

Indian Farmers' 2nd Freedom struggle

***(strategies for achieving farmers' economic
and social equity by 2020)***

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Dedication:

This book is dedicated to the farmers' leaders, Acharya N. G. Ranga, Panjab Rao Deshmukh, Chowdary Charan Singh, Anna Saheb Shinde, Shri. Narayan Swamy Naidu, Bhanu Pratap Singh and many others who dedicated their lives for the cause of upliftment of Indian Farming community.

I am privileged to have been inspired by Shri. Sharad Joshi and worked with grass root farmers' leaders Shankari Koppa, Basavaraj Thambake, Raja Chidambaram, Dr. Siva Swamy, Dr. Sita Ramaswamy, Sanat Mehta, Suryanarayan Raju, Pandit Narayan Reddy, Chokka Rao, Aarif and others.

My entry into farm sector activism is due to my Father Late Peddi Reddy Thimma Reddy whom I observed was a simple but totally dedicated man till his last breath, thinking of farmers and their welfare. It is my teacher Acharya Sitaramaiah who guided me whenever I am in doubt. Every day, I commence my activity seeking the blessings of these great souls.

Over past 20 years, I got support, advice, guidance, love and respect from thousands of people. Together we have worked large number of farmers from various states. The Organization – CIFA is established, issues are identified, analysis made and programs implemented. We identified partners and advisors to work with. However, we have to go a long way to achieve Social and Economic equity to Farmers. The greatest blessing for us came through Agriterra, a Netherlands Based organization, which propelled on our activities. Now that I am planning to withdraw from these activities, I thought it desirable to pen my thoughts and share my views and ideas with farmers activists and others so that they can carry forward the goal of **"Restoring the past glory of Annadathas"**.

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1. Background:

Every time I reach a dead end, I find a new light and a hope. Past 2 years, most of the CIFA and FFA activities are getting shut-downed. My physical activity was at low ebb day by day, myself, as well as all others thought it was because of a health problem. But when I went to Delhi, I was fit like fiddle and work for 24 hours without any strain. I realized that it is my frustration to bring about changes in farm sector as fast as possible.

On the occasion of 9th National Farmers Conference on 24th November'2012, which incidentally happens to be 98th Birthday of my Father, this book is presented before my friends.

I do realize that there are many problems, challenges and obstacles to make farming sustainable. But, the developments of technologies, communications, huge markets, infrastructure, investment capabilities, entrepreneur skills and advantages of Indian Agro Climatic Conditions make me firmly believe that we can achieve not only sustainability but global competitiveness of Indian Farm Sector.

What is required is, understanding of the issues of each Commodity (Producer) Interest Groups (CIGs). Its production, investment, risks and market related issues. Identify the partners at each level – village, block, district, state, national and international levels. At national level work with MPs, Union Government Ministries, Planning Commission, NABARD, ICAR, Confederation of Indian Industry, Private research Institutions, World Bank and others.

At the state level work with MLAs, Ministers, State Government Departments of Agriculture, Marketing, Irrigation, Electricity and others. Join hands with Milk, Sugar, Rice and other processing industries. At local level, work with Government Line Departments and the businessmen of seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and Agents in the market yards.

In the past 10 years, we have identified the commodity wise issues and preparing programs for implementation which are given in this book.

This book is to provide a Road Map for friends working for Farmers welfare. India cannot be a World Economic Power without a strong Agriculture base and happy farmers.

One monsoon failure will throw the entire Indian Economy into crisis. Many well meaning people understand this but are helpless to entangle the men erected by corruption, inefficient constitutional utilization.

2. What makes farmers uninterested in Agriculture?

Post independence, The farmers' movement of Zamindari abolition initiated by Prof. N.G.Ranga succeeded and benefitted the farmers. Subsequently, the land reforms of 1970s caused heartburn amongst the farmers but then farmers reconciled to their fate and went about with the farming. The 1970-80s Irrigation projects, fertilizer availability, access to hybrid seeds has improved the productivity and for few years, made farming economically viable.

The fact that the suicides started in 1980s with high investments in cotton and its continuation as of 2012 indicates the Government failure to develop a risk mitigation mechanism against crop failure due to pests & diseases and low price due to continuous market fluctuations.

The pinnacle of farm sector crisis is evident with the 2010-11 **Crop Holiday declaration in the most fertile farming area of Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, India.**

Many of my colleagues Shri. Sitaramaswamy, Shri. Suryanarayana Raju, Mr. Nagendranath, Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy, etc. who have worked for farmers unification for over 30 years wonder as to **why the farmers difficulties remained unsolved?**

Day after day and year after year, individual farmer faces the endless agony of confronting the same problems – **non availability of credit, uncertainty of rain, problems of electricity and water, not sure of the quality of seeds, fertilizer and pesticides, non availability of extension services, fear of pests, disease and natural calamities, lack of risk mitigation and finally unsure of profitable price.**

It is this endless agony that makes the farmers start slowly getting depressed after about 10-15 years when the problem sinks in to every drop of his blood. He is totally confused and bewildered as to why these problems are persisting? Who is responsible and what is the way out? He is assured by the politicians especially during the elections and conferences that they will solve his problems.

Year after year, the officials keep changing. The politicians also keep changing. But nothing happens. These farmers mostly consisting of illiterate small and especially belonging to socially under privileged sections (Tenant) look to some miracle for solution.

When a new political leader comes with promises they flock to him. With hope and many expectations, after 5 years they opt for new leader because the promises did not solve his daily problems.

Many articles are written, TV programs are showcased, Movies were made and committee reports are publicized. Even then there are no answers.

3. Failure of Farmers' Leaders after 1970:

As a farmers' activist, I have made my own analysis and keep speaking and writing about the failure of farmers leaders, it whenever I get an opportunity.

The problems of farmers have started after 1970s especially after Late Smt. Indira Gandhi became the undisputed leader of India. She destroyed all the institutions including strong grass root Congress Politicians/leaders. These leaders hailing from farming communities are totally sidelined so much so the farmers problems are not been able to catch the attention of the planners, financial experts and administrators at Delhi. She also destroyed Panchayat Raj Institutions and centralized entire agriculture planning. After 1980s, the organized sectors of Government Employees exerted pressure and cornered most of the financial resources. They became very inefficient and also highly corrupt. The license and permit raj of 1970-1990 saw that the selected industries have grown. But the benefits have not percolated to the unorganized sectors especially farmers.

4. Liberalization bypassed Farm Sector:

The liberalization process initiated in 1990 by Dr. Manmohan Singh has really helped the Industry and service sectors which generated huge resources for the nation. But again they are not properly distributed. The organized sectors and the urban elite got the best technologies which helped them in their day to day life and in their professional development.

But, it is farm sector is totally bypassed during the liberalization process. India has huge resources at its disposal. The money could have been spent for Agriculture research, construction of Irrigation Projects, providing extension services to the farmers, establishing agro processing industries and providing mechanization to farmers, pay a profitable price and extend support for crop losses. But none of this has happened. I believe that it is basically because of failure of political parties, planning commission and administrators. Their knowledge of the Indian Agriculture is very limited and borrowed from the western economic concepts which say that small

farming is not sustainable and therefore, the population dependant on Agriculture must be shifted to service and industrial sector.

This problem was visualized by Mahatma Gandhi over a Century back who wanted development based on Gram Swaraj. But the Indian ruling elite have no time to look into Mahatma's concepts.

It is wrong to say that small farming is not sustainable. Small farming especially in dry land areas faces innumerable difficulties to become sustainable. But then Israel which has virtually no rainfall survives on farming and also the small farms of Philippines, Japan, Vietnam and Korea.

5. There is no Culture in Agriculture:

What is to be **realized is that there is no culture in Agriculture.** Modern agriculture is a entrepreneurial activity which need Investments, Market connectivity and access to technologies. It requires best technologies, managed by a well trained farmer. The advantage is that India itself has 400 million middleclass consumers whose purchase power is enormous.

Agriculture produce across the world have unlimited opportunities. Apart from food it has to produce feed, fodder and fuel. With the reduction in land, diversified for urbanization, infrastructure, land cannot be increased further. It is therefore, possible to make agriculture highly profitable. It requires modern technologies of **GMOs which controls pests and diseases, solve Water Stress, Flood Submersion** and helps increase food productivity and also produce food in saline and alkaline lands.

The farm sector requires water conservation practices to conserve water which has become highly precious. The farm activity has to be mechanized to reduce the **physical drudgery** and retain the youth in farming. The small farmers must be provided with ancillary activity of **animal husbandry** and small activities of backyard poultry and kitchen garden which with provide an additional income required for the family sustenance. The other area with vast opportunities is **rural service sector** which can provide many livelihood activities. Every 50 Indians require a **tailor because** of the vast increase in the needs of personal clothing, house hold goods, etc.. The village services of making different **semi processing agriculture produce** and also household needs of **detergent powder,** phenol has unlimited opportunities. The village **industries can easily compete with the Multi Nationals.**

These programs were initiated in 1960's through Khadi and village industries development. But over a period, they were totally neglected by Central and State governments.

6. Agriculture in the hands of Socially Under privileged:

The farm sector also suffers from **lack of leadership**. Almost all the traditional agriculture communities have left farming in all parts of India. Their children are into service sectors and industry and other activities. Majority of them are absentee land holders. Today's **farmers are mostly tenants and belong to socially neglected communities**. The other highly vulnerable sections of farmers consist of **tribal, nomads and fishermen**. The tenant farmers do not get any credit from government banks or subsidies or extension or crop insurance. They take risk all by themselves against crop failures. They borrow money from money lenders at a high interest rate.

The **tribal farmers** do not own ownership of the land and do not have documentation which deprives them of the above government facilities. In case of **nomads**, they are virtually have no facilities what so ever. The **fishermen** have some relief in terms of having farmed societies and get some nominal financial support and equipment. Their main problem is that of **vulnerability of income and lack of profitable price, exploitation by the middlemen and lack of storage and value addition**.

In terms of % of population, these constitute over **35% to 40%** who are perpetually exposed to **malnutrition, migration and lack of food security**. Fragmentation of the lands over a period of time is a major drawback which hampers the development.

7. Debasing of Democratic Process:

Irrespective of the **caste**, community and region, the **entire rural communities' leadership is highly exploitative**. The Members of Parliament, Legislative Assembly and other elected representation has gone into the hands of rich people representing their respective communities. These communities mostly consisting of **Reddy, Kamma, Lingayath, Okkalinga, Marata, Patil, Takur, Chatt, Rajput, Patnaik** etc. are all concentrated in the hands of **rich people whose main occupation is contracts, industry, liquor business, tobacco or fulltime professional politicians**. The exurbanite cost of election process wherein a Parliament Member candidate has to spend **15-20 crores and an MLA candidate 3-5 crores** has virtually removed the honest **political workers from contesting in the elections**.

The other tragedy of Indian Democracy and failure of farm sector is the division and **immorality of voters in the rural areas**. All most all the illiterate, poor and socially under privileged voters cast their vote. The other middleclass voters exercise their vote based on caste and community basis. Even these people take money from the candidates. This has totally corrupted the leadership and quality of politics in every state.

The 1990's liberalization has propelled good growth but the **fruits are not evenly distributed**. The organized sectors especially the urban elite cornered the cream of development. While the liberalization was allowed in infrastructure, communication, transportation, pharmaceutical sectors, the **restriction on agriculture remained the more or less same**. In fact, the **opposition to reforms became more and more**.

8. **Greens' Terrorism:**

In 1960's people acclaimed construction of major irrigation projects of Bhakranagal, Heerakud and Nagarjunsagar. But in the year 2000, tremendous opposition and apprehensions were created against **Narmada Sarovar and Polavaram**. In 1970's hybrid wheat was introduced and people hailed it as a Green Revolution. But in 2000, when BT Cotton was introduced, many people opposed it.

It is not that the 2nd Generation liberalization Reforms in Agriculture sector are not beneficial to farmers. It is because our country is **culturally divided into 2 divergent groups**.

9. **Black mail by the Organized Sectors:**

They consist of **organized, high profile, highly aspirational middleclass living in urban areas**. Their world revolves around their family having the best of everything in the world. It is these people who are the members of Indian political class administrators, Businessmen, professional, NRIs and other privileged people. From 1990, they got the best **medical facilities, communication systems, infrastructure and opportunities for their growth**. By being vocal and united, they enforced their **will on the 70% unorganized sectors especially consisting of farmers living in rural areas**. They demanded all the agricultural produce at a **nominal price** and they consider it obligatory for the unorganized sectors and farmers to serve them. The situation seems to be like a **Roman Empire in 200 BC wherein 70% Slaves served the 30% Roman Nobles**.

The challenge before Indians as of 2012 is whether the **present exploitative system can survive for long**. The entire society has become debased and immoral. But a ray of hope is evident as we are seeing thousands of **adventurous** and committed people making a sincere effort to provide solution. The example of **Anna Hazare, Aruna Roy, Iron Sharmila, Arvind Kejriwal** so also many others are outstanding examples. But in regard to farm sector, we need to bring about the 2nd generation reforms so as to provide economic equity and social recognition to the farmers.

I have lived all my life with lots of dreams. In 1991, when I took a oath on my father that I will work for unification of farmers, for 20 years, I never dreamt of coming this far. It is totally a illusionary and obscure idea for an average person like me. May be it is foolish or maybe it is emotional. I do not want to get into too much details. I have a good and bad qualities of forgetting what has happened yesterday. But the one thing that keeps me going is **some passion, anger and outrage that burn inside me for the injustice done to these ignorant and illiterate farmers**.

10. **Farmers organizations (FOs) and Commodity (Producer) Interest Groups (CIGs) in India Need for Political and Social Legitimacy**

A. CAPABILITY TO RELATE:

1. In India political legitimacy and social legitimacy are two different aspects and thus cannot be clubbed. For the 600 million Indian farmers divided on linguistic, cropping pattern, resource based, economically varied and socially segregated, it is important to have both political as well as social legitimacy. In a complex society like India Political and Social Interests are not same for all the sections and there are sharp differences and at times conflicting interests among various groups situated at various steps of social strata. Political groups generally represent some sections of society and they opine there stand as per these sections which they claim to represent.

Political legitimacy is of **least importance for FO & CIG**. They are involved in productivity, marketing, policies and other issues of its constituents. At best, connectivity with **political groups for lobbying purpose is required for them**.

As far as **social legitimacy** is concerned, social legitimacy as a larger concept is required and a must for an FO & CIGs but at times in a

country like India they have to take stand and object to commonly **prevalent social perceptions** and strive to bring about **a change in the same**. “Social Legitimacy” can be seen as an added value especially in Indian context wherein social divisions, gender divisions etc. play a key role. **Social legitimacy will strengthen the FOs & CIGs.**

FO need not be politically correct all the time. However, its actions and process should be well **within the legal framework**. Thus within the broader aspect of “Capability to relate” the Political and social legitimacy is half important for FOs / CIGs in Society like India.

2. **Integral Leadership and staff** (upright, incorruptible and un-discussed) is **very important**. While working on farmers issues a FO need to present a positive and trust worthy face and there should be well placed processes to ensure accountability and transparency in the functioning of organization. Any commodity (producer) Interest Groups (CIGs) Organizations that seeks to represent issues and interests of farmers shall be prepared to face uncomfortable questions from **the sections with conflicting interests**. An integer leadership and staff is first condition to gain sustained confidence of the constituency. Democratic processes for electing leaders and decision making are pre-requisite.
3. Operational credibility / reliability is **important for FOs/ CIGs** but again in a complex society like India, credibility / reliability are very relative terms. Also in a developing society, organizations evolve such process with time and experience. Operational success has to be phased, prioritizing crops, marketing advantages, consumer preferences etc. hence can be taken selectively. In developing nations like India, policy changes such as free market economy by removing restrictions on trading, processing and export of commodities, allowing Private/FDI investments, accessing new technologies including GMOs, efficient water usage through investments and water pricing, allowing nuclear energy should be given high emphasis. This can be done only through lobbying and administrative advocacy.
4. In India, the 1990’s liberalization policies of removing License and Control Raj, allowing technologies and investments including FDI in addition to incentives the industrial and service sectors have achieved 8% growth. Whereas due to restrictions, the agriculture sector achieved less than 2% during 1990-2010.

5. Participation in coalition/partnership is very important for FOs/CIGs. Farmer issues are generally complex and inter related. These constitute various aspects of issues like land, water, infrastructure, credit, market etc. FOs has to be able to participate and form coalitions/partnerships in order to deal with this vast range of issues and concerns. Moreover Coalitions/partnerships helps in developing reach and identity of an organization that further the cause of FOs strength.
6. Partnership programs with stakeholders such as processing industries, retailers and exporters are important. Success of FOs/CIGs is because of institutionalization of them and preparing a permanent activity / programmes.
7. Quality of leadership in developing nations is not up to standards to overcome the shortfall. A professional administration / advisory structure is the key for success and sustainability. It helps FOs/CIGs develop stronger bargaining power with the authorities/other stakeholders.
8. However such alliances should be created as an evolving process and should not be done in haste as it may affect the interest of its own constituency. Such alliances should not be created on unequal platforms. Adequate alliances with external stakeholders are a continuous process and should be promoted and developed as and when it arises. In fact FO/CIGs should make a serious effort to identify and establish alliances at different levels (Ex. Indian Sugar Mills Association, Rice Millers Associations, Dairy Industry etc.).
9. For FO/CIGs, Alliance/Partnerships with Government (implementation of ATMA programs), Private Sector, CII, FICCI, Indian Sugar Mills Association, Rice Millers Associations, Dairy Industry etc.(Cooperative Sugar and Milk Factories), farmer Centric Institutions (Water Users Associations) and NGOs are essential. In addition, joining hands with Research Institutions (ICAR, Agriculture Universities, ICRISAT) are equally important. Simultaneously, working with World Bank, World Economic Forum and FAO are equally important.

B. CAPABILITY TO COMMIT AND ACT BY FO/CIGs:

1. Presence of a work plan decision taking and acting on these decisions collectively is very important for FO/CIGs. It helps in optimum utilization of resources and timely delivery of targets. At the same time it also helps in keeping the track of the progress and thus

avoiding any distractions from already set objectives / goals. Acting on decisions which were arrived at after due deliberations and building consensus is critical for success of the programme and sustains the FO/CIGs.

However these processes are evolved with time and it is very difficult for FOs in developing countries to adapt to such processes in the beginning phase of organizational development. Sustained guidance, training and monitoring are the keys. CIFA/FFA with the assistance and guidance of The Agriterra, Netherlands and Passage has conducted many pilot projects and is successfully pursuing them. (link – Agriterra & www.indianfarmers.org)

2. Effective resource mobilization (human, institutional and financial) is very important for FOs in developing countries. It becomes all the more important for these organizations to utilize the resources optimally. Again FOs lack the quality of resources which makes it more complex wherein the majority of the farmers have small land holdings and limited capacity to provide even the membership fee. Training of human resource, building of institutional resources with well-laid processes and management of financial resources to ensure transparency and accountability requires sustained guidance, training and monitoring as well as the passion for the outcome. **Immediate results should not be expected from FO/CIGs.**
3. Effective monitoring of the work plan is very important for FOs/CIGs. On one hand it helps in achievement of targets and goals as per the plan and on the other hand it also gives opportunity to review, receive feedback and follow up the actions taken by the organization. Effective monitoring is the key to optimum utilization of resources and provides a base for future plans and organizational growth through sustained learning. It also helps in identifying the areas of improvement for the organization.
4. Inspiring / action oriented leadership is important for FO/CIGs. However in complex and developing countries such leadership is required to be identified, nurtured and developed through a continuous process of improving leadership skills. Even though the leadership potential is huge but in absence of proper training on issues, policies and processes this leadership potential remains unutilized or get diverted to more lucrative professions of service sector, business including politics.

5. Acceptance of leadership's integrity by staff is very important. In absence of such acceptance of leadership, FOs face the fear of losing the credibility and reliability and also the retention rate of staff may drop causing loss of human and financial resources to the organization. FOs leadership has many limitations due to "short duration of the office holding". It also confronts the problem of communication skills (India has 20 major languages). Projecting the leader in developing nation is the work of organization / administration. It is therefore essential that a strong support staff is available for the overall success of leadership. Farmers leadership is not a very glamorous activity to attract the attention of one and all.

C. CAPABILITIES TO DELIVER ON DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Financial resources are very important to deliver on development objectives by FOs. In developing countries FOs often face an acute shortage of financial resources and it is one of the major barrier / obstacle in way of delivering the objectives. Mechanisms to generate resources / support are either unavailable or are difficult to access FOs in countries like India with illiterate and small farmers lacking professional training and exposure to opportunities. Management of these resources is another issue. From maintenance of account, income expenditure etc. to fund generation, allocation of funds for different purposes and timely expenditure of the same, organizations require continuous support system of education, training and experience sharing.
2. Office Facilities, equipment and premises are very important. It facilitates the complete process of organizational functioning and growth. Facilities and equipments helps in real time coordination which further the capabilities to deliver on development objectives. However organizations require thorough training on management of such resources for the given purposes so as to ensure optimum utilization of these. Similarly a premise helps in developing a common centre for coordination and communication and also provides a platform for experience sharing, learning and reviewing the performance. Most FOs in developing countries lack such facilities, equipment, premises etc. and require continuous direct support to develop and manage the same.
3. Human resources are very important for capabilities to deliver on development objectives. FOs in developing countries lack professional and well trained human resource. Identification and development of human resources is very important. Farmers in developing countries

do not have exposure to policy level and decision making processes and market dynamics, expecting them to reflect on these is not realistic. Professionally trained and committed human resource is very important for FOs with aim to enable these organizations to deal, negotiate and bargain with other stakeholders, market and authorities.

4. CIFA/FFA supported by The Agriterra, The Netherlands since 2002 has unique distinction of developing many innovative concepts that are new to the 600 million Indian farmers. (1) Convincing the farmers of apolitical and professional farmers organizations benefits. (2) Bringing together FO/CIGs with different objectives under common banner to pursue commonly accepted goals by bringing about consensus on issues. (3) Establishing commodity (Producer) Interest Groups (CIGs) at different levels and network them. (4) Prepare a status paper on each commodity/issue and pursue them on continuous basis for its logical solutions. (5) To convince the FO/CIGs on the need for working with other stakeholder especially Industry (processing, retail, Exporters) Research Institutions, Input Industries and others. (6) To work with Government in planning, implementation and feedback as a complementary institution. (7) Establishing a strong lobby with participation by Legislators, Parliamentary Members, MLAs (8) Encouraging FO/CIGs to join international fraternity. (9) Establishing Administrative and communication network to facilitate connectivity amongst FO/CIGs as well as others.
5. Access to knowledge resources is very important, all the more important is access to right knowledge / information on market, technologies, policies at right time. Creating centers of knowledge / information resources, making these centers accessible to organizations and farmers and developing mechanisms for practical implementation and use of this knowledge / information in the field is challenge in developing countries.
6. Absence of common platforms for knowledge / experience sharing and mechanisms to ensure practical use of this information / knowledge by farmers pose a challenge to organizations. Disconnect between new discoveries, inventions, knowledge etc. and practical agriculture in the field is very wide in terms of time and access. In developing nations establishing a strong inform base will have tremendous advantage for increasing production, providing more income to small farmers and overall economic benefit to the country.

D. CAPABILITIES TO ADAPT AND SELF RENEW:

1. Understanding of shifting contexts and relevant trends (Industry, Fashion, Health, Consumers) is very important for FOs to adopt and self renew. However, scope for such understanding is very limited due to absence of supportive and facilitating environment. FO/CIGs first need to develop understanding of overall policy and market environment, understanding of shifting contexts and relevant trends comes later.

However to be able to adapt to change and to survive in fast changing socio-economic, political as well as climatic environment, understanding of shifting contexts and relevant trends and flexibility to adapt to the same is a must. A permanent mechanism shall be evolved to conduct studies and provide information to the FO/CIGs on regular basis.

2. Confidence to change, leaving room for diversity, flexibility and creativity is very important for FO/CIGs. Such confidence can only stem from understanding of market and policy environment, ability to respond and timely access to knowledge / information. The fragile farmers in India are very vulnerable and it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to continue in the profession – **mass migration, reluctance of youth to continue agriculture, suicides, mal nutrition.**
3. Expecting confidence of any kind in such situation is not a practical approach. However, risk mitigation and ability to cover for possible failure is the key to confidence to change. Such security and cover is completely absent in developing countries/India. In India High investment, Private borrowing, lack of profitable price, Crop failure and absence of risk mitigation are the main reasons for suicides of over 30,000 farmers every year.
4. Policies and favorable atmosphere to be created to make FO/CIGs confident to change, leaving room for diversity, flexibility, creativity, cover for possible failure with scope for coming back should be provided.
5. Use of opportunities and incentives, acknowledgment of mistakes that have been made and stimulation of the discipline to learn is important if such opportunities and incentives are available and are within the reach of the FOs which is not the case with FO/CIGs in India.

6. Next logical step to acknowledgement of mistakes that have been made is using available alternatives options. No such alternatives are generally available. In most cases mistakes are at policy or implementation level and farmers and their organizations are not in a position to bring any substantial change by acknowledging the same. However within the given framework with all its limitations, use of opportunities and incentives, acknowledgement of mistakes that have been made and stimulation of discipline to learn is important for FO/CIGs to enhance its capability to adapt and self renew.
7. Systematically planned and evaluated learning, including in management is important but it is a distant reality for most of the FO/CIGs in India due to lack of professionals, institutions and mechanisms to design, implement and monitor and support the same. FO/CIGs most in their nascent stage of development as professionals organizations are challenged by all the dynamics that are part of organizational development process.
8. Systematically planned and evaluated learning will boost the process and increase the capacity of organization to deal with the internal and external issues related to organizations and the sector. Again this should be an evolving process through guidance and support from outside. Inclusion of professionals are required to be processes may benefit the organization, but these professionals are required to be exposed to ground reality and grass root experience before any such inclusion.

E. CAPABILITY TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY:

1. Clear mandate, vision and strategy, which is known by staff and used by its management to guide its decision making process is very important for FO/CIGs. In most cases clear mandate is not lacking but building a clear vision around that mandate remains a challenge for the organization due to absence of understanding of policy and market environments and restricted access to information and knowledge.
2. Developing strategy comes later. Developing strategy around the vision requires understanding of complete policy environment, changing trends and knowledge of one's strengths, weaknesses to bring about desired positive change is there, strategy cannot be developed and implemented. However clear mandate, vision and strategy is definitely a major factor affecting capability to maintain consistency and is very important for FO/CIGs.

3. CIFA has initiated a process on above aspects since 2004. Earlier from 1998 similar exercise was done at State level by Federation of Farmers Associations, Andhra Pradesh. The model and experiences of L.T.O., the Netherlands has helped in shaping many of the policies and strategies. However in the context of India's 600 Million farmers, it will take considerable time, resources to cover the entire country. India can be a model for developing nations to learn from its experiences.
4. A well defined set of operating principles (bylaws) especially commodity (producer) Interest Groups (CIGs) are very important. So also partnering with Industry and also establishing lobby of MPs. These facilities help in smooth functioning and avoiding group dynamics and conflicts. They facilitate day to day functioning, decision making process and provide a yardstick to organizational growth and development.
5. Leadership committed to achieving coherence, balancing stability and change is important. Such coherence, balancing stability and change within the organization provides flexibility to adapt and thus helps in maintaining consistency in performance. A coherent team can always deliver better than one which is not. Achieving coherence, balancing stability and change should be transferred from leadership to the members and staff and it should become integral part of organizational functioning.
6. Consistency between ambition, vision, strategy and operations is very important so also continuous monitoring, feedback, review system and well placed follow-up process. FOs can develop them with time through guidance, support and mentoring other organized sectors. One word of caution here is that this ambition should not be personal and it should be well in tandem with organizational goals and purposes. Organizational goals, objectives, ambitions, vision, strategies and operations should be performance oriented. They should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound. Such processes if laid down and implemented properly helps in developing capabilities to maintain consistency.

11. FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS (FOs) AND COMMODITY (PRODUCER) INTEREST GROUPS (CIGs) IN INDIA:

The FOs in developing nations are based on social traditions (caste oriented), created by state (Co-operatives) and also NGOs. All the three have limitations in claiming to be genuine farmers' organizations.

In India every political party has a farmers wing. Many caste oriented farmers organizations work on limited area of activity.

The government controlled organizations are at the mercy of politicians. They cannot go against the ruling party or government. Government controlled organizations of NDDDB, Tobacco Board, Spices Board are existing so also, cooperatives (Sugar, Milk). Water users, lift Irrigation societies are functional with limited powers.

The NGOs have personal and limited agendas. None of them represent the farmers' interests. Indian NGOs are basically anti-farmer. Development activities connected with agriculture such as construction of irrigation projects, mechanization of agriculture, generating electricity with nuclear energy, accessing GMO seeds, private participation in Agriculture sector, Liberalization of controls and restrictions on agricultural produce marketing, processing and exports are all opposed by NGOs. The activities of the NGOs are not transparent. They have no membership from the farmers. They are not accountable to government.

The 3 basic principles of FO/CIGs are freely established (based on common vision), having economic benefit – improving productivity and quality, voluntary membership, democratic functioning, legally owned and controlled by persons who benefit from participation in the activities.

In India CIFA is the only Farmers' Organization that works as per the above norms. (www.indianfarmers.org)

12. Developing ATMA/CIGs Dynamic Farmers' Organizations:

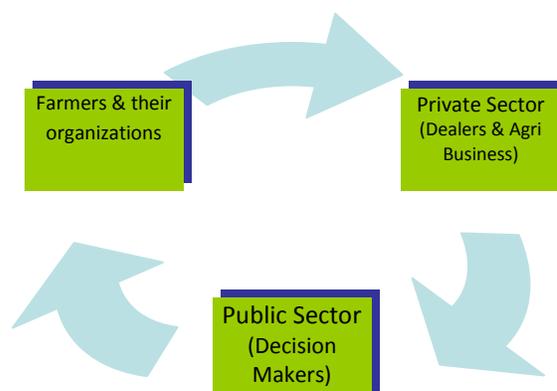
Farmers, businessmen and politicians who make a living from the supply, distribution and use of agricultural inputs have stakes in decisions that affect the welfare of the soil hence, agricultural productivity. Farmers use the land primarily for production and are inextricably linked with food security. Businessmen supply the inputs, purchase raw products, add value and market the final products. Politicians have a stake in the productivity of the land as it relates to food security and poverty reduction. Prior to the implementation of structural adjustment policies and agricultural sector reforms, the state was directly involved in several activities in the agricultural sub-sector as a major player.

Since the early to mid-eighties, the political and socioeconomic environment changed. The state is no longer directly involved in the procurement of inputs, production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and that are assuming the responsibility for these functions. On the other hand, farmers are beginning to realize that they can no longer count on the State's direct support and must learn to negotiate their interests with government and the private sector in a free market setting.

In this context, farmers have to be strong at all level and vis-à-vis their partners as well (policy makers, private sector, etc) The new attitude of stakeholders having to adjust to each other has not yet been assimilated and the mechanisms by which dialogue and negotiation can take place effectively have not been established. Moreover, the stakeholders concerned have not yet acquired all the necessary capacities to deal with the new situation. These capacities to deal with the new situation. This capacity must be built or strengthened it each is to play his/her rightful role.

ATMA/CIGs have a components that facilitates partnership between three groups of important stakeholders: public sector decision maker, private sector input dealers and farmers organizations (Figure 1). In the farmer based organizations' component of the partnership triangle, the project seeks to empower farmers' organizations for their effective participation in decision making on a wide range of issues at the local, district, regional and national levels. The issues to be addressed by the empowerment are those related to agricultural research, production, processing marketing and consumption with particular emphasis on natural resource management.

Given below figure facilitates Dialogue among Decision Makers, Farmers & their Organization and Private Sector input Dealers & Agribusiness.



13. Definition of Farmer Empowerment:

Beaudoux et al defined farmer empowerment in its minimalist sense as the development of farmers' capacities to initiate actions on their own or to influence decisions that affect their economic and social activities, on the other hand defines farmer empowerment as "an activity that mobilizes and motivates people in the farming community to bring about positive changes within the organizations".

14. Conflicts with Political Interests:

The changing economic situation and the withdrawal of the state from the provision of agricultural services have combined to make the empowerment of farmers a priority for most governments. Unfortunately, farmer empowerment has been looked upon unfavorably by some because of the potential conflicts it may create within the society. Although, the potential exists, especially in instances where empowerment of farmer-based organizations reduces the power of other institutions. It does not necessarily mean or lead to conflicts or confrontations. Where these organizations do not tend to replace or reduce the powers of these institutions, there are usually no conflicts. An example is the empowerment of farmers' organizations to create and operate savings, credit unions, Processors, Marketers and Exporters. This activity does not necessarily replace existing financial institutions, since there are few such institutions that cater specifically for smallholder farmers.

15. Farmers Empowerment Process

The process of farmer empowerment may take many forms. It is based on intervention at three levels empowerment for literacy skills development; empowerment for economic participation and empowerment for rights, responsibility' and advocacy.

In the view of IFAP (International Federation of Agricultural Producers) and according to Pertev and King (2000), farmer empowerment is all about helping farmers to get organized. Therefore, resource-poor farmers cannot be empowered if they do not have an organization that can represent them at local, district, national, regional and global levels. Any farmer empowerment process must necessarily touch farmers at the grassroots level. Because the grass roots farmer groups are the vital building blocks of the process. However, the grassroots groups are fragile and weak if they do not structure themselves at higher levels Equally, any structure that does not have proactive and dynamic grass roots farmers' groups at its base is a nonviable and unrepresentative organization.

16. Skill Enhancement for additional Income Generation:

In summary, the process of farmer empowerment basically consists of: Strengthening farmer's skills (e.g., literacy, technical, business and other skills)

- To increase their economic participation and their well-being
- To sharpen their negotiating and advocacy power in all relevant
- To be aware of their rights and responsibilities and to be able to participate in and influence policies that affect them and their business and strengthening farmers' organizations structures at the grassroots, national and global levels to be a strong entity to achieve of the above.

17. Essential Roles of Farmer-Based Organizations

Once individual farmers are inducted into organizations and are sufficiently empowered, they have essential roles to play in the present situation where the government is no longer directly involved in the procurement of inputs, production, processing and marketing of agricultural products. Farmers' organizations can play three essential roles: 1) the role of a forum, 2) the role of representation and liaison and 3) the role of undertaking group activities and providing services to the members.

18. The Role of a Forum

Farmers' organizations often serve as a forum where members assemble to discuss what they have in common. Some forums are formal and are scheduled at pre-determined intervals (e.g. annual general meetings) while others may be convened as emergency meetings to discuss a subject of particular importance. Whether formal or informal, these meetings present the opportunity for farmers to discuss membership-related issues or things of general or of peripheral interest to the Organizations. The forum is often convened at different levels of the organization (local, district, regional, national or even international) and may also represent an ideal opportunity for developing technical and managerial skills of members.

19. Farmer-Based Organizations by Type of Activity

Two main types are common farmer business organizations and farmer representative organizations. Farmer business organizations are enterprises that focus mainly on economic services, and farmer representative organizations focus primarily on representation of interest, communication and consultation. Many farmer business organizations also have a representational function; likewise farmer representative organizations usually also incorporate Economic activities.

20. Farmer - Based Organizations by Origin

Using the origin or initiator of farmer-based organizations, one can distinguish between FBOs:

- i. Based on social traditions
- ii. Create by the state
- iii. Created by NGOs

Groups based on social traditions at the local levels exist for as long as one remembers and come in different forms (e.g. groups, associations, etc). However, the organization of farmers in a modern form, with legal constructs such as cooperatives, was introduced during colonial times usually to provide the members with production and marketing services. Just after independence the states used these organizations as instruments to direct and to control the rural population. Today, the lack of spontaneity, independence, and responsibility of farmer-based organizations is often attributed to this history because farmers ultimately viewed these organizations as state institutions instead of their own cooperatives. In the seventies private agencies and the NGOs focused on the rural population that had been neglected by the state and created farmer-based organizations to cater to farmers in part and for their project needs. Since the adjustment policies of the mid-eighties an objective became to transfer power to local populations, and for this reason also farmer-based organizations were created by some NGOs. It should be noted that these organizations were often initiated without the real participation of farmers.

21. Characteristics of Effective Commodity Based Organizations

Irrespective of the type or origin of farmers' organizations, the main characteristics of effective farmers' organizations are those that are freely established (based on a common vision), have voluntary membership, are legally owned and controlled by persons who benefit accrue to members in accordance with their participation in the organization. To be viable, farmers' organizations need to have clearly defined common goals that all members actively endeavor to meet. Viable farmers' organizations are those guided by democratic principles. They need a maturation period to function optimally and those initiated from the bottom seem more likely to be viable than organizations initiated from the top. Organizations have to be strengthened by training and collective action to establish a power base through which to influence rural policymaking and implementation, and specifying the place of farmers in emerging societies.

22. Organizing farmers as trade unions:

The regional parties must establish large number of producer groups at the village level and network them at district and state level. Networking of producer groups is beneficial in improving productivity, marketing the produce and also curtailing exploitation. The Commodity (Producer) Interest Groups (CIGs) will easily adopt any innovative technology which is very essential because the future agriculture is based on the Consumer Preference. For example, specific variety of vegetable is produced which is required by its high end consumers. So also an exportable commodity based on the quality parameters of the consumers. the sugarcane can be produced either for sugar production or to have more fiber content to generate more electricity or used in Paper Manufacturing. Farmers cannot take it for granted that their produce must be compulsorily be procured by Government or sold in the market.

The producer groups also will curtail exploitation happening in the markets by the middlemen/trader/industry. The CIGs at the state level will act as a pressure/lobby group to convince government of the changes in the policies or in administration etc.

23. Loss of identity by the Farmers leaders in the national politics:

From 1970 with the advent of Indira Gandhi, Parliament Members representing farming community have totally lost the identity due to circumstances created in the National Parties. Smt. Indira Gandhi systematically destroyed the regional leaders at they posed a threat to her power. Subsequently, she played a divide and rule policy wherein, she did not allow any strong regional leader to emerge at the national level. Over a period of time, the regional leadership of the farming community have passed into the hands of rich people amongst the communities such as Industrialists, contractors, cooperative barrens, NRIs, Ex-Maharajas and others.

Weakening of the regional leaders has led to the fall of Congress party and also BJP in large number of states. As of today, most of the farmers representatives including Reddys, Naidus, Lingayaths, Vokkaligas, Modaliars, Odayars, Maratas, Patels, Patils, Takurs, Jhats, Rajputs, Bhumihars, etc have all become pawns in the political system of New Delhi. Almost majority of them after becoming Parliament Member are taking care of their personal interests (Business or Industry) or being power brokers or trying to elevated to the Ministership or taking care of Petty Transfers and Promotions. Very few of them strongly articulate or take farmers issues to their logical end in Parliament as well as in Government.

24. Weakening of leadership in the backward classes SC, ST and Minorities:

The crisis that confronted the farmers after they became MPs has similarly affected the leadership of these socially weaker sections. These leaders who got elected because of their proximity or favour shown by the centered leadership are always afraid to assert their rights. Therefore, they could not fight for the empowerment of their communities or proper implementation of schemes and effective monitoring of the programs.

The Jagjeevan Ram Trust in Delhi has accumulated 250 crores over the past 10 years. Which indicates that it is not able to spend the yearly allocation of 60 crores allotted to it for the health and education of Harizans in the country. It shows that this institution is not able to identify the beneficiaries.

25. Who are the farmers of India?

Definition: Is it the Reddys, Jhats, patils, Marathas or Bhoomihars? Or is it the absentee landlords or farm houses around cities? Or is it large tea gardens, coffee & rubber farms owned by industries? Or is it the small, marginal and tenant farmers who actually cultivate the lands? What should be the criteria?

Should we define that a family living exclusively on the farm income in addition to working in the lands should be defined as a farmer?

Restoring the dignity to farming : Time is now right for all of us to define a farmer so that the subsidies, incentives and other benefits which the government wants to provide should be the person who is the tiller of the soil and also depends on the farming for his very existence.

This is indeed a very sensitive subject. But India has to confront this issue and find a amicable solution if not today, over a period of time.

26. How to make your MP work:

MPs are very very sensitive to their voters and you can use different methods as suggested above especially keep sending him SMS, E-mails, Faxes from your village every day. For example, if for 1 week an E-mail and a few hundreds of SMSs are sent to your MP he will realize that you are serious otherwise now he is taking you for granted. He thinks you are a dumb fellow who keep supporting him either because you belong you his caste or you are his party men or that he has paid you during elections.

27. Role of MP:

Every farmer must learn to evaluate the performance of his MP and MLA regularly. The responsibility of the MP is to monitor the performance of Government of India Institutions as mentioned above. He has to take extreme care in providing you loans, fixing the MSP, Procurement and Export Policies.

28. Role of MLA:

The MLA has to regularly monitor availability of water, electricity, seed, fertilizer and pesticides to you. He has to monitor the proper working of agriculture assistant visit to your village, veterinary doctor attending his clinic, the School teachers attending the school, the Doctor attending the Hospital and the Engineers maintaining the Canals.

29. Role of Farmer:

How many times have you complained to your MLA or MP? Remember by writing a letter or telephone you. Keep track of your MLA or MPs performance in Parliament/Assembly. Keep enquiring whether he is doing only his personal business (contract or Industrial development), or acting like a power broker in Delhi or has really discussed about farmers issues by raising them in Parliament, taking representations to the Ministers, Officers etc.

In a democracy, uncontrolled power will lead to very serious consequences.

30.MPs & MLAs are the Anchor of the ship of democracy:

People of India should remember that the independent struggle was by only 1% of the people, but if you have to preserve a healthy democracy 99% of the people must be eternally vigilant. .

An MP and MLA is like a good bull or a machine used by a farmer on day to day basis. Farmer has to understand that he has a responsibility to maintain the bulls by giving them good feed training them on doing agricultural activity and extracting as much work as possible. Because Farmers will be spending more money and time on maintaining these bulls. Similarly, when farmer purchases a tractor at a price of 4-5 lakhs, there is a permanent investment which means interest on the machine, payment to the driver, maintenance etc. Here again farmer must put the machine for good use like bulls otherwise the bulls get lazy and the machine gets rusted.

In regard to your Member of Parliament or MLA, you are giving him your vote and give utmost respect when he comes to the village. The farmer must remember that it is because of your vote that the MP/.MLA gets into a very important position. They get a salary of over a lakh of rupees, many many facility of travelling by aeroplane, air conditioned trains, personal assistants, police security and royal treatment everywhere.

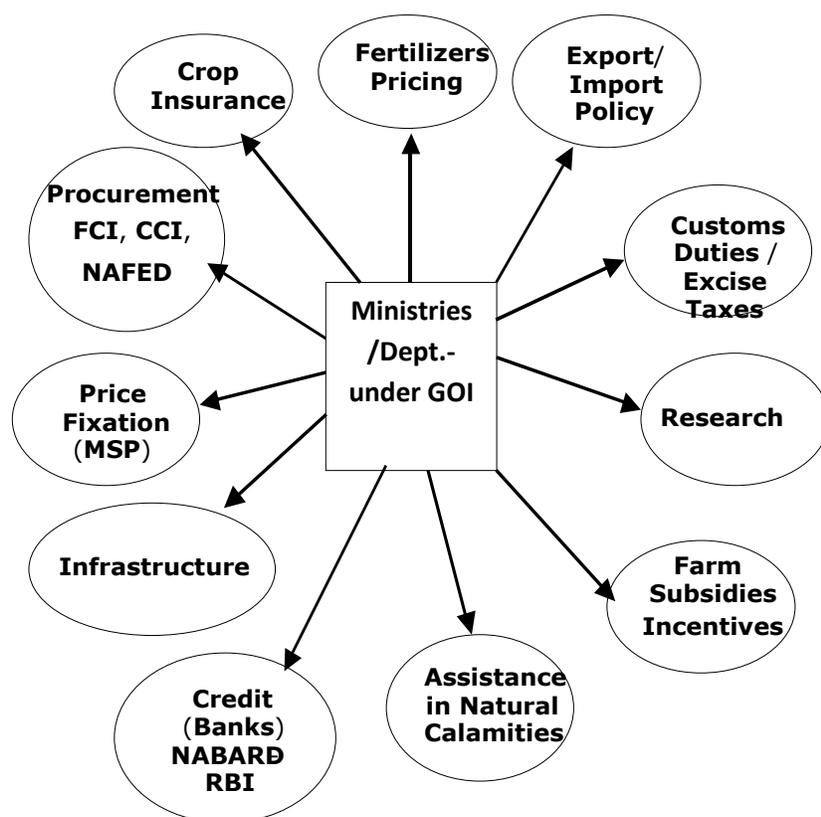
But then, MP/MLA has also to shoulder many responsibilities as explained in above. Therefore, you should go on making demands to him on daily basis. If it a local issue pertaining to cheating in the market yard or an agriculture officer not coming to your village or a veterinary doctor not attending his clinic go and telephone to the MLA, give a press statement, if necessary organize a *rasta roko* and the MLA informed otherwise he will definitely forget it.

Another important aspect is understanding the development programs pertaining to farmers. The MPs on many occasions go to Government of India and lobby to get sanction for irrigation projects or an industry in your area. Because you do not understand what are important issues and also how to pursue. Therefore, you should understand what are these critical issues and how to process.

31. Ministries under Government of India:

What are the Ministries under Government of India and how they work in your village (Bank) District (FCI, CCI) state (Insurance, Projects) and at National level in regard to Policies.

Who are the concerned Ministers, Secretaries, Parliament Committees, their programs, implementation schedule, importance of Union Budget, Working of Regional parties, Export, Import Policies are all to be prepared as a status paper for each commodity.



The National Commodity Councils are being established by CIFA.

1. National Sugarcane Commodity Council
2. National Paddy Commodity Council
3. National Cotton Commodity Council
4. National Pulses Commodity Council

Study the working of each Boards –

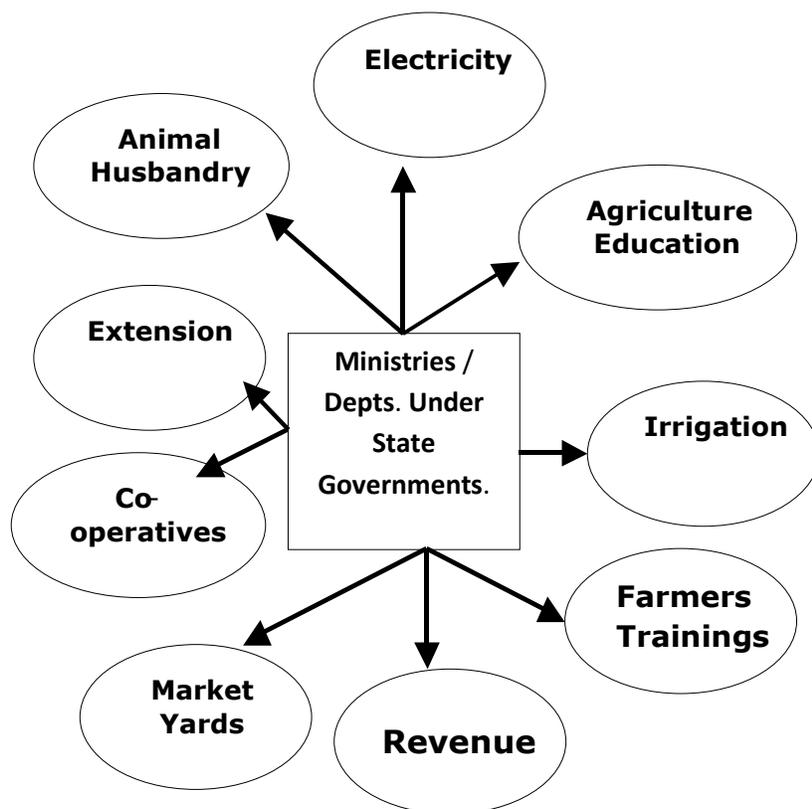
- a. Tobacco
- b. Rubber
- c. Fisheries

Establish Parliament Members, Scientists, Economists' Advisory Council for each Commodity.

Have a national coordination committee for each commodity consisting of processing industries, retailers, exporters and others.

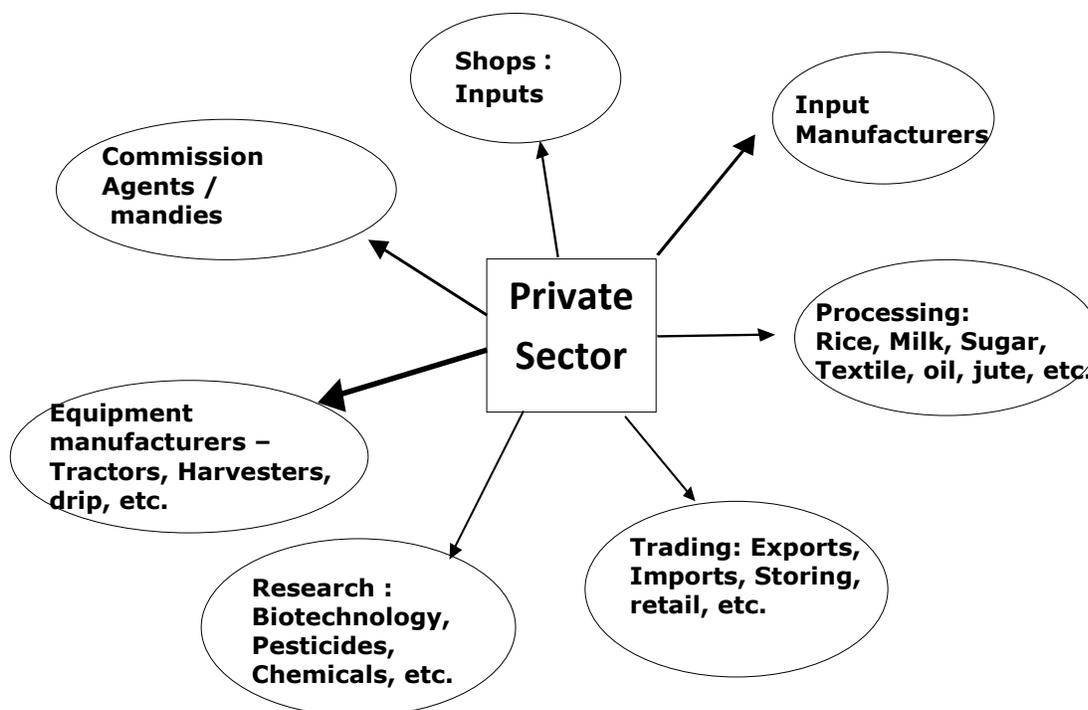
32. Departments under State Governments:

1. What are the Subsidies given.
2. What are the problems confronted in supply of water and electricity
3. What is the functioning of market yards, cooperative and water users associations.
4. Democratization of these institutions.
5. Supervising the implementation of their programs.



33. Private Sector:

How is private sector working in your local area? How much commission is charged for getting the quality inputs.



34. Minimum Support Price Fixation:

The price of almost all agriculture commodities, minimum support price is fixed by Government of India. This MSP fixation mechanism is totally irrational and useless. In calculating the price, the GOI takes 3 years old (outdate) data and then fixes a price for the next year. During the present year, the increase of diesel, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, electricity, water are not included in the MSP. Therefore, this MSP by GOI is totally useless to the farmers as it does not reflect the actual expenditure. It is herein, that every farmer depending on your crop should make a simple calculation of the likely cost of production and add 50% as recommended by National Farmers Commission and that should become a base price.

Tell your MP that if he doesn't get that proper MSP, you are not going to vote him for the next time. Do this year after year and by the time your MP comes for next elections the MP will definitely get you the support price as demanded by you.

35. Controlling prices through banning exports:

The Government of India is always influenced by the industrial lobby. For example, the cotton millers always pressurize by various means to control exports of raw cotton. They are afraid that if cotton is freely exported, the local prices will go up and they have to pay more. The cotton farmers must keep a constant visit on the export policies of Government of India. And if there is any ban you must learn to write to your MP and tell him what you are going to do if he doesn't support you.

The most pathetic problem is confronted by paddy and wheat farmers throughout India because they do not allow export of paddy and wheat. India's requirement (The Buffer stock requirement of India is 30 million tons (3 Crores) which is sufficient for India for about 8 months. But, as of 2011, the Government of India is holding over 70 million tons. The rulers in Delhi are scared of the Babus and their wives. If the price of onions and tomato grow up by Rs. 2/-, they make hue and cry. Because they sit in the center of power, they will influence the policies of Government of India.

36. Castes are replaced with Classes:

We farmers living in villages know that casteism is synonymous with our profession like farmers, weavers, carpenters, agriculture labour, etc. After Independence, the caste equation has totally changed. Today, people belonging to different castes have got into service sector (Government employees, bus drivers, auto rickshaw people, traders, private company employees, etc.). These people after joining into a job do not think themselves of belonging to a particular caste. But they work as their association/union members. So also, businessmen, industrialists, politicians, doctors, lawyers, etc.

After getting into a profession, they get many benefits by unionizing themselves and resorting to strikes, agitations, protests, ratha rokos based on their profession/union. So herein, from the category of caste, they have become a class. They always operate as a class but not as castes. These classes are today extremely powerful and get all the benefits as mentioned above. But the gullible, illiterate and ignorant farmers/villagers continue with their casteism. Why?

37. Why not Reservation for children:

After 65 years of Independence, more and more casts are demanding reservations in jobs and facilities. The common sense should tell the farmers that there is no need for reservation for a person working as a lawyer, doctor, officer or a hotel proprietor. Can farmers children compete with the organized sectors children?

This problem has come because of failure of political institutions and bad administration. Farmers and other unorganized sectors are left to the mercy of corrupt bureaucrats and exploiting middlemen. Over a period of 50 years, farmers got frustrated and they want their children to go out of agriculture.

But the farmers remaining in villages always look to a change and especially to political changes expecting a better life. Over a period of time, farmers changed their voting pattern. They support National Parties and subsequently Regional Parties. Now these regional parties are subdivided, so the farmers are also subdivided. However, the condition of farmers remained same. It is because even the regional parties are not able to solve farmers issues.

38. Vote on Performance of the MLA or MP but not on Caste:

It is in this aspect that the villagers / farmers must overcome the caste factor especially in elections. Our MP/MLA support should not be based on the caste but on his individual performance in the parliament and assembly. Secondly, the MLA or MP's efforts in solving the farmers both day to day and also long term problems. As farmers, we must question ourselves that why should we maintain a cow that doesn't give milk or a bull that doesn't work? The farmers also should see the cunningness of the political parties especially their leader who exploit them during elections and after becoming an MP or MLA they look to only their family, their followers and their finances but not the farmers' welfare.

39. Is social revolution possible in India?

In 1936 My mother used to eat in the same plate with the leftovers of my farther meal. This situation is now totally changed. In good olden days, parents used to insist their children having as many children as possible. this has also changed and today majority of Indians are adopting 1 or 2 children family norm. But what is yet to change is the neglect of girl child. Even amongst the most economically advanced states such as Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and also amongst many socially advanced communities.

Similarly, while in many parts of India the untouchability is getting eradicated, majority of it is invisibly practiced in every part of India. Indians are also highly subservient to power (Political, Government Job) and money. We have also huge social differences of lack of integration even amongst the socially developed castes.

Tragically, even after 60 years of Independence, there is craving for reservations. Reservation is an indication of social and economic backwardness. But then instead of feeling shy to ask for removing reservation, people are now demanding for reservation. This is very very strange.

It is herein, that all of us must put our heads and start working to find solution to bring about the social revolution with 2025 as a target. How do we do it?

Firstly, we should start by removing surnames in the school certificate or (prefixed or suffixed) adding to your name.

The issue which we need to find an answer is how do we bring about the change at least in next generation?

40. Adopt your village:

During your childhood in your village, the poor people used to come to your home every day asking for leftovers or requesting for torn clothes or damaged utensils. Today, except few street corners and some traffic signals, you don't find beggars. A poor farmer or an agriculture labour from BIMARU states would prefer to be a rickshaw puller in Delhi. Begging is no longer palatable to poor people. They has recognized the dignity of labour. It is herein, that those of us in organized sectors, professionals, well to do people, NRIs can bring about a great change in the lives of villagers by simple activity in your own native village.

Firstly, ensure that in your own village a water dieselization plant is established. This will cost Rs. 2,00,000/- and can be maintained with its own resources. A 25 lt. water bottle can be sold for Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- to every household. Clean drinking water will prevent 80% of the diseases for the poor. Subsequently arrange for basic facilities in your school such as blackboards, furniture (Benches), doors, windows, fans, lights, toilet, compound wall, playing equipment.

41. **Agriculture Development between 1950 and 1990:**

During 1950s and 1970s, Central and State Governments constructed Irrigation projects, established power plants, fertilizer units, agriculture research, market yards and **provided other facilities which led to the green revolution.**

In 1980s, hybrid seeds, artificial insemination, tractors, tube wells helped in increasing the area, productivity. In 2000, BT Cotton increased cotton yields. **But the productivity improvements did not increase the income of farmers due to high cost of inputs and restrictive trade policies.**

What a farmer should demand is not subsidies, but a profitable price.

In the guise of providing subsidies, governments always controlled the pricing of agriculture commodities. The MSP is always less than the production cost as indicated below. Every year farmer incurs loss on every crop.

Year	Sugarcane		Paddy		Wheat		Cotton	
	Production cost	MSP	Production cost	MSP	Production cost	MSP	Production cost	MSP
2010	230	190	1250	930	1350	1200	3500	2500
2011	245	210	1355	1110	1500	1285	3900	3000

42. **Bargaining strengths of organized sectors:**

A study of government employee shows that they work only 180 days an year. They do not work on Saturday and Sundays, Government Holidays, earned leaves, medical leave and other holidays. Their salary includes maintenance of the family i.e., providing food and shelter to his wife and children (dependants), their medical facility have unlimited hospital expenditure for all the family members including his parents. They get loan to constructing House at 4% or 0%. For every 5 years, they get promotions which means automatic increase in salary and other facilities. For every 5 years, the government appoints a pay commission which increases their salaries substantially. At the end they get pension.

*In fixing Minimum Support Price, the Government does not take into consideration the Health, Educational, Savings for children Marriage or old age needs of farmers!

The strength of the organized sectors is colossal. Bonus which was to be given only if the factory or institution gets profit is converted as a part of regular salary by cohering the government. The organized sectors, who constitute barely 10% of the National population have become like **praetorian guards capturing all the power centres in India**. The most powerful people in India including Prime Minister or Chief Minister do not dare to curtail their power or privileges.

In the other organized sectors, including business, trade, industry, professionals, Doctors, Actors and contractors, the growth is phenomenal.

43. The Double Standards of NGOs:

India is now the center for many NGOs who under the guise of protecting Nature, Environment, etc. etc., oppose every development activity for farming. They oppose construction of irrigation projects, Nuclear Plants, Biotechnology (GMOs), Pesticides & Fertilizer usage, Agro Processing Industries, Mechanization, Investments by Private Sector, etc. etc.. These NGOs oppose farmers using hybrid seeds, pesticides, fertilizer, machinery manufactured Multinationals. They also oppose FDI in retail, infrastructure including cold storages, storing, processing and other areas.

But the same NGOs do not oppose medicines, mobiles, cars, aeroplanes manufactured by Multi National Companies in India. Because, they and their family members cannot live without them.

*Mumbai citizens use Rs. 250/- crores worth pesticides to control cockroaches & mosquitoes.

**Farmers use only Rs. 200/- crores worth pesticides.

*** But the NGOs make a hue and cry on pesticide usage by farmers.

These anti-farmer activists do not suggest as to how to improve productivity and get profitable price by the farmers. They do not oppose controlling market economy. They do not explain as **to how to reduce physical drudgery. They do not provide answers to the crop losses** due to pests, diseases and natural calamities. **They are highly selfish, few romantic and some idiotic.**

44. **Technologies are saviour of Indian Food Security:**

It is the medical technologies that increase the life span of Indians. The control of polio, **small pox, Malaria, Missals, TB, cancer and plague are** all due to introduction of medicines researched and manufactured by multinational companies. Every house wife uses phenol, mosquito repellence, detergents etc., etc., to safeguard their health.

However, every technology has side effects. Anti Biotic always have side effects for certain **period, so also, DDT etc. It is claimed that mobile** usage will cause brain tumour. Accidents occur due to electricity shocks, domestic gas and other technologies. But it doesn't mean that people should not use them.

It is the agriculture technologies of hybrid seeds, fertilizer and pesticides that have made India self sufficient in food. But, the challenges of Indian Farmers after 2012 are complex. Our population will be **increasing from 120 crores (2010) to 150 crores (2050)**. Our Agriculture land area is shrinking as it is diverted to infrastructure (irrigation projects, roads, mines etc.) industries and urbanization. The consumption of milk, meat, vegetables, by middleclass Indians is increasing. Farmers have to produce food, feed, fodder and fuel. This puts great stress on farming methodology.

It is in this context that farmers must understand that the **need for improvement new technologies in seed, fertilizer, pesticides, water, electricity, machines, etc.. In the developed and democratic countries of United States, Canada, Brazil, Australia and also totalitarian communist and small farm China most modern technologies and facilities are provided to farmers to increase productivity and quality.**

45. **What is great about technologies? – India is using GMOs since 30 years:**

For over 30 years we have been eating a **biologically modified GM Chicken** that doesn't give egg and an **egg that doesn't produce chicken.** **Embryo technology** is producing sheep and goat. The **test tube baby technology** is used for human beings. So why should anybody be afraid of technologies. America, China and Brazil are using GMOs and producing potatoes, corn, tomato, soya, canola and consuming them for the last 20 years. Our Indian NRIs of 20 million are happily eating and hail and healthy. So why should we be afraid of GMO technology.

Before the introduction of BT Cotton, Indian Farmers were spraying pesticides 15-20 times to control bollworm. After BT cotton introduction the spraying is reduced to 3-4 times. This has resulted in a **net saving of Rs. 10,000/- per acre and 40% productivity increase.**

In all crops especially in hybrid crops, farmers have to use high dosage of pesticides and insecticides. The present traditional technology cannot control pests and diseases. India has 60% area dependant on rain-fed conditions and also 30 million hectares under alkaline and saline soils. Here again the traditional agriculture research cannot develop seeds to cultivate them. **It is therefore necessary for India to introduce Biotechnology (GMOs).**

46. Why Indian Farmers need Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in retail (super bazaars)?

60% of horticulture produce (fruits and vegetables) are damaged due to improper and unscientific handling including marketing. As of now, vegetables and other food products, marketing systems have 5-7 middlemen. Large scale retails especially in cities will help in timely procurement, scientific storage and efficient marketing. Large retails with Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) will develop Foreign Markets for India's special produce including mango, lichi, papaya, gherkins, turmeric, chillies, onions and others. **Farmers must realize that the large retails with FDI will be established only in big cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai.** In all the 5,00,000 villages in India, only the present trader will continue with his activities. Therefore, the opposition that FDI in retail will destroy the small trader is totally baseless.

47. Without huge Investments Agriculture cannot progress:

The investments by Indian Private Sector and Foreign Direct Investment is extremely important for future growth of Indian Farm Sector. As of 2012, 60% of the farmers depend on **rain fed agriculture.** Only 5-7 hours electricity is available (in the midst of night) to farmers in all the states of India. 60% of horticulture produce is wasted due to lack of processing. Scope for investment in sugarcane, maize, oil seeds, etc., are very high.

After 1990 liberalization, Government of India and the state Governments encouraged private and FDI investments in Airports, Roads, Electricity, and other areas.

CIFA demands 10 lakh crores investment in Rivers and 5 lakh crores in other sectors. They include Indian Private and FDI investments in nuclear energy, agriculture research especially Biotechnology (GMOs), mechanization and food processing.

48. Non-implementation of National Commission on Farmers Report:

The NCF popularly known as Dr. Swaminathan Committee report is well analyzed and provided long term solutions. The critical component of the report is providing a take home income including in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cost of production plus 50%. This report also suggested risk mitigation fund, insurance, state level agricultural commissions etc.. but this report is more or less ignored by UPA Government.

Political Parties are so scared of Government Employees that they implemented 5th and 6th Pay Commissions with retrospective effect.

49. Solution to prevent farmers suicides:

Farmers commit suicide for 2 main reasons of **crop failure and low price**. The crop failure can be due to pests and diseases, drought, floods, etc. Herein, the district Collector can provide relief within 15 days reimbursing the losses. The Collector has the manpower and competence to disperse the **compensation**.

In regard to low price, the Collector can commence procurement within 24 hours of prices going below the MSP. In every District, marketing facilities, private institutions such as rice mills are available in plenty to store produces. Herein again, the Collector be empowered to purchase. What is required is that Government of India to keep 15 crores revolving fund at the disposal of the District Collector.

CIFA is of the view that the present evaluation system on above issues by the state officials and verified by the GOI officials is totally outdated and is not beneficial to the farmers. CIFA believes that the **District Collector who is an IAS is as efficient or inefficient as that of the GOI and State IAS officers.**

50. Need for modernization of Agriculture:

The science driven modern technology is key for achieving the rapid agricultural transformation as has been experienced in China, Vietnam, Japan and South Korea etc..

However, in Indian context agricultural research has been stagnant over the past 20 years with little achievements, particularly in the front of modern technologies like Biotechnology, molecular biology etc.,

Therefore our farmers have to depend on MNCs for accessing bio tech products like BT cotton etc., Although, we have adequate infrastructure and human resources the technological backwardness has prevented modernizing Indian Agriculture.

Thus, there is an urgent need to strengthen advanced research areas like bio technology and also modern farm machineries in order to modernization there by increasing the productivity and farmers income.

This brings to the forefront, the pertinent questions whether the problems of the Farm Sector are due to "lack of resources" or lack of "political will" on the part of leadership at the helm of affairs.

51. Income insurance to farmers:

Assured and secured income insurance for the farmers is need of the hour. It is argued by the experts that small farmers are at great disadvantage. We need to find solution to make the small farms sustainable drawing the example of Chinese who have relatively small farms.

The small farmers are highly vulnerable for exploitation. This trend needs to be reversed by addressing their problems with special attention.

52. Need for implementation of recommendations of agricultural related committees:

The immediate issue for consensus building is to get implementation of recommendations made by the National Farmers' Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Report on Small Farmers by Arjun Sen Gupta Committee and other farmer related Committee reports. For instance, fixing of Minimum Support Price in such a way that it should be 50% over and above production cost, increasing agricultural credit in line with increasing agricultural GDP, setting up of State Level Commission for Cost & Prices, Granting total autonomous status to Cost and Agricultural Prices etc., as recommended by Dr. Swaminathan Commission. Similarly, as recommended by Sen Gupta Committee, development of small farmer-oriented technologies, increasing credit flow on 'easy terms' to small and marginal farmers etc., are essential to improve the economic status of small

farm house-holds. It is heart burning to note that half of the small farmers have become agricultural labourers by 2001 while it was 1/4th of agricultural labourers in 1951. Therefore, I look forward that a day should come in the near future to provide total agricultural loans at 0% interest rates to the extent of their eligibility to all small and marginal farmers in the years to come.

53. Decentralized agricultural planning:

A decentralized agriculture planning and implementation, along with Farmers empowerment, is the ultimate key not only for optimizing the resources, but for better realization of farm economies.

By liberating the sugar sector from the age-old controls, India can save Rs. 10,000 crores foreign exchange in utilizing Ethanol, 15000 MW of Electricity (600 factories x 25 MW) by using Bagasse.

Among many more, these issues are of greatest significance to the future of our nation – The food security for about 1150 million population, finding a place for our farmers in the international arena and developing the global competitiveness of our farm sector.

54. Why the need for a separate Union Agriculture Budget?

Budget of nay government is not a paper of income and expenditure. It should reflect the needs o the people with specific purpose of solving people's problems. The great Economic gulf created between organized urban sectors and unorganized rural farm sector is heading for a crisis in economic, social, educational, employment and political sectors. The existing quantum of 60% population dependent on Agriculture requires focused attention to provide them equity in all aspects. It is therefore desirable that a separate agriculture budget comprising of connected departments including irrigation, food processing, commerce be clubbed and a target oriented budget be presented in parliament.

A separate budget for Agriculture bringing all components into it is being demanded for so many years. But this government is least interested in it. the central government does not want t take any responsibility of agriculture and terms it simply as State Subject. It is imperative to include agriculture in the concurrent list which employs about 60% of the workforce; so that the center is enabled to fund important production oriented agriculture activities.

55.Economics is not just creating wealth but also distributing it!

The enabling atmosphere created by US from the late nineties to the early years of the millennium has resulted in generating wealth in the mid years of the decade. But lopsided policies by the continuing governments have failed in distributing that wealth in a proper and regulated manner so that there is all round development. As Prof. Swaminathan put it out, "Economic growth which bypasses a large population is joyless growth and not sustainable in the long run. What then is the future for India's 70 crore rural population?" we cannot be silent onlookers to a situation where 30% of India is shining and 70% is weeping.

This cannot go for Long! The people are not ready to play the same old game again and again; as Jawahar Lal Nehru said in 1947 that "Everything else can wait, but not agriculture". its' time we start discussing on the aspect of AGRICULTURE TAKING THE CENTER STAGE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION.

56.Subsidy – Is it given only for agriculture?

The government often claims that they are providing subsidies to farmers for water, electricity, credit and there is no need for providing them more price etc. Instead, what if farmers decide to fix their own price like any other industrial product and also ask to liberalize free marketing including exports?

However, if we really see that depth of it, it is very revealing to know that over 5 lakh crores have been foregone revenue lost due to tax breaks – another name for tax subsidies. Budget numbers show that the total revenue foregone in 2009-10 was Rs. 5,02,000 crore. But still we say that agriculture is subsidized!

57.Issues for detailed study by Farmers' Organizations:

Sl. No.	Issue	
1	Linking of Rivers	
2	Lok Pal Bill	State and District Level Lok Pal
3	Empowerment of Local Institutions	Regional Parties support
4	Right to Information Act	
5	Commodity Trading	Choice of the states

6	Increasing Craze for reservation	Failure of Constitution – huge economic disparities among states organized and unorganized sectors, cities and villages is the reason.
7	Foreign policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop more friendly relation with Pakistan – Muslim voters actively participate in their as part of their Party affairs. 2. Exposing the double standards of Congress Party on Minority Protection. 3. Exposing the BJP anti-Muslim campaign. 4. Careful relationship with China.
8	Export Policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limiting food grains to buffer stocks and the balance should be allowed to trade/ 2. To keep necessary bugger stock of sugar. 3. Cotton - free market and export policy. 4. Diversifying jute production farming to other crops. (Reduction of jute bags usage to be reduced by establishing sylo system which will help in controlling grain wastage, preiferage and rat menace. 5.
9	GMOs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Independent Evaluation Authority on the model of Election Commission. 2. States to have discretionary powers based on scientific evidence – Dr. Abdul Kalam to head the Committee. 3.
10	Land Acquisition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market value 2. Shares in the industry and 3. Jobs in the factory. 4. For Private industry acquisition 50% farmers' approval is essential. 5. Compulsory social security old age facility to farmers. <p>Channeling agencies : Market yards, cooperative societies, milk societies, sugar factories and others.</p>
11	Organize National and State level Debates regularly	1. Dr. Abdul Kalam, Mr. M.J. Akbar, Kanchi Ilaiah, etc.
12	Estate Duty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100 crores – 5% 2. 100 above – 10%

13	Farms around cities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All idle plots to be taxed. 2. Farm income to be included in income tax. 3. Villages – non-cultivable lands to be taxed. 4. Inheritance for rich farmers of 1 crore and above. 5.
14	Reforms in the Educational System	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compulsory inclusion of agriculture as a subject. 2. ITI agriculture courses to 10th Failure or 9th pass.
15	Beef and Pork eating policy	Historical Perspective
16	<p>Why western economic model is not suitable to Indian Conditions?</p> <p>*It is also not suitable of developing and poor nations in Africa, Asia and Central America.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large area, less and reducing population. 2. Highly mechanized agriculture. 3. Technology oriented. 4. High investments on agriculture research. 5. Industry – consumer industry, auto mobiles, IT, Defense, communication, Airlines, Food Processing, etc. 6. Huge economic resources due to colonial background. 7. High level of education. 8. Well developed social security systems. 9. Less corruption. 10. Gender equity. 11. Reduced physical drudgery. 12. Large farms 13. High subsidies. 14. Efficient input supply – electricity, water, fertilizer, pesticides, hybrids and GMO seeds, mechanization, high investments, Government support. 15. Strong farmers lobby.
17	Condition of India and developing nations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small farms 2. Illiterate 3. Negligible technologies. 4. Gender inequity. 5. Social problems 6. High level of dry lands. 7. High exploitation. 8. Neglect by Government. 9. Low investment on Agriculture. 10. Restriction on agriculture technology adoption vis-a-vis health, communication and

		<p>other technologies.</p> <p>11.</p>
18	Jai Jawan weak Kisan!	<p>Politics of exploitation by developed nations / politics of powerful nations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliberate attempt to create tension between 2 countries. 2. Encouraging defense expenditure 3. Cold war situation between 1950 and 1990. 4. 2010-50 China and America tensions.
19	How people in developing/poor Nations are suffering due to economic constraints	
20	<p>Silent majority – weak and powerless.</p> <p>How to make silent majority powerful?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Even In developed nations, the silent majorities are mute spectators of this war mongering. 2. The silent majority is 50% women do not express their views on political system because they do not understand the complexities of International Politics. 3. 30% Labour, 10% Intellectuals, they do not express their views freely, they have no time for analyzing the politics. 4. Emotional appeal of nationalism which has not relevance in the modern age. 5. The politicians and their partners – creating tension between 2 countries is beneficial to <p>Politicians of all parties as they get donations from all the defense industries/brokers</p> <p>Defense industry and businessmen</p> <p>Defense personnel, administrator and Defense Scientists who are benefitted</p>

58. Agriculture at the Centre of Development

Subsidy or price? Which is beneficial to farmers?

The government often claims that they are providing subsidies to farmers for water, electricity, credit and there is no need for providing them more price etc. Instead, what if farmers decide to fix their own price like any other industrial product and also ask to liberalize free marketing including exports?

However, if we really see the depth of it, it is very revealing to know that over 5 lakh crores have been foregone revenue lost due to tax breaks – an another name for tax subsidies. Budget numbers show that the total revenue forgone in 2009-10 was Rs 5,02,000crore. But still we say that Agriculture is subsidized!

The fiscal deficit for 2009-10 is estimated to be Rs 4 lakh crore. That means what the government gave away by way of tax breaks in the fiscal year would have more than covered its projected excess expenditure this fiscal year. Revenue foregone in 2009 budget in direct tax concessions to corporate tax payers is close to Rs. 80,000 crores. It was over Rs. 66,000 crore in 2008 and Rs. 62,000 crore the year before that. In all, Rs. 2,08,000crores of direct freebies in 36 months.

In direct tax freebies alone the corporate sector has had the equivalent of some 15 'farm loan waivers' since 1991. Then there's the indirect stuff. In 2009 year's budget: Revenue foregone in excise duty — Rs. 1,70,765 crores. Customs duty — Rs.2,49,021crores. Together with the Rs.80,000 crore in direct write-offs, the total nears Rs. 500,000 crores.

But we still talk about the subsidies in agriculture. The farmers in USA, EU and Japan get half of their income from subsidies. The subsidies on agricultural inputs like free power and water should be rationalized and not withdrawn." The *Economist*, London, quotes in favour of subsidies: "52% of American farmer's income, 46% in the European Union and 56% of the Japanese farmer's income comes from government subsidies. In contrast, Punjab farmers get only 5% of their income in subsidies."

59. Inadequate credit delivery system

As total agricultural credit in relative terms as compared to agricultural GDP is either stagnant or declining i.e., around 9 to 10% Agricultural GDP over the past 8 years, the Government figures on 'Increase in Agricultural

Credit' has no meaning. Further, the rapid increase in cost of production in the recent past has not been compensated by increase in Agricultural Credit. At present, only 13.5% of total credit was advanced to Agriculture Sector by all the Banks put together as against the mandatory proportion fixed by RBI at 18%. Therefore, the agricultural credit should be enhanced proportionately to increase in agricultural GDP on one hand and to commensurate for increase in production cost on the other hand. Thus, increased credit limit per hectare by at least 50% over the present level is the immediate need of the farming community. Centre should assist state to provide credit to agriculture at 4% interest rate that helps million of farmers, specially for small and marginal farmers.

60. Crop Insurance to be more comprehensive

At present, Crop Insurance Scheme covered a fraction of overall farmers, that means it covered only 8% of the total farmers in India specially those who borrowed credit from different financial institutions. Further, it covered only some crops and tenants were totally eliminated from the present Crop Insurance Scheme. As Natural Calamities like droughts and floods have become recurring problems of Indian farmers, a comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme that would cover all major crops and accessible to large number of farmers including tenants is required.

61. Weak Extension Services:

Weakening of extension system and inadequate input delivery system, leading to wide yield gaps. Although we had strong rural infrastructure and human resources, the technologies generated in agricultural research are not being properly and timely disseminated to farming community

62. Increasing Drudgery for Farm Women:

Women constitute about 50% of the population. Agriculture provides occupation to majority of women in agriculture sector particularly in rural areas. Dairying, Backyard Poultry rearing are also the major occupations among several others for Farm Women in country-side. Hence, welfare of the women in agriculture sector assumes utmost importance.

Removing physical drudgery for the farm women, agriculture labour, tribal, nomads and hilly area people. It is a humiliating factor and depressing aspect that the physical drudgery being faced by the women; tribal; fishermen and rural artisans is something that we should be ashamed of.

63. Is farmers and industry partnership necessary to Economy?

The Indian Industry started with cotton, jute, sugarcane, oil seeds, tobacco and other agriculture based raw material. Subsequently dairy, poultry have joined the group. In the recent years with advancement of agriculture technologies availability of infrastructure-Roads, Cold Storages, Warehouses, Processing Industry, Exporters, Retailing, Commodity Markets, Increased opportunities are visible.

But there are serious apprehension the weakness of small and illiterate farmers being exploited. The fact is that the 40% of people will permanently remain in agriculture. Even though they are small and marginal they have capacity to become not only sustainable but profitable. As of now excellent technologies of hybrids machinery, drip water and electricity availability access to fertilizer and pesticides is enabling high productivity. The present system will compel the farmers to link with markets. There is also need to create institutional mechanism example labour department to protect the interest of farmers against exploitation.

A detailed discussion on each issue has to be discussed and consensus has to be build. What is to be debated how to unify the small and marginal farmers as viable units and link them with markets?

64. Policy is key for development:

Lack of a farmer oriented policy environment is a key factor for agricultural backwardness in India, in spite of having all other complimentary resources. Therefore, time has now come to rethink and formulate an innovative pro-farmer sustainable policy in order to take the new economic model to the farmers.

India, in fact is having conducive environment and could be successful in attaining global competitiveness and made available all the modern infrastructure in technology even in rural areas, why not that India is not able to make breakthrough in providing agricultural technology?

My immediate mission is to involve myself in series of debates for the next two years which we will carry forward in association with likeminded political parties, institutions and individuals, is to evolve an economic program keeping agriculture as the axis and a growth engine for future economic development.

65. WAY FORWARD- ISSUES FOR 2nd FREEDOM STRUGGLE:

We herewith provide various suggestions that were compiled both from field level interactions and from recommendations of various committees on farmers and agriculture including Swaminathan Committee; Arjun Sen committee, Alagh committee etc.

1. To implement recommendations of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Committee.
2. Separate Union Agriculture Budget covering all connected Ministries.
3. To provide Minimum Support Price at Cost of Production + 50%. The farmers take home income must be sufficient to meet his family needs.
4. Make CACP autonomous and make harvesting, transport, marketing and land value be taken into consideration while computing costs of cultivation.
5. To start a National Agri Finance Corporation involving the financial support for individual farmers.
6. PM to appoint Inter Ministerial committee and Agriculture coordination committee under his Chairmanship.
7. Public sector outlay for agriculture should be increased based on agriculture sector's contribution to GDP and also the percentage of population depending on the sector.
8. To enable farmers borrow without insisting security or collateral security for loans up to Rs.1,00,000.
9. River linkage programme should be taken up with necessary budget allocation as in the case of Bharat Nirman programme.
10. Constitution of agricultural stabilization fund to provide relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities and Market Risk mitigation fund to help farmers especially vegetable and other perishable crops.
11. A committee by experts may be appointed to study how government could directly pass on budgeted amount for agriculture subsidy and considering provision of old age pension for every farmer.
12. Empowerment of Panchayat Raj in agriculture planning and implementation and allocate resource directly.
13. Agriculture including irrigation should be included in the concurrent list.
14. To liberalize agriculture sector from all controls including Removing Essential Commodities Act and removing Sugar from controls including Essential Commodity Act.
15. Long term export policy should be evolved and implemented with export policy to be announced in the beginning of the season. GOI should procure rice and wheat in the open market for its PDS and

- Buffer Stocks. The balance to be allowed for free marketing and exports.
16. Farm Machinery should be made available by the government based on soil conditions and crop requirements, provide excise exemption, 50% subsidy and interest at 7%.
 17. GOI to provide one time investment for completing 400 ongoing irrigation projects so as to permanently solve the rain fed farming.
 18. Marketing system should be revamped by constituting elected managements, provision for processing, value addition and infrastructure for exports should be provided at market yards.
 19. All agricultural holdings in the country should be tagged on to one of the banks in the area and credit requirements of agricultural holdings under its jurisdiction should be taken care by the designated bank. Tenant farmers should be provided loans on par with general farmers.
 20. Crop insurance schemes should be evolved by making village as a unit, covering all risks from sowing to marketing, with affordable premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims, taking the current years loss into consideration.
 21. Outlay for Agriculture Research and Development (R & D) should be raised to 1% of agriculture GDP.
 22. Encourage drip irrigation by providing 90% subsidy and also removing taxes on plastic used in manufacturing drip/sprinkler equipment.
 23. To categorize Sona Masoori (BPT) as special superfine non basmati variety and allow free export on par with Basmati.
 24. Incentivizing private sector investment in Agriculture research, extension and infrastructure including irrigation through Public, Private, Partnership (PPPs) and offering tax reliefs.
 25. MGNREGA to be linked to agriculture production activity.
 26. Soil health rectification and retention should be carried out on war footing basis by introducing mobile soil testing laboratories and evolving sustainable systems for regular carrying out of the soil test.
 27. Seed is crucial input for obtaining higher and quality yields. Plans should be evolved for 100% certified seed replacement.
 28. Timely supply of adequate fertilizers and pesticides should be ensured for achieving sustainable productivity.
 29. Government should focus on "Income-Increasing of Farmers" instead of only on subsidies. At present, total farm subsidies by both Union and States together is about Rs.3.0 lakh crores, i.e. about Rs.20,000 per hectare per year. How much of it going to farmer ? Is it 20% or may be 30%? Bulk of subsidies are eaten at different levels by different people. The present subsidy/Govt. support system has to be totally revamped and introduce more transparent support model where farmers can directly get Govt. cash support.

30. Centre should assist state government to set up a Farmers' Welfare Authority (FWA) with considerable farmers' welfare fund to provide social security system for the farmers.
31. Every state should set up its own State Level Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and also State Level Agri-Market Regulatory Authority to monitor the fair functioning of market system to safeguard the farmers' interests.
32. Strengthen the SEED VILLAGE programme in order to improve quality seed available to the farmers locally.
33. A strong agricultural research system with modern research infrastructure will be a powerful long tool for the agriculture development as demonstrated world wide.
34. Rural marketing and infrastructure like modern storage facilities should be strengthened to get fair price for the farm produce, and reduce consumer – producer price gap.
35. Centre should give helping hand to State to promote rural non-farm and non-crop sectors in order to diversify the rural income base, which will act as a buffer in the event of crop failures, and reduce income uncertainties.
36. There are enough provision under agreement on agriculture of WTO to protect the farmers' interests. They need to be pursued in letter and spirit in the present globalization context.

There could be some issues with which one may not agree and some with which you partly agree. Nevertheless, our main aim is that 'Let's start discussing about making Agriculture as the Center point of the Development'. Let's start talking about 'Equitable Distribution of Wealth' through systematic, democratic methods.

If the present UPA do not want to take up reforming the agriculture with all-round attention; then we will do it. We are ready and determined to do it.

We are of the firm view that India cannot afford to allow majority of people feeling left behind and weeping.

66. Benefits of FDI in retail to Farmers

a. Existing Adthiya/Dalal Exploitative System in Markets:

By keeping FDI in retail on hold political parties in India have done great injustice to the farmers of India who are desperately waiting for an opportunity to get rid of the control of Adthiya/Dalal exploitation. For thousands of years, Indian farmers are dependent only on Dalals, Adthiyas, Lalas and commission agents to market their produce.

Farmers are familiar with the exploitation in the marketing system. The Adthiya charges 10% commission for the auctioning and deducts 10% on the pretext quality deficiency. The farmers incurs over 3% - 5% expenditure to take the produce from his field to the market yard on packing, loading, unloading, transport and other incidentals. 25% net Loss is incurred by farmers within few hours of commencing marketing.

The exploitation by the Dalal/Adthiya is notorious throughout the country. In many states the electronic machines installed by government never work. They are damaged at the instance of Adthiyas. In many states including Andhra Pradesh the market yards are controlled by political elements. The Adthiyas and the officials share their ill-gotten money with the chairman of the market yards. If the political party changes the illegal money will go to the newly nominated chairman. In this manner the Adthiya, official and political nexus have become a permanent exploitation system of farmers!

b. Price & Weighing Manipulation in Markets:

When the farmer goes to the market yard the price existing previous day is never paid. The Adthiya/Lala reduces the prices on various pretexts including glut in the market, reduced demand, fall in national and international prices and other excuses.

In many parts of the country the auctioning commences in the early hours when there is no light. The weighing machines are not in working order. The auctioning system is done under a cloth. In Oddanchatram, near Dindigal in Tamil Nadu the largest vegetable market in south India the auctioning commences in the night from 7.00pm onwards. The market yard officials are rarely present in the market yard when the auctioning is taking place. The farmer is left to the mercy of the Adthiya, auctioning agent and Hamalies.

c. Adthiyas/Dalals avoiding Taxes and Creating Black Money:

The Adthiya do not give official receipt to the farmers. The prices in the market yard are never known to farmers. The Adthiyas evade huge sales tax as well as income tax and there is a huge revenue loss to the state government and income tax department as all the transactions are illegal and are not recorded.

d. Benefits of FDI in retail both for farmers and consumers:

The market reforms initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh are great God Sent opportunity to the 600 million farmers as well as 1200 million consumers. The farmers now has alternative options to sell their produce to the retails or processing industries or exporters and also can do online trading. This will increase tremendous competition amongst the buyers.

e. Establishing of Commodity/Producer Interest Groups (CIGs) & its utility:

FDI in retail will be helpful to farmers, as it will establish producer groups and arrange for MOU between the farmers and retailers. The Government of India Agriculture Technology Management Agency Program (ATMA) has already established few million Commodity (Producer) Interest Groups/CIGs. The existing CIGs as well as farmers Associations working under Commodity Boards, farmers Clubs, Co-operatives will establish long term Agreement with the retailers.

f. Creating infrastructure in Rural Areas & curtailing wastages:

As the retailers require quality product in huge quantities he has to arrange for extension services, provide quality inputs and also arrange for packing at the farm gate in the village. The retailer will also need to establish cold chain or pre cooling units for perishables to avoid wastages.

g. Benefits of Contract Farming to Farmers:

The contract farming will enable farmers to bargain for an assured Minimum price linked with quality and quantity. He will also be able to get traceability and group crop insurance. Direct procurement will eliminate 3-4 middlemen who are now taking away 40% -50% commissions without any value addition. In this way it is a will win situation for farmers, retailers and consumers.

h. Branding of Mango, Lichi, BPT Rice and Durram Wheat:

It will also enable Indian specialty goods viz. Mango, Lichi, Chillies, Durram Wheat, BPT/Ponni Rice to be marketed as branded products in International markets. There is need to permit more retails in newly developing urban conglomerates. FDI will keep under check the highly exploitative Adthiya system.

i. Additional Reforms in Agriculture Sector:

Reforms in farm sector includes getting best technologies in the world to improve our productivity. Farmers must understand that technologies are available to control pests and diseases, water stress, brining alkaline and saline soils under cultivation. Farmers should also demand for crop protection, vaccines for their cattle, seed for quality fodder etc. Reforms must include removing controls, allowing exports and encourage Private Sector in Rural Development.

j. Establishing Statutory Authority for FDI Management:

CIFA demands GOI to establish a statutory Authority to take care to avoid unhealthy practices by large scale retails including MNCs.

67. Let us support 2nd Generation Liberalization Policies To make India a super power in 21st Century

If calling Spade a Spade is wrong! Then perhaps the Prime Minister may have been wrong in talking about the misutilization of funds by NGOs.

American and European sources?

Should India become a pawn in the war between European NGOs and American charities?

Can India develop without sufficient electricity, adequate water agriculture technologies, FDI & PPP? Then why NGOs, who receive funds from outside, scuttle India's path towards self sufficiency and its march towards being a global super power?

If the above questions are answered from the purview of India, then these NGOs will not bring hoards of innocent and illiterate people from rural areas with the 'easy money' obtained from foreign donors and create chaos.

The first generation reforms of 1990s propelled the growth of service and industrial sectors to make India an important global player. The second generation reforms will propel us into a global power.

The calibrated dosage of reforms in FDI, Infrastructure and technologies has not fructified in giving the necessary impetus to provide a quantum jump in GDP.

The increasing population and diversified food needs has put great pressure on Agriculture, so also fodder and fuel needs. The infrastructure development and urbanization has led to reduced land availability. The Government has limitations in investments on research and building infrastructure.

It is here in that the reforms of Nuclear Energy, Biotechnology, Private Investments in Irrigation Sector, FDI in Retail, additional investments in fertilizer, liberalization of sugar, APMC reforms and PPP are highly relevant for our future.

The progressive views of liberalization are clandestinely opposed by a few foreign funded NGOs whose single most agenda is opposing of Every Development Activity.

Should the silent majority of Indians bear the brunt or scuttle our development by a few individuals/NGOs with vested interests?

It is here that we, the Millions of farmers, middle class, youth, industry and professionals and NRIs should rise our voice and unitedly extend our support for liberalization policies.

CIFA, India's National Apex Farmers Organization, (www.Indianfarmers.org), requests you to write a personal letter extending support for the policies initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
7, Race Course Road, New Delhi
Fax: 011-23016857, 23019545
E-mail: pmosb@pmo.nic.in

Further, let every one of us resolve to motivate members of our organization and friends & associates to write similar letters to the Prime

Minister, we will also issue statements to Media, write articles and highlight them through your blogs and other social networking sites.

68. Why Nuclear Energy is critical for India?

1. Background of Electricity in India:

300 million (30 crores) Indians have no access to Electricity. 48.49% houses do not have electric connection. India's average electric consumption is 288 KW per annum compared to 2600 KW World Average and 6200 KW European. Farmers get 7 hours electricity only. In towns and cities, 2-4hours daily Power cut is imposed and in it is 8-10 hours. Small scale industries and infrastructure suffer with non-availability of electricity. India produces 1,80,000 MW compared to 3,00,000 MW by Germany. India's electricity demand is 2,41,000 MW by 2020.

2. Nuclear Plants :

439 Nuclear reactors (2007) and 150 ships are working around the world. 50% of Nuclear energy is being produced by USA, France and Japan since 60 years. Only 4 Nuclear accidents occurred in the past and were successfully managed.

3. Kudankulam Nuclear Plant:

It is constructed by GOI at a cost of 14,000 crores and has a capacity to produce 9200 MW (link 1). It is located in Tamil Nadu a state where severe electricity shortage for farmers and Industry is causing untold miseries. (link 2 &3). Commencing it will enable TN get 30% (3,000 MW) of electricity.

4. Opinion of Eminent persons on Nuclear Energy:

1. **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam :** "I am completely satisfied and happy with the sophisticated safety features of the Koondakulam Nuclear Reactors". -4
2. **Dr. Srinivasan, Former Chairman, Atomic Energy:** "40 years ago India celebrated when a new dam, power plant or fertilizer factory was built. Now in 2012, we seem to celebrate every time a steel, aluminum or power plant is stopped. Look at our civilized neighbor China. They take pride in building biggest dam across Yangtse, Baizing Lassa Railway, longest bridge and so forth?" - 5

3. **Dr. Bikash Sinha, Homi Bhabha Prof. in the Department of Atomic Energy, GOI:** "The safety record of Indian Power Plant is highly robust. Kalpakkam plant in Tamil Nadu survived the 2004 Tsunami and Gujarat Kakrapar plant too was unharmed by the devastating Bhug Earth Quake in 2001". - 6
4. **Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Former Chief of Bhabha Atomic Center (BARC):** "Dr. M.S. Swaminathan trust had carried out extensive profiling of the local vegetation. They found out that nuclear generation will not pose any problem to agriculture. - 7

Please support Establishment of Nuclear Plants for development of India. Send communication to Prime Minister (pмосb@pmo.nic.in, manmohan@sansad.nic.in) extending your support.

69. Importance of Irrigation and linking of rivers Project to India's Development:

Major issues confronted by Irrigation Projects:

1. Land procurement policy by central Act
2. Irrigation and agriculture to a concurrent subject central act
3. Resource mobilization private, FDI, bonds etc.
4. Payment for water made compulsory
5. Formation of irrigation on the model of national road authority

70. Water and its connectivity with India's development:

India is a tropical country where in the rain fall occurs only during specific months. During this period huge water flows through many rivers. The efforts to utilize these waters by constructing large projects is partially done. In 1960's and 1970's, large projects of Bhakranangal, Nagarjun Sagar, Hirakud and others were built which provided sufficient water to bring in Green Revolution and make country self sufficient in food.

Subsequently over 400 Irrigation projects are initiated by many State Governments. As of 2012, most of them are incomplete. The investment on the project is over 3 lakh crores. For Example, 250 irrigation projects worth 1.5 lakh crores pending (link 1). In the drought prone Jharkhand State, 100 irrigation projects are pending (link 2). Andhra Pradesh requires huge financial assistance to complete the ongoing irrigation projects (Link 3) so also Bihar (Link 4). In Uttar Pradesh, projects pending since 34 years are taken up in 2011 (link 5).

Due to lopsided policies of the states and due to wrong attitude of Government of India that Irrigation is a state subject. These projects are not getting sufficient money to get completed.

In 2004, the Planning Commission conducted an evaluation and found that these projects have capacity to provide water to 20 million hectares. But then the UPA Government came and the suggestions of the report are not implemented.

71. Rain-fed and Dry land farming:

As of 2010, over 55% of lands are under rain-fed conditions. These farmers face uncertainty of agriculture, low realization. In these areas, large scale migration, malnutrition and suicides occur. Rain-fed farming is responsible for suicides and other miseries of farmers in every part of the country. Farmers suicide in Karnataka linked to rain-fed farming (link 6). Dry land farmers and desertification (link 7). Problems of dry land farming (link 8). Social problems of dry land farming (link 9).

72. Linking of Rivers Project:

Irrigation Needs of India: India's irrigation challenges: underperforming dams (link 13), India's Irrigation Economy (link 14)

Concept (link 10) right pricing of water (link 11), Strategic Analysis of India's National River-Linking Project (link 12)

For the past 200 years many eminent Engineers including Sir Arthur Cotton, Sir Vishweswaraiah, Mr. Dasthoor and others have propagated the concept of linking of Rivers. Various governments made efforts and large number of reports were prepared. Due to various reasons, the project could not be implemented.

73. Unequal Development and social & economic upheavals:

India while claiming to be a developing Nation is facing serious social, Economic and Political problems. The liberalization process has propelled the growth of Service and Industry sectors to 8%. But the Agriculture which has been made a sub-servant to the urban and organized sectors is on the verge of collapse. The unequal development process has lead to political fragmentation. The National parties of congress, BJP and Communists are totally getting erased. The regional parties dependant on Rural Caste oriented parties are becoming stronger

in every part of the country. It is at this juncture that the linking of Rivers can play a significant role in terms of Rural Development and also retaining the integration of the Nation. If India has to survive as one nation it is but necessary that this project must be implemented as later and spirit.

74. Supreme Court Judgment on Linking of Rivers:

On 27th February 2012, the Supreme Court of India has given clear direction to the Government directing them to implement the project in a time bound manner. **(link to court judgment & highlights)**. They have given direction to the government to appoint a committee **(link)** and also given guidelines on the methodology of water utilization **(Link)**.

75. Envisaged problems:

Even though the court has given directions there are many challenges given below that require to be dealt by joint efforts of the government and the concerned citizens. [Waste water Irrigation in India (link 15)]. India Water Forum – 2011 (link 16).

76. International Disputes:

Brahmaputra, Ganges and Sindhu are linked with other countries of China, Nepal and Pakistan. The water sharing between India and Pakistan is largely completed. It is only a question of implementation. In regard to Nepal and India, there will not be many complaints as the utilization of water by Nepal is limited due to geophysical conditions. In regard to Brahmaputra water utilization India needs to enter into an MOU with China.

77. Inter State Disputes:

There are many Inter State Disputes which has come up due to politicalization of Water. In the irrigation projects only 40% of the water is scientifically used. In fact, by conserving water and using drip, sprinkler, pipes and other methods, utilization can be increased by at least 100%. The open channels and flooding practiced under the projects must be totally stopped. Providing water at nominal price should also be curtailed.

78. Nominal Water Rates under Irrigation projects:

- i. Krishna/Godavari Irrigation Projects, AP Water Cess–Rs.350/- (2 crops) \$7.
- ii. Tungabhadra / Krishna, Karnataka, water Cess – Rs. 200/- (2 crops) \$4.
- iii. Kaveri / Lower Bhavani – Tamil Nadu Water Cess – Rs. 50/- (2 crops) \$1
- iv. Bhakranangal – Punjab – Water Cess Rs. 200/- per acre \$4
- v. Ganges – Uttar Pradesh – Water Cess Sugarcane – Rs. 200/-; \$4

79. High Water Rates under Tube wells:

Farmers using ground water invest their own money of Rs. 2 lakhs and incur maintenance of Rs. 20,000/- per annum. This is Rs. 10,000/- expenditure per acre. The produce underground water as well as the project water are given the same support and facilities by Governments and in open markets.

80. Opposition by NGOs:

India has large number of NGOs who under the disguise of environmental protectionists & other excuses opposing development. They get huge resources from foreign countries and create apprehensions in the minds of people. It is necessary that for getting the projects implemented a citizens committee be formed at different levels to coordinate timely implementation.

81. Overcoming bureaucratic delays:

In implementing the project there is need to hasten the coordination between Ministries in GOI, Departments in the State and others.

82. Resource mobilization from Farmers & Private Sectors:

Involvement of farmers, citizens, private, NRIs, FDI in mobilizing the resources.

83. Identifying Technologies:

Technologies required for the project at various stages need to be identified from various parts of the world. They include project designs,

machinery, lift irrigation equipment, canal designs, etc. Agriculture Technologies for seed, fertilizer and pesticides are used to get maximum return out of every drop of water. Aquaculture to be encouraged as an integral part.

84. Navigational Benefits:

During the planning itself navigational needs are to be included.

85. Industrial Benefits:

Along the canals and projects, Industrial development has to be simultaneously planned.

86. Establishing Citizens Committee:

The Indian Political and administrative systems requires to be regularly monitored so that the project can be implemented as per the direction of the court. The present governments are also facing constraints of resources, technologies and management skills. The Citizens committee will act as a coordinator in solving complex problems that arise regularly.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Dr. Mahalingam, Dr. M.S. Udayamurthy, Mr. Kamraj and many others have been advocating for the implementation of the River Linking Project who may be included in the committee.

87. Administrative facilities:

Necessary administrative facilities to be created.

88. Mechanization is the key for future development of Indian Agriculture

Since 1990 rural youth have left agriculture and are migrating to cities. Animals which used to take care of entire agriculture activities have virtually disappeared from large number of villages. The migrating agriculture workers from one area to other such as Bihar to Punjab who used to work in the agriculture activity are getting reduced and will ultimately stopped in the next few years. The MGNREGA has reduced availability of labour to farming. The challenge before the country is to increase production to meet the increasing demands of increasing population, fuel, feed and fodder needs. It

is proved that physical drudgery is not acceptable to rural people more so, women who faced serious health problems.

It is at this juncture that the mechanizing agriculture assumes great importance. It will help in timely completion of agricultural operations at reduced cost, even in difficult situations. The rural youth can be economically deployed in the mechanization.

The definition of Mechanization has to be taken up in a more inclusive manner. In addition to **tractors, transplantors, harvesters, solar energy, drip and sprinkler equipment, biodegradable conversion equipment, electric motor, diesel engine, milk machine, chop cutters etc. are all to be taken as a part and parcel of mechanization process.**

As of 2010, Large scale Mechanization is happening in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh in wheat and rice crops. In sugar, similar equipment is introduced in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. It is to be noted that mechanization is slow in large part of the country of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa Bengal, North East etc. in these states agriculture activity is improving very fast. The farming activity herein face serious labour shortage.

What is urgently required is to hasten the process of mechanization. Firstly, the realization that the 90% small farmers cannot purchase the equipment as it is expensive and the investments cannot be made by them. The solution is in encouraging and allowing large scale private sector, mechanical service centers. Incentives of low interest credit, 50% subsidy and other concessions have to be given them to make them viable. Liberal import of equipment to suit the divergent Indian Agro Climatic conditions has to be allowed without any excise duty.

Efforts have to be made to develop innovative machines to suit the small farms especially in dry land, hilly terrine & Horticulture to be designed and made available.

The public sector industries as well as the private sector can be encouraged to establish the machinery service centers as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

Producer groups at the grass root level confront productivity related issues of inputs and extension. At the next level, the issues of marketing dealt by the states and with the traders are common. They relate to processing, storing, etc. At the apex level, CIGs confront the price fixation,

export policies, research which are within the purview of Government of India.

A study of sugarcane sector have shown that India has vast opportunities to improve production, provide value addition and increase the income of farmers and the industry. Ethanol a byproduct of sugar will save huge foreign exchange beneficial to the national economy. Power generation by the factory will benefit the local community.

The problem with sugar sector is that it has many controls and restrictions by both central and state Governments. They include levy, release mechanism, export restrictions, restrictions on molasses sale etc.

Sugar CIG will be able to work with industry at different levels on different issues. By this way, it is possible to network 50 lakh sugarcane farmers under the common banner.

89. Need for commodity boards to be converted as farmers' companies:

Commodity boards for tobacco, spices, coffee, tea, rubber were established to promote them as they have good internal as well as external markets. But in the past 20 years, they are not able to raise upto the expectations of farmers or to the country. In the past 2 decades, Vietnam has over taken India in spices. In tea and coffee, and rubber increasing the area in northeastern states was not utilized.

Opportunities for Tobacco in the international markets was not available due to timely policy decisions. All the above problems indicate the managerial deficiency and also lack of comprehensive approach. India being a vast country, the opportunities across the country are not properly evaluated by these boards. The Government of India is not evincing sufficient interest as they expect the board to look into aspect. The farmers and governments wherein opportunities available do not have access to the board's management which is located at a far-off place.

Northeastern states, eastern and western ghats had great opportunities for tea, coffee and rubber. So also in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa has vast opportunities for spices especially chillies. Turmeric, which has huge production opportunities in many parts of the country are not able to utilize the opportunities.

It is therefore it is necessary that these commodity boards be converted to farmers companies.

An autonomously managed and profit oriented farmers company will strive to have long term policies. Enlarge the production base and engage in long term contract for marketing and brand building. The farmers companies will also come to the rescue of whenever there is a serious crisis and they will be able to lobby with government on various issues.

The government of India collects 10,000 crores of excise on tobacco and earns 3000 crores through foreign exchange. But tobacco prices have become unremunerative and they do not provide any financial assistance including a base support price for the tobacco growers.

It is for this reason that the commodity boards be converted as farmers companies.

Date: 05.03.2012

90. Status of Indian Agriculture – CIFA Analysis:

Sl. No.	Heading	Details
1	Existing Farm Sector Condition, Productivity Situation – farmers Position	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Politicalization of farmers Issues. Dividing them on caste, party and sectoral basis. 2. Agriculture Sector is controlled by Government of India and State Governments. 3. Low Budget Allotment for Agriculture. 4. Agriculture preferred over populist schemes. 5. Low Productivity due to insufficient Investments, lack of technologies and rain-fed agriculture. 6. Wastage of water, fertilizer etc. 7. No extension services to farmers. 8. Government restrictions on marketing including exports. 9. High level of exploitation by commission agents. 10. Farmers not involved in agriculture planning implementation and resource allocation. 11. Incomplete irrigation projects.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Non availability of electricity. 13. Adulterated seeds, fertilizer and inputs. 14. High level of physical drudgery. 15. Price manipulation by businessmen in the markets. 16. Suicides, Migration & Malnutrition.
2	Reasons for CIFA supporting Liberalization Policies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 1990s liberalization policies have helped Industry and Service Sectors to achieve 8% - 10% growth. 2. The control license raj was removed. 3. Technologies, investments and management skills are freely allowed. GOI incentivized them. But the Agriculture sector remained under controls and restrictions. 4. In all important commodities Production, Price Fixation, Processing, Marketing, Exports, Technologies, Procurement are controlled by Government. 5. Farming has become a highly insecure and unsustainable activity/profession due to lack of access to technologies, investments and markets. 6. Government is withdrawing from Agriculture Sector. 7. 400 million middle class consumers are available in India. 8. CIFA wants all the facilities provided to Industry and Service Sector be provided to farm sector.
3	Increasing Investments including Private and FDI.	<p>Investments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modern Agriculture requires high investment in research – infrastructure (water , electricity) – inputs (fertilizer, Pesticides, seeds) – processing (Industry) – marketing (storage, transport) – Water (construction of projects and distribution of water – Electricity (Heddle, thermal, nuclear) – Extension (Farmers Training) etc. 2. The Government of India Or the State

		<p>Governments do not have required huge resources to invest in the Agriculture Sector. Therefore, private including FDI is to be allowed as investment in all Agriculture related activities.</p>
4	Farmers Empowerment and Involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The tropical Indian Agriculture requires village based agriculture planning taking into consideration the logistics of the village. It has to be done by Panchayat in consultation with 'Gram Sabhas'. The Central and State Governments have to provide resources and facilities as per the needs of the Panchayat Plan. 2. Every district must have a District Agricultural Production and Agro Based Development Plan for the purpose of optimum utilization of its resources and also the products. A District Development Plan for 10 years to be prepared by the Zilla Parishad in consultation with Industry, Experts and Administration. This should be monitored by an Independent District Authority. 3. All the farmer centric committees have to be managed by elected farmers representatives. A. Panchayats, B. Co-operatives, C. Market Yards, D. Water Users Associations and others.
5	Importance of Linking Commodity (producer) Interest Groups (CIGs) with markets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Product specific commodity / producer groups alone can survive in the modern market conditions. 2. The CIGs have to be linked with retail/processing/exporters to market their produce. Backward - Forward linkage 3. The contract has to be on long term basis. 4. The producer has to understand the importance of standardization, uniformity of the product, maintain timing. 5. The Producers and markets have to change as per the consumer preference.

6	Private Institutions involved in Agriculture / Farmers	CII, FAPCCI, Fertilizer Manufacturers Associations of India, Indian Sugar Mills Association, tractor manufacturers, ABLE, Rice Millers Association of Andhra Pradesh, NDDB
7	International Organizations involved in Agriculture/Farmers	World Bank, FAO, ICRISAT, IMF, ADV, IRRI, WEF.

91. **Farmers are angry at the pesticide residue issues?**

Every week there will be sensational news items about the Pesticide residue originating from European governments or Indian NGOs. It invariably blames the farmers. The question is who is responsible for Pesticide residue? Pesticide is a crop medicine it has to be compulsorily used to control diseases in the crops.

There are no agricultural extension officers to advise the farmers on pesticides scientific usage. Cities dwellers use huge quantity of DDT for malaria control and also other pesticides for cockroaches, rats and termite controls. All these pollutants and untreated city sewage as well as industrial waste is left into the rivers and this water is used for agriculture. It is responsibility of government to advise farmers on the scientific usage of pesticides. Farmers cannot be blamed or held responsible for pesticide residual issues.

Should India adopt European Standards standards? In Europe these standards prescribed for water are more stringent than milk. Because the European farmers use vaccine, growth hormones and vitamin zed cattle feed. The Europeans drink wine and whisky but not water. Why should we ape at Europeans?

92. **IRRIGATION to be made a constitutional responsibility OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA?:**

Agriculture without water is unthinkable. It is as if asking humans to live without water. Unfortunately Government of India have failed to realize its responsibility and provide assured water to agriculture. The political leaders due to their vested interest have divided the farming community and misguide them on the water related issues. Farmers must realize that the water and air of the country belongs to all citizens. It is foolish to consider that any particular state, region, district has right over the water that passes through their Village. Every drop of water must be utilized by our countrymen for irrigation,

human consumption and industry. Irrigation needs to be made concurrent subject and GOI to provide funds for irrigation projects.

93. The need to make ELECTRICITY FOR AGRICULTURE, A CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA?:

It is the responsibility of the government to provide water to agriculture. In the absence of irrigation water supply, farmers use ground water with their investment. Therefore it is the responsibility of government to provide 24 hours of electricity to farmers.

94. Why farmers are angry on holidays of Government employees?:

There is no holiday for a house wife. So also rickshaw puller, 83% of small farmers, traders and a daily wage earner have no holidays. Whereas our 3% Government and public sector employees have approximately 50% holidays in a year. They include Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays, earned leave, sick leave and maternity leave. India a poor country depends on government institutions for everything. Especially for farmers a holiday by a agriculture office, veterinary doctor, primary health doctor, tehsil office holiday creates many difficulties. In a developing country like India government employees who are provided with job security, income security and all facilities should have been working with one single holiday a week. Infact on Independence Day and Republic Day Indians should work 12 hours so that the soul of freedom fighters including Mahatma Gandhi will be in peace. It is estimated that a developed nation Germany people work for 1800 hrs where as the organized sectors in India work only for 1500 hrs.

95. What are the Double Standards of India? – Discriminating of Farmers:

- a. Financial support given to farmers by government is called as subsidy.
- b. Financial support given to the industry by government is called incentive.
- c. Smoking Cigarettes is Injurious but Drinking Whisky is allowed. GOI opposes smoking of cigarettes on the pretext that it is injurious to health. In order to control smoking it has passed various acts including printing skull and bones on the packet. On the contrary the Government doesn't initiate similar action on Alcohol/Whisky.

- d. Gambling is harmful to rural people but not for Gentleman!
Government prohibits gambling in the villages but, allows Officers Clubs and Race Courses.
- e. Default of Bank Loan is a crime by farmer but is a genuine mistake by an industrialist.
Farmers failure to repay the loan because of crop failure (floods-droughts-disease-un-remunerative price) invokes revenue recovery act Panel proceedings under which the name of the default farmers will be publicly announced in the village and his house hold articles, bullocks will be attached and sold in open auction.
On the contrary failure to repay the loan by industrialist enables him to approach **BIFR** for renegotiation the loan. Otherwise the industrialist has opportunity to ask for **one time settlement**. Over and above this entire transaction is done secretly without the public notice.
- f. Cars and Tractors:
after 1990s liberalization 35 new car models are introduced in India but not one new model tractor.
- g. Kisan has no pension even after 50 years work but MPs, MLA get it after 5 years service!

Farmers even at the age of 70 years have to slog day and night. Otherwise his children may neck him out, because the income from the farm cannot maintain old people. Millions of beggars are rag pickers, rickshaw pullers in towns and cities of India are mostly from farm families. Our leaders in their wisdom provided pension to government employees and to themselves. But they have conveniently forgotten farmers.

* Why not demand our MLAs and MPs no to take pension till it is provided to kisans.

96. What is the need for Zilla parishads to replace the Collectors?

GOI administration is ruled by Prime Minister and the State Administration by the Chief Minister. Why should the district administration be under a Collector? Why not District administration be under the control of Zilla parishads?

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi observed that the experience of vast majority of the people at the grass-roots is that the present administration by Collectors is unresponsive, inefficient and unsympathetic to the people.

The failure of District administration is evident from the failure of rural development, unemployment, stagnation in agriculture productivity and Naxalism.

The Zilla parishads are of democratic representative in character. They have to be highly responsible to the needs of the people. Therefore likely to be more decisive in implementation of the programs.

97. Failure of National Political Parties – need for Agriculture centric economic policies

2014 Elections are likely to end of Congress Party forming Cabinet in New Delhi. The fact is the original Congress party died many times. In 1971, at the time of division, in 1975 emergency and was rejected by majority of people in 1992, 2004 and even in 2009.

Congress as a National Political Party has failed to understand and adopt a development program of Gram Swaraj and Agriculture Centric Economic Policies that are advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. Nehru followed Russian Model of Public Sector and British Model Administration, both failed. Subsequently the Indira Gandhi period saw the collapse of all institutions, legalized corruption and favoritism. The employees of organized sectors in government, public sector, coal mines and other state institutions like road transport corporations, electricity boards are the only beneficiaries of the increased wages and other benefits.

The license and Permit Raj of Indira Gandhi enabled the adoptable businessmen to make money by paying bribes and getting political patronage of both National Political Parties of Congress and BJP. The situation between 1950 and 1991 remained on these lines leading to virtual collapse of the national economy as well as institutions.

Since Independence, except for III and IV Plans and the Green Revolution, the farm sector remained under negative side. India has inherent Agro climatic Advantages and due to introduction of hybrids, wheat, rice, vegetables and cotton (GMOs), productivity was constantly improved. But the improved productivity and production did not benefit the individual farmer due to price, market, export, processing and other restrictions on agriculture sector by Government of India.

Ever since Indira Gandhi came to power, Congress went on implementing populist schemes which are basically a vote bank schemes. She and her coterie around her, successfully brought about a division on various pretexts, cornered minorities and scheduled castes voters from 1971-1990.

The BJP continued with its Anti-Pakistan and religious sentiment voting pattern which helped them get into power in Delhi for 1 term. The communists continued with their 1917's Russian Revolution Concept and lost total directions.

*Even in 1967, because of the inability of the regional parties to be united and project a common leader and agenda, Congress and BJP survived as National Parties.

98.Liberalization benefitted only Organized Sectors:

The 1991 liberalization initiated due to economic compulsions allowed the Swiss Black Money to be brought home through dubious means. It is a well known fact that the black money brought and invested in India and was done with the connivance of all the National Political Party Leaders and their Administrative, Economic, Financial and Policy Advisors (partners). As it has provided personal benefit to all of them, it was conveniently brushed under the carpet.

The liberalization process has helped only the organized sectors because the national parties had a tacit understanding with the Industry and Service Sectors. The industry helped them in sharing their wealth while the white and blue collared have played a complimentary role as it has helped them gain personal benefits. Both the national parties centralized the power, cornered the taxes, controlled the prices and adopted whimsical export and import policies which led to concentration of power in their hands. In adopting this process, the national parties bypassed the agriculture sector reforms and always made farmers subservient to Industry and Service Sectors.

99.Rise of Regional Political Parties:

- a. The national parties of Congress and BJP have deliberately throttled the growth of grass-root leaders. Since 1970s, after Indira Gandhi taken charge of the power, not one regional leader has come to the National Level. Many of the successful Chief Ministers including Digvijay Singh, Hooda, Raja Sekhar Reddy and others were always made subservient to the coterie around 10 Janpath. In fact, it is

many rootless leaders that were propelled and given important portfolios in Union Cabinets during 1971-2012 Congress Rule. This has demolished the concept of cadre, seniority and service in the Congress Party. The people with money are lobbies or those who has access to the coterie around 10 Janpath gained entry into the Parliament, Cabinet and Party. In the past 40 years, Congress could not project even 1 National farmers leader. In the past 10 years, AICC has no farmers Agenda or a full time General Secretary in its office.

- b. The situation in BJP is no different. The strong state leaders Mr. Modi, Mr. Raman Singh and Mr. Sivraj Chauhan are made subservient to Delhi's nominated leaders.
- c. On the contrary, the regional parties have projected extremely strong and capable leaders such as Sharad Pawar, Jayalalita, Prakash Singh Badal, Naveen Patnaik, now Mamata Banerjee and Nitish Kumar.
- d. The aspirations of rural people especially the farmers have become more evident under the banner of regional parties. In 1960s Dravida Khasgam (AIADMK-DMK) and 1970's rise of Charan Singh, Jay Prakash Narayan, Akali Dal, Biju Patnaik has brought about regional parties which reflected the sentiments of farmers.
- e. The growth of Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Mulayam Singh yadav, Mayawati, National Congress - Mamata Banerjee, Kerala Congress - Devi Lal, NT Rama Rao, Gomantak Party - Goa are due to failure of National Parties.
- f. As of 2010, with the entry of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh, 2 strong regional parties have emerged under YSR Congress and Mr. Chandra babu Naidu leading Telugu Desam Party. During 2014 elections, in Karnataka Mr. Yedyurappa is likely to launch a Party with the support of Lingayaths. So also Smt. Vasundara Raji with the Support of Rajputs is likely to launch a regional party in Rajasthan. In Gujarat, the powerful Mr. Narendra Modi may launch his own regional party. These surprises may occur in Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

100. Hereditary Political Parties will not be supported by people after 2020:

*A caution to these leaders is that they should leave a legacy for future to perpetuate and carry forward their good deeds. It will be illusionary if these leaders think of eternity of their rule. A good leader should be like emperor Janmejaya. They who should be willing to leave the seat of power at a moment's notice. Life is not eternal but the deeds are eternal. "Mruthyorma Amruthangamaya".

The regional parties emerged so as to satisfy the needs of farmers, rural people and also unorganized sectors especially living in the villages. People expect them to provide basic needs of health, education, sustained livelihood and assured old age security.

It is only an effective Administration, Programs and their implementation that will be appreciated by the people. It is also necessary that every regional party must have basic ideology (long term programs) and a cadre who are dedicated for the ideology.

In a democratic country more so in 21st Century, the family rule will not continue beyond few years because of the inherent defect in the capacity of the successor and also lack of political ideology and cadre.

Due to fast emerging awareness of people expose to communications, media, economic development, educational progress and social awareness the performance of the leadership of the regional parties is constantly watched by their vote banks.

At the same time, media, vocal middleclass and the opposition parties are always watching for any mistakes by the regional party which will be immediately exposed.

Continuation of the family rule in a regional party depends on the capacity of the successor. But, as mentioned above, a strong party cadre and its program will always assure the continuation of the Regional Political Party Rule in the years to come. Non adoption of these guidelines will lead to subdivision in the regional party.

It is now extremely difficult for emergence of a new National Political Party in the near future. There is no strong leader like Lok Naik JayaPrakash Narayan to inspire and unify the people nor there is a strong movement of nationalism, socialism or communism that can unite India. There is also no visible common enemy against whom people will rally round. It is for this reason, that the existence of regional parties is bound to continue in India for the next few decades.

101. Consolidation of Regional Parties through Common National Agenda:

Regionalism itself has many advantages because the regional leaders have to be closely keep in touch with local people and their problems virtually on day to day basis. The present inaccessibility of National Political Parties will not be acceptable to the present generation of Indians. Indians

have to learn that President Obama can be called by 10,000 of his supporters on his Blackberry on day to day basis. How many of our Indians can meet our Imperial Highness sitting in 10 Janpath? So also, we don't know whom to meet in BJP in Delhi or Nagpur.

But, any regional leader is available 24hours a day and 365 days an year to his constituents. It is this easy accessibility of the leaders and ability to get the problems solved, that will perpetuate the rule of regional parties in India for decades to come.

What is extremely important for the regional political parties is to develop a short and long term policies and consensus on highly critical issues of managing affairs of Government of India. There is need to reevaluate the existing taxation system, sharing the revenue, controlling sanctions and approvals to State Proposals and other related issues as detailed in this brochure.

Many of the National Institutions have become susceptible to National Political Parties with the exception of Supreme Court of India and Election Commission. These institutions are used as a intimidating institution by the national political parties.

It is therefore important that the regional parties must develop independent and autonomous institutions that will protect the interest of our nation in the long run. They include, Lokayukth, Central Vigilance Commissioner, Central Bureau of Investigation, Comptroller, Auditor General of India, National Regulator for Commodity Trading, Stock Markets and also selection of Commander and Chief, Heads of Income Tax Departments are essential.

Support price fixation, procurement policy, buffer stock norms of food grains, export of agriculture produce on regular basis, calamity relief support,

102. **Regional Parties National Coordination:**

It is difficult to bring about consensus on issues by the regional parties. Therefore, it should adopt a round table system (Knights of Round Table by King Arther) and explicitly make it clear that they are all equal.

The agenda for immediate discussion should be as follows

1. The regional leaders have to prepare a common agenda before December 2012 so that they can take charge of National Politics in 2014.
2. The coliseum of regional leaders should plan for the next Prime Minister's nominee for 2014. (short list 3 leaders).
3. The regional leaders must also realize that a succession should be always kept in place so that their national agenda can be continuously followed. It is therefore necessary that the **Deputy Prime Minister** must be projected to take charge of matter as and when necessary.
4. The Indian Union has failed to bring about Economic and Social equity amongst various states. Therefore, the future program should be to **establish United States of India.**

103. **Tax Reforms:**

It is also necessary to totally relook at the **taxation structure and tax sharing** methodology. For example, 100 sugar factories located in Uttar Pradesh have corporate offices in Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkatta. The Taxes paid by the companies are now credited to the states where the corporate offices are located. This has to be changed.

The regional leaders must totally reorient state administration which has not proved efficient in the past 60 years. It is necessary that the district administration be made extremely strong to build rural economy. The present Indian IASs should be renamed as District Development Officer. He should be made answerable to the Zilla Parishat Chairman. It is foolhardy to think that State Capitals can control a district administration comprising of 30 lakh people. There are 50 countries in UNO whose population is less than our district.

104. **Foreign Policy:**

The other area where the regional parties must develop consensus is on Foreign Affairs. They should all come to consensus on developing a friendly and business relationship with Pakistan. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have common heritage of 3000 years. Partition and other events created bitterness and lack of trust.

However, the regional parties have to now evaluate the high cost of continued tension between India and Pakistan in terms of Military and mutual acrimony.

On the contrary, the regional parties for whom minorities are part of their supporters have to consider the advantages of having a close cultural, social, sports and business relationships.

The Minorities of India are aware, Congress, has hoodwinked minorities under false pretext so also BJP. The regional parties should realize that the France and Germany who fought a Brutal II World War in 1940s and USA and Russia who has a cold war from 1950 to 1990 are now on excellent cultural and business relationship. Why should India, Pakistan and Bangladesh come together?

The regional parties should also understand that in India and Pakistan, 65% of the poor people are living in villages and are dependent on Agriculture. Our nations are seriously affected by malnutrition, lack of Health and Educational facilities.

In regard to China, we need to have a very balanced approach due to the fact that USA and China are becoming International Super Powers and are on a collision course.

105. Economic and Tax Agenda of Regional Political Parties:

The regional parties must realize that the liberalization policies initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh and implemented by both UPA and NDA are identical. They adopted the western model and pampered Industrial and Service Sectors. This has led to huge accumulation of wealth in the hands of few people leading to monopolistic tendencies by Individuals.

It is observed that, at the national level, the businessmen, politicians and bureaucrats have taken the national money to Switzerland and again brought back it and invested by manipulation. A close observation reveals that this selected group is having a strong hold on National Political and Economic system.

If the present trend continues, there is likelihood of entire democratic process being sabotaged. The liberalization process also created a huge middleclass who can be made efficient by good management. It is in this context that the regional parties must evolve a national policy for curtailing the powers of organized sectors.

106. Imposing Inheritance tax/estate duty:

Further, the regional political parties must bring in under fold a large number of these people under Income Tax Net. In regard to the people

having assets over and above a limit of 10 crores, there must be inheritance tax. This could be 5% for 100 crores, 10% for 500 crores and 20% over and above 1000 crores.

107. Should Farm Houses around cities be taxed?:

It is also necessary for regional parties to think of taxing, farm houses around cities and towns. They are not farmers in reality. These farm houses are owned by businessmen or professionals who use these farm houses as a means of showing huge agriculture income to a wade off income tax. It is necessary that these farm houses be made taxable. The other issue is about keeping lands idle in villages. India cannot afford to keep lands idle. Whatever be the reasons, a law has to be enacted to make the land productive. How to do and what to do is an issue to be debated by all of us and develop a suitable solution.

108. Issue of land acquisition:

Can India progress without large scale irrigation projects, roads, nuclear plants, thermal stations and also large industries and big cities? The simple answer is no. There are fundamental Issues that are now confronting the nation.

Firstly, it is depriving the farmer of his land. 90% of Indian Farmers are small and marginal and their income on land averages around 3,000 to Rs. 4,000/- per month. The farmer also is not having work throughout the year, therefore he has to migrate to cities leaving him family behind or work on the MGNREGA now provided.

The past few years' experience has shown that the displaced farmers by providing adequate compensation at market price and also by providing employment can be settled without any problem. It is herein that the Government and the Industry / Institution can take fast decisions in providing compensation and also rehabilitating him in a suitable job. Unfortunately, the apathy by bureaucracy and averseness of industry has created many loss of trust leading to the present anti development by the people.

109. Social Revolution by Regional Parties:

The urban people and the organized sectors have achieved fair amount of social integration due to the advantages of Education and Income enjoyed by them since Independence. Farmers living in villages remained

conservative due to lack of educational facilities and economic development. This has led to social tensions.

110. **Empowerment of under privileged:**

These regional parties have drawn their inspirations from ram Manohar Lohiya, Jay Prakash Narayan, Ramsway Naicker and Kanshiram who advocated social and economic integration of the underprivileged sections.

The advent of regional parties brought about a great social change because of their inherent approach of working closer with grass-root people of all sections. The outstanding examples are NT Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh in 1983 brought about a social empowerment to underprivileged sections by various means. Similar policies were adopted by Mulayam Singh, Mayawati, MGR, Jayalalitha and (Mamata).

111. **Programs for Social Integration by the Regional Parties:**

1. To improve the efficiency of farm sector by optimum utilization of inputs.
2. Improve the efficiency of delivery system – efficient administration.
3. To arrange for increased allocation for agriculture sector and individual farmer benefit and build their capacity on par with organized sectors.
4. Change the educational curriculum to suit Rural Conditions.
5. 70% of the girls and 60% of the boys belonging to socially underprivileged sections or school dropouts. This happens because of various reasons. These boys and girls can be provided with semi technical services training and awareness that are highly essential fast changing rural areas called **Rural Service Sectors**. These trainings will enable them earn additional income throughout their lives and also enable them have a better quality life. This can be done by abridged IT courses during the holidays.
6. Trainings: Training for women Tailoring, Embroidery, cooking modern food(fast foods like cakes, pastries), Bridal decoration, backyard kitchen garden, readymade foods, etc.

Awareness for women: what is malnutrition and how to solve with the available food?, personal, child and old people care, basic health care (First Aid), small family norm, etc.

Training for Men: Electric Motor Diesel Engine repair, Carpentry, Blacksmithy, Driving tractors, cars, 3 wheelers, etc.

7. Strategies to bring about social integration:

- a. Massive and continuous awareness on alcoholism.
- b. Massive awareness on importance basic health, clean drinking water, nutrition food, personal hygiene, etc.
- c. Encouragement for 1 girl child family norm and also child adoption.
- d. Incentivize inter caste marriage.

112. Biotechnology Status Paper by CIFA

Indian small farmers confront serious pests, diseases, floods, drought, sever cold and other problems. India has huge saline and alkaline lands which requires to be brought under cultivation to increase the production. The rain-fed farming in over 55% of the lands face multiple challenges. The productivity under projects and assured irrigation has also reached peak.

The conventional research has no solutions for these problems. It is universally accepted by International Institutions including FAO, IRRI and also by eminent scientists Nobel Dr. Norman Borlaug and Dr. Gurudev Khush and others that innovative technologies including GMO, NANO technology, irradiation, remote sensing are compulsory to overcome the above challenges.

Biotechnology as of 2012:

29 countries across the world including large farm America, small farms China and European Countries are using GMOs in over 160 Million Hectares is cultivated in 30 countries including 10 Food crops soya, maize, potato and commercial crops cotton. Its byproducts are used in producing of Milk, Poultry, Beef, Fish consumed in all the countries including India.

Situation in India :

60 lakh cotton farmers comprising of 95% cotton are using GMOs as of 2012. The cotton yields have increased from 302kgpH in 2002 to 503kgpH in 2010-11. The cotton oil and the crushed cake is used as feed and edible oil.

CIFA Views:

CIFA welcomes Biotech. Research by Public Sector including Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Delhi, Agriculture Universities of Coimbatore, Dharwad, Kerala and Delhi in addition to ICRISAT and others. CIFA wants

Private Sector including Multi National Companies to invest in Biotech Research, Extension and PPP.

CIFA views that the regulatory mechanism kept in place by Government of India is sufficient. CIFA wants time bound approvals for GMOs.

Further References:

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113. FARMERS - NEEDS – DEMANDS PROGRAMMES

Sixty six years after attaining independence there is more than 5 times income disparity between urban and rural India and still growing further. Through the centuries the wealth generated in the countryside has flowed into cities, which have given little back to the countryside. The inclusive growth for 60% of the population engaged in farming and residing in rural Bharat appears to be a still a distant dream. Is this what we at the government along with policy pundits pursued for the past 66 years?

What should the farmer feel when the 11th plan candidly says "GDP per capita per each agricultural worker is currently around only Rs. 2,000/- per month, which is only about 75% higher in real terms than in 1950 compared to a four-fold (400%) increase in overall real per capita GDP". So all other sector incomes got increased except that of farmers! Should he feel happy that when the per capita income of all sectors and people increased; he is the only one who is languishing? The agriculture sector GDP fell year after year since 1950s from 55% to 15% by 2011.

The one thing that is not happening is that the income of the farmers is not increasing at all. Indian Agriculture is not a failure. But Indian farmers are a failed lot Prof M.S. Swaminathan touched at the heart of the solution by saying that the objective of policy-makers and other in the field of Agriculture should be to make farming profitable and remunerative rather than focusing on production and productivity alone.

114. The current governments failed to redistribute the wealth:

The wealth created is getting into only a few hands. And that is giving rise to all the scams. The effort to create wealth through sustained process from the late 90s to the early 2000 has paid off in the first decade of this millennium. In the last 12 years, India's economy has grown at an average annual rate of about 7%. However, 40% of world's poor still live in India, and 28% of country's population continues to live below poverty line. Still more than 1/3rd of the population continues to live below poverty line. Still more than 1/3rd of the population lives on less than a dollar a day, and 80% live on less than two dollars a day. The fact that wealth has not percolated to the bottom is truer in the case of farmers. As per GDP data on sectoral income for the four year period 2007-08 to 2010-11, average per annum growth in non-agri worker income is 7.78% compared to meagre 2% growth in the income of agri worker. The ratio of disparity in incomes thus is 1:4. Means the agriculture workforce got only one fourth incremental income of what non-agri workforce got. The disparities in incomes of non-agri and agri workers are continuously widening. Government policies over a period have rendered agriculture, as the least profitable occupation in the country.

The negligence of government has brought the Indian farmers to get caught in the dilemma whether to continue in Agriculture or not. The position of Andhra Pradesh farmers has become so pathetic that they already came out of that dilemma and announced 'Crop Holiday' for their crops.

The noble profession of Agriculture has become unremunerated and farmers have become Untouchables in their own social circles. The farmers' life of uncertainty has become endless. Day after day, he has to face the nature's fury, exploitation by the markets and negligence by the ruling classes and organized sectors.

The farmers have become a second class citizens Roman Slaves in free India.

The negligence of governments is making small farmers become marginal farmers and marginal farmers turned less than labourers during their own lifetime. The government employees, on the other hand, are assured at least three promotions during their service time. While the government has taken no more than four months to implement the sixth pay commission report, even going beyond the recommendations, there has been little action on the report of the National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. MS Swaminathan even after 60 months. It is the apathy of the government towards the farmers to be blamed which is reflected in the fixation of low minimum support prices for crops.

The Swaminathan commission had recommended that the MSP should be at least 50% more than weighted average cost of production. While some relatively less consequential suggestions of this commission have been included by government in its national policy on agriculture, the key recommendations have so far been ignored.

It is clear through various reports that crop losses and failure of adequate compensation in case of natural calamities, failure of monsoons, pests and disease; and lack of adequate credit and marketing facilities are basic reasons responsible for farmers suicides. The compensation paid is very small, the methodology of computing compensation is wrong and the procedure adopted to pay compensation is long; credit given by scheduled banks to only 30% of the total farmers. These are all the issues that can be solved by any government in power in no time. But the government did not have time to focus on this. For them the farmers comes on a last priority as they are anyway second grade citizens in this country.

Increase in input prices (production costs) at higher rate than increase in output prices-leading to declining profitability. This phenomenon reached alarming dimension. National Commission of Farmers under Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan and Dr. Radhakrishna Committee on Rural indebtedness also pointed out these root causes for today's farmers' distress.

Can India achieve global power without strong Agriculture economy?

Though the government knew very well that the cost of production is invariably higher than the minimum support price, government expects farmers to continue with very less MSP. The farmers do not know what to do when the cost of production of paddy is around Rs.1,400/- per quintal; the government just gives Rs.1,080/- to the farmers. However, input costs and cost of daily necessities, medical and education expenses increased manifold. The CACP never takes into account the risk factors and their consequences. Natural risk factors which include weather aberrations, rains, floods, famine conditions, pest, temperature fluctuations, hail-storm etc. are not given due weightage in calculating the cost factors. The other risk factors which are government created viz., Government intervention and market forcers including national and international both, which try to control the prices of agricultural produce to their advantage are an addition to this. What's concerning is that there doesn't seem to be any concerted government effort to rectify the situation. The urban and organized sectors in our country are able to become globally competitive. They have established Unions and Associations, lobbied and got all the benefits. On the contrary, the rural people living in Bharat consisting of 70% (including farmers, artisans, fishermen, Tribals, Scheduled castes, nomads etc.) do not

have the basic facilities of health, education and have neither regular income nor growth. The situation of farmers in this country has become like an animal surviving with in a circle. The farmers over the years has become the worst affected. They have become the "Kulle Ka Bhal" (A Bull operation Oil extracting equipment – ganuga Yeddu).

During 66 years of planning between 1950-51 and 2010-11, the share of agriculture in GDP has fallen by more than two thirds from 55% to 15%, whereas the share of industry has increased from 15% to 28% and the share of services has nearly doubled from 30% to 57%.

The governments have been showing a step motherly affection on farm sector is evident with the continuous decline in public outlays and investments in agri sector. Even though agriculture is the life blood of the nation, public investment in agriculture, in real terms, had witnessed a steady decline. There has been continuous decline in the plan outlays for Agriculture. during 6th Five Year Plan the share was 5.8%; declined to 4.9% during 9th Plan and further down to 2.4% during the x and xi plans. (Source: Plan Documents).

The expenditure of the government in rural development, including agriculture, irrigation, flood control, village industry, energy and transport, declined form an average of 14.5% in 1986-1990 to 6% by 2000 and to just 2.86% of the massive Central Plan outlay of Government of India of Rs.5 lakh crores for 2010-11.

The lack of credit for farmers was one of the main causes for the farmer's suicides. The 18% allocation of credit to the agriculture is never being followed and the government is not concerned even when many of its own public sector banks flout the rule depriving farmers of capital. It's not a wonder if the 59th Round of National Sample survey says that 40% farmers wish to quit farming.

115. Parliament Members' Farmers' Forum:

1. **MPs Forum:** Strengthening Parliament Members Farmers' Forum and also establishing MLA's Forum.
2. **Establishing Legal Cell:** Establishing full time legal forum to assist farmer's on legal issues including compensation for land acquisition curtailing, spurious and adulterated products over seeing implementation of Government programmes, maintenance of quality work (Irrigation Projects, Canals, etc.,) and other related legal issues.
3. **National Coordination Council:** Establishing National, State & Commodity based Farmers and Industry coordination committees.

Sugarcane, Rice, Milk, Cotton, Horticulture, Oil seeds & other commodities.

4. **Nuclear Technology:** Persuading Government of India to take up Agriculture Research through Nuclear Technologies which have been neglected for various reasons.
5. **Trade with Pakistan and China:** To initiate steps to have long term Agriculture exports to Pakistan and China for Sugar and for China for Rice. Uttar Pradesh has huge potential to produce sugar and this can be marketed on long term basis with Pakistan and Afghanistan. Similarly, Rice Production is increasing in the North – Eastern States Bihar and Bengal. Wherein Hybrid Rice which are not prepared by the Indian consumers can be exported to China especially to Tibet through Arunachal Pradesh. China as of now is supplying Rice to the Tibetan Province from distance within China.

116. **Administrative Reforms:**

Farmers depend on Government employees for their services, Agriculture extension, market-yard, Veterinary Doctor, Irrigation, Electricity Engineers and Bank Officers are integral part of day to day farmer's, Life, Food corporation, CACP, NABARD, ICR, Agriculture Universities, KVKS, are supposed to serve the farmer's . In the past 30 years the dedication and working of the institutions and the employees has deteriorated. Farmer's Association's have to keep a watch on their working of these and extract work from them.

117. **CIFA success in unifying Sugar Farm in India:**

1. The Challenge before the Indian Sugarcane Growers (Farmers):

The life of farmer is like a bull working on oil extracting machine (Ganuga Yeddu). It has livelihood but no growth. There is no farmer in India who has not sold his wife's gold (or mortgaged) and also without huge debt. We have observed that a small time politician of our village has become a Minister. A Tea Stall owner has become a 5 Star Hotel Proprietor. A clerk has become a Collector.

Somehow, we farmers in all parts of the country have not only remained static but got into serious economic and social problems. Farmers are known as "Annadatas". But has now become perpetual beggars. We are always seeking support and help not only from Government but from everybody. How does this pathetic situation arise? Is it because we farmers are not working hard? Or is it because the Constitutional Institutions of Parliament, Executive and the Forth Estate have let us down?

As of today, every farmer confronts the problem of getting fertilizer or quality seeds, or pesticides. It has become very difficult to get agriculture labour due to MGNREGA. Availability of electricity is extremely erratic and in many places is limited to 5 hours and is available in the middle of the night. Soil analysis is rarely done and farmers do not know the micro nutrient deficiency. Credit availability and crop insurance are the biggest challenges to the farmers. The modern technology of chip bud nurseries is available in India but not accessible to farmers. Sugarcane planting and harvesting machines are available and not available to the farmers. We rarely get profitable price.

118. Problems confronted by Sugar Sector under the present regime:

Sugarcane Price calculation of FRP and SAP do not reflect the constantly increasing cost of production - (Labour, Fertilizer, Pesticides, Seeds etc.) GOI policies on Levy, Release, Exports, Ethanol Pricing are detrimental to the sugar sector growth. State controls on cane area, fixation of molasses price are leading to cyclical problems in production, pricing as well as profitability. The present policies have led to Low (no) investments, productivity variations and created sugarcane growers and sugar industry conflicts.

Sugar is categorized as Essential Commodity in 1940s by the Britishers. Today, an average Indian consumes more milk, meat, eggs and vegetables than 2 spoons of sugar. The government control of sugar is totally out of context in the period of globalization. The other restrictions (as detailed in the brochure) are equally irrelevant.

119. Uniting Sugarcane growers of India by CIFA:

CIFA is India's national apex organization with members associations from states and commodity associations. CIFA has networked farmers as commodity groups, prepared status paper containing strategies and programs.

In 2006, CIFA National Farmers Conference organized at New Delhi, 100 sugarcane farmers leaders from all parts of India got together to discuss Sugar Sector Issues under the Chairmanship of Shri. Sanat Mehta and prepared a status paper.

This document identified not only the problems and conflicts in sugar sector but has found a solution to solve them. From 2011, CIFA organized sugarcane growers meetings in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra

Pradesh, Pondicherry, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand to seek their views on sugarcane growers on **concept of removing controls** and **LIBERALIZING THE SUGAR SECTOR**.

The sugarcane growers are sensitized about the restrictions and controls by Government of India on exports, compulsory levy and release mechanism and Ethanol Pricing. And also state control on cane area, Molasses, pricing electricity.

The conferences also discussed on the disadvantages of the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) announced by GOI and the State Advisory Prices (SAP).

It was found that in many factories, there are constant frictions between the sugarcane growers and factory management due to the conflicting policies adopted by the governments. It was also found that the extension services and input supply to the growers is not up to the expectation. High variations in productivity, recovery, extension services are noticed across the country.

120. Farmers (Sugarcane Growers) – Politicians – Bureaucrats and Industry:

The question that confronts Sugarcane growers is who are our well-wishers and with whom should we work on long term basis?

A politician comes to farmers every 5 years seeking his vote. The winning candidate (MLA or MP) have responsibility to work in framing Acts (legislations) monitoring and evaluating them. They have to spend 100 days in Parliament / Assembly. They spend another 50 days in Participating Committee meetings. It is difficult for them to be in touch with large number of farmers on day to day basis.

Government officials, Collector, Agriculture, Veterinary, Irrigation, Electricity Officers work only for 180 days. They have to participate in District/zonal and other meetings for over 60 days. The time available to them to spend with the farmers especially during the agriculture season is limited. It is for this reason that 95% of the farmers never met an agriculture extension officer.

The most important persons in the lives of farmers are traders (seed, fertilizer, pesticides) and Agro Processing industries (sugar factory, milk chilling centre, jute, rice and dall mills etc.). The traders provide credit and also supply inputs as when required by the farmers. They also provide cash

to farmers occasionally. The processing industry provides credit and technical services and also procures the produce from the farmers. In many villages, it is a lifelong association between the farmer and Trader & Industry.

121. Benefits of Harmony between Sugarcane Growers and Sugar Industry:

In Sugar sector, there is need for long term partnership between the sugarcane growers and the sugar industry. A healthy relationship between both will result in win win situation. **In factories wherein this harmony exists, the productivity, recovery, extension services and payments are prompt.**

An efficient industry constantly strives to provide latest and best technologies to the growers. For example, it will establish chip bud method nurseries, so that the farmer will save 1 month plantation expenditure and ensure 100% plant population. It will introduce water conservation, drip irrigation and fertigation. It will help improve productivity and recovery.

The industry by introducing mechanisation will reduce physical drudgery, dependency on labour and timely operation which improves the profitability to the growers.

It is also capable of understanding the quality parameters which come into existence every year due to individual consumer preferences and industrial (pharmaceuticals, cool drinks, ice creams, etc.) needs. The Industry will be constantly identifying new avenues for value addition as has been done in the past 10 years by introducing co-generation, ethanol production, bio-fertilizer etc.

As of today, in UP and other states, the average productivity is 60 tons which can be increased to 90 tons. In Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Karnataka wherein the productivity is 80tons, this can be increased to 100 tons. The highest production achieved in Brazil and other countries is 130 tons per hectare and the future research is likely to improved both yields and recovery.

Unfortunately, the interference by governments through controls, restrictions and monopolies are leading to tensions and conflicts.

We believe that **the liberalization of sugar sector will greatly resolve the conflicts and will lead to healthy growth of all the stakeholders.**

122. CIFA initiative to harmonize Sugarcane Growers and Sugar Industry:

In 2006, CIFA National Farmers Conference at New Delhi 100 sugarcane growers leaders from across the country met and established a National Sugarcane Commodity Council and prepared a Status Paper on Sugar Sector. The analysis exposed the cyclical problems in sugar sector due to inconsistent policies by Government of India and the state Governments. It also found that there are huge variations in productivity, recovery and facilities provided by Industry.

Between 2007 and 2011, CIFA organized interactions with sugarcane growers in all states of India and discussed about the problems and sought their views to evolve suitable solutions.

It was agreed by majority of the sugarcane growers that the restrictions and controls on sugar sector must be totally removed. It was also suggested that the growers and industry should work in more harmony. A long term understanding between the growers and industry will help in having backward – forward linkage. It is also agreed that sugarcane growers and sugar industry should work together on issues that are mutually beneficial.

It was decided that to pursue/ lobby for liberalizing (removing the controls and restrictions) along with industry. It is also decided that the sugarcane growers should ask for a revenue sharing formula with the Industry.

123. Scope for Corporate Social Responsibility by Sugar Industries:

Many model sugar industries across India are already implementing Corporate Social Responsibilities by establishing engineering colleges, polytechnic, girls' hostels etc. They have established excellent hospitals, medical and nursing colleges. They are also providing livelihood activities to the farmers families such as dairy, poultry etc. **After Liberalization, there is bound to be more SCR activities by Sugar Industries.**

124. Futuristic Sugar Technologies:

The extraordinary advantages of future sugar sector is production of Ethanol directly from the sugarcane juice, huge generation of electricity that can be utilized locally (no transmission losses) and also use the bagasse for paper manufacturing or rayon pulp industries.

It is to be understood that Indian Sugarcane growers and Industry partnership is critical to develop the overall competitiveness to **confront the global challenges and utilize opportunities**.

125. Existing Controls and Restrictions:

Levy Sugar Obligation / Procurement of PDS Sugar:

10% sugar production is procured by the Govt. as levy sugar, at around 60% of open market price and even below the cost of production, leads to losses to sugar industry and inadequate cane price payment to farmers. Annual burden on sugar industry worked out to Rs.2500 to 3000 crores in 2011-12 alone. Cane farmers are also indirectly subsidizing the sugar for PDS.

Sugar industry is the only industry in India which bears the financial burden of a social welfare programme of distribution of sugar to BPL families through PDS. It is also the only industry in India which is given a quota every month for sale of sugar and therefore has no control over its sugar inventory or cash flows / funds availability.

The Thorat Committee had suggested that sugar required for PDS should be procured from the open market without resorting to levy procurement. It is of course to the discretion of the Government to continue with PDS for the benefit of poor. However, sugar procurement for PDS should not be through levy obligation inflicting costs and losses to the industry and farmers. Hence Government should meet its PDS requirement from competitive procurement of sugar from the open market.

It is requested that sugar factories should be freed from the obligation of supply of levy sugar.

126. Removal of Sugar from Essential Commodities Act:

The list of essential commodities is now considerably pruned vide Act No.54 of 2006 effective from 12th February, 2007. Much of the controls introduced during shortage regime of 1940s for most products have been progressively dispensed with in today's competitive global market. There is thus no reason to treat sugar differently at the current juncture. The weight age of sugar in the revised WPI index which has been reduced from 3.62% (base 1993-94) to 1.67% in the revised series (base 2003-04).

As per study by A.C. Nielsen, nearly 74% of sugar consumption is accounted for by bulk commercial consumers in the manufacture of

beverages (cool drinks), biscuit, confectionery and sweetmeat and for High Income households. The balance 26% is accounted for by the household segment. With dominant sugar consumption coming from commercial segment, there is no need to treat sugar as an essential commodity. It is therefore requested that ECA be removed.

127. Regulated Release Mechanism, Movement etc.:

Through monthly regulated release mechanism, Government artificially keeps sugar prices under control, mostly below cost of production, leading to losses to sugar industry and inadequate and delayed payment to farmers. During 2010-11, ex-mill sugar prices prevailed at Rs.200-300 per quintal below cost of production and this is continued in 2011-12 also.

All these controls are adversely affecting the sugar industry's capacity to save / generate surplus affecting payment of a remunerative / adequate price to farmers on time. Year on year, cane price arrears get build up due to such controls which frequently leads to cyclicity in sugar production in India.

Marketing is a function of business and enterprise and best left to competitive forces in a liberalized economy like ours. All regulations on sale and distribution of sugar including release mechanism and stock holding limits on bulk consumers as well as traders should be done away with.

It is requested to remove release mechanism so that the factories are not forced to sell sugar at below the cost of production, in complying with the release orders. This will give the sugar factories freedom to sell sugar looking to the market conditions

128. To remove restrictions on marketing and processing of Molasses:

Molasses is useful raw material for chemical industry, alcohol and others. As of now, Governments are controlling molasses pricing, processing and marketing. CIFA demands that these restrictions be removed so that the Industry can establish own processing units and benefit all the stakeholders.

129. Long Term Export Policy:

Cyclical fluctuations in sugarcane and sugar output currently witnessed may be evened out over a period of time under decontrol. Imports, if required, should be met through raw sugar, either under Advance Licensing

Scheme or under OGL. The duty structure should be calibrated in a manner so as to ensure payment of competitive cane price to the farmers vis-à-vis other crops so that the country is self-sufficient to meet the domestic requirement of sugar. The policy should encourage export to enable India emerge as a reliable exporter of sugar on a long term basis in the international market and develop a brand image. It will earn huge foreign exchange for India.

130. Sugar Development Fund:

The Sugar Cess Act, 1982 and the Sugar Development Fund for rehabilitation, modernization, expansion and diversification into by-product based industries at concessional rate of interest has served the objective visualized in the Cess Act and therefore Sugar Development Fund must continue for development of the industry and sugarcane growers.

131. Ethanol Price to be linked to petrol:

Ethanol and co-generation of power are value added products and are potential sources of renewable green energy that need to be promoted.

Presently, there is no long term policy in place for blending of ethanol with petrol although ethanol blending is commercially viable, environment friendly and also beneficial to the country as it can save a lot of precious foreign exchange on account of huge import of crude oil.

Ethanol should be included in the list of 'Declared Goods' for ensuring smooth interstate movement of molasses and ethanol for successful implementation of the ethanol blending programme.

Delay on the part of the Government to accept the formula linking price of ethanol to petrol price, recommended in April 2011 by the Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri Expert Committee on pricing of ethanol, is affecting the 5% mandatory ethanol blending with petrol programme. A final price for ethanol would give stable returns for ethanol, a by-product of molasses, thereby giving better returns to farmers due to better price for molasses. The ethanol procured by Oil Companies gives then a saving of Rs.20 per litre, which works out to Rs.1200 crore in 2011-12 and can go up to Rs.2000 crore in a year. Part of these savings could be passed on to consumers too by reducing the price of ethanol blending petrol by a discount of Re.1/litre.

Pricing of ethanol must be linked with petrol so that it will ensure increased manufacturing which in turn will save valuable foreign exchange.

132. Co-generation of Power:

The amended Electricity Act provide for open access. However, most of the Co-gen. units are denied this facility and hence have entered into long term agreements with State Regulatory Commissions for 20 years with tariff revision every 5 years. The Act also provides for incentive tariff and compulsory purchase of renewable energy.

Power distributing companies be directed to purchase 10% of energy from renewable sources besides announcing incentive tariff for such green energy.

133. Removal of Compulsory Sugar Packaging in Jute Bags:

The continuation of Jute Packaging Materials Act (JPMA), 1987, enforcing 100% compulsory packing of sugar and grains in jute bags is putting unnecessary financial burden on the sugar factories. There is no logic in continuing with this Act to protect the jute industry. Raw jute production has not been increasing in proportion to the increase in production of sugar and grains

Although the Government has made packing in 50 kg jute bags compulsory w.e.f. March 23, 2011, there is acute shortage of it and they are more costly.

About 60% sugar is consumed by the bulk consumers and these jute bags are not acceptable to them because sugar as traces of batching oil used for softening jute and loose fibers are found in jute bags.

There is huge difference (about Rs.20/-) in cost of 50 kg HDPE bags and cost of 50 kg jute bags which translate into

- Increase of 40 paise per kilo of sugar
- Loss of Rs.1000 crores revenue to sugar industry
- Loss of about Rs.850 crores to sugarcane farmers

It is requested that the sugar industry should be completely freed from the Jute Packaging Materials Act (JPMA).

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Peddi Reddi Thimma Reddy (1914 – 1990)
Freedom Fighter & Farmers' Leader & Former Minister for Agriculture, AP

Quotation :-

Show me the Sacred Feet of a Farmer, so that I can bow before him. A Farmer's body is 'Pure', his Mind is 'Pure' and his thoughts are 'Pure'!

**- Mahatma Basaweswara
(1105 AD – 1167AD)**