.
   • Articulate farmers issues in Parliament, Government & other arena.
   • To initiate Administrative, Legislative and Legal measures beneficial for agricultural development.
   • Development of Indian farmers as a Knowledge Workers.
   • Advancement of Indian Agriculture to become Globally Competitive.
   • Develop India as a Agricultural Super Power.

2. INDIAN FARMERS AND INDUSTRY ALLIANCE:
   Indian Farmers & Industry Alliance (IFIA) was set up for empowering farmers through partnership. It is joint venture between Federation of Farmers Associations and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) which is India’s leading Apex Industry Associations. Its objectives are identifying important issues for agriculture development, welfare of farmers, growth of agro-based industries and exports. It will pursue them with Govt. 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.

3. CONSORTIUM OF INDIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS (CIFA)
   The FFA, AP is instrumental in establishing the National level Farmers apex body in the name of “Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA)” at New Delhi. It is registered on 6th March 2006 with the number: 55078/2006 and functioning at No.8/32, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110 008. State level Farmers Federations and Commodity Committee Groups are the members in CIFA. Millions of Indian Farmers are members of the Organizations affiliated to CIFA.

MAJOR PROJECTS RECENTLY COMPLTETED/ ONGOING

Farmers Mobilization programmes
• The Agriterra, The Netherlands bases Farmers organization has extended financial support for strengthening the Networking of farmers in the State
• Providing training to farmers and establishing commodity organizations and networking them at various levels in association with AGRITERRA, The Netherlands
- Organising the farmers of Andhra Pradesh commodity wise. Until now formed commodity committees for Andhra Pradesh for the crops of Castor, Horticulture, KP Onion, Cotton etc

**Horticulture value Chain strengthening**
- Currently running project on ‘Farmers Forward Movement in the strengthening of the Mango Value Chain’ in Chittoor district
- Project on provision of commercial linkages for Mango Farmers in association with GMED India - a partner of USAID
- A study on the export possibilities OF Mango to Western European countries and mapping the Indian exporters and the West European Importers
- Base line survey on the Mango value chain in Chittoor district

**Mobilizing and campaigning for the cause of Sugarcane farmers**
- Conduct of Sugarcane Farmers mobilization programmes in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka under the purview of Sugar factories

**Formation of Commodity Committees**
- FFA facilitated the formation of Commodity committees for various crops in Andhra Pradesh formed involving the comprehensive representation of farmers across the state of A.P. Andhra Pradesh level Commodity committees formed for Castor, Cotton, Horticulture,

**Partnership with ICRISAT in improving livelihoods of Sorghum/ pearl- Millet farmers of Mahabub Nagar**
- Building Coalitions for producer - Market - Processor Linkages Sorghum for Poultry Feed Project with ICRISAT.

**PROMOTION OF NABARD VVV CLUBS**
- National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development (NABARD), Govt. of India has asked FFA, AP to form 50 numbers of VVV Clubs and 46 clubs were formed

**Women Empowerment and livelihood improvement programmes**
- Establishment of 32 Tailoring centers across the State in developing the livelihoods for Women.

**Andhra Pradesh Netherlands Bio-Technology Program**
- The APNBP project was taken up in Mahabubnagar district by FFA AP. The project has successfully completed the stipulated task of improving the skills of rural Women through providing adequate facilities for training and awareness on issues concerning health, nutrition to have a positive impact on health, nutrition, and Girl Child Educationin the area

**Improving Livelihoods of rural farmers in partnership with DRDA through Poultry trainings**
- FFA AP taken up rural farmers trainings on aspects of poultry and subsequently placed them in local poultry industries

**Social economic study projects**
- Study on Tobacco and related Agricultural Subjects.
- Conducting studies on ‘Alternative Crops for Tobacco’ in association with Tobacco Institute of India, New Delhi.

**Improvement of Livelihoods of Farmers through information dissemination**
- Establishing ‘Farmers Information Centre called ‘SAMADHANA KENDRA’ in association with National Informatics Centre & Indian Institute of Chemical Technology.

**Training SHG groups**
- Assisting SHG Group training activity in selected villages of Medak, Nalgonda & Mahaboobnagar.
Irrigation projects
- Study on Gundlakamma river basin in Andhra Pradesh

Programmes under CAPART
- Established 60 vermi compost units in Medak district as part of the CAPART programme

WORKSHOPS / TRAINING PROGRAMMES / AWARENESS PROGRAMMES
- Awareness Programmes on Systemic Rice Intensification (SRI) method of Paddy cultivation.
- Workshop on Commodity Committee on Spices.
- Participated Biotechnology Stakeholders meeting in Europe.
- Conduction seminars on the problems of water reaching the tail end areas.
- Workshop on Commodity Committee on Fruits & Vegetables in coordination with APEDA.
- Awareness Programmes on Quality Parameters of Paddy in association with FCI.
- Workshop on 'Development of AP - Role of Irrigation Projects'.
- Awareness & Training Programme on Toxicology - Pesticides & Poisoning and First Aid Treatment.
- Two day workshop on pre and post harvest practices needed in Mango cultivation in partnership with APEDA.
- Strengthening Mango Value Chain- a workshop in partnership with APEDA and Department of Horticulture.

EVENTS ORGANIZED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Pre Union budget session
- Pre budget session in Hyderabad was organized by Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations in association with Federation of Farmers Associations on the issues to be identified for inclusion in the Union Budget 2007-08

Pre Union budget session
- Pre budget session in New Delhi was organized by FFA during December 17-19 in association with Indian Farmers & Industry Alliance and Parliament Members Farmers Forum on the issues to be identified for inclusion in the Union Budget 2006-07

Post Union Budget session
- Post Budget Session In New Delhi was organized during March 05-07 in association with Indian Farmers and Industry alliance and Parliament members Forum on the issues of Agriculture that were taken up as part of Union budget 2006-07

National symposium on Radiation processing for foods feeds and Food products in association with Bhaba Atomic Research Center
- National symposium on Radiation processing of Foods, Feeds and Food products, conceived and conducted by FFA AP in association with Bhaba Atomic Research Center in Jubilee Hall, Hyderabad during September 8-9, 2006 which was attended among others by Mr. Anil Kakodkar, the Chairman of Indian Atomic Energy Commission, as Chief Guest and Sri N. Raghu Veera Reddy, Agriculture Minister from GoAP.

International symposium on the 'Fostering the second Green Revolution and the Role of Biotechnology in association with Tuskegee University, USA and ANGRAU, Hyderabad
- FFA AP has organized the international symposium on June 16, 2006 in Hyderabad at ANGRAU, Hyderabad. The workshop is aimed at fostering the second Green Revolution through increased role of Bio technology. The scientists from Tuskegee University, USA and ANGRAU etc participated.
EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS ETC ORGANISED AT THE STATE LEVEL

Rural Games
- Conduct of CIFA Thumsup Rural Games 2007 in 16 district of Andhra Pradesh involving about 12000 farmers, and also in other states of Andhra Pradesh. (i.e. in Karnataka, Tamilnadu etc.).
- Conduct of Rural games 2005 and Rural Games 2006 in 15 districts of Andhra Pradesh involving about 10000 farmers in the process on each edition.

Medical Camps
- Conducted medical camps in 12 districts in associations with Appolo Hospitals, Hyderabad and treating more than 2500 farmers for various ailments

Toxicology camps
- Conduct of Toxicology camps in various centers of A.P to raise awareness levels among the farmers. Anti toxic measures like supply of nose and face masks, guards made in association with pesticide Industries. Memorial Lectures
- Annual J.Chokka Rao's Memorial Lecture
- Annual Peddi Reddy Timma Reddy Memorial Lectures

Leadership Trainings
- State level Training Programme in Hyderabad for the Chief Volunteers of the farmers Clubs in association with NABARD
- Regional and district level leadership training programmes for the Farmers in 15 districts of A.P

Other events
- Annual Day Celebrations of FFA, AP
- Farmers Day Celebrations on the eve of the birthday of Mr Charan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India.
- Formation of FFA, Karnataka
- Formation of FFA, Rajasthan

VISITS BY FFA OFFICIALS (LOCAL & FOREIGN):
- Workshop on “Re-Energizing Indian Agriculture” conducted by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation & IFPRI at New Delhi.
- Workshop on “International Biotechnology Information Conference”, USA
- Workshop on “Strengthening of Financial Base of Farmers Organizations”, Bangkok
- Seminar conducted by International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), Paris at Seoul, South Korea.
- Visit to China for the Steering committee meet of the CFC - FAO- ICRISAT project