PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES – MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT – POLICY MAKERS & INTELLECTUALS ON DEVELOPING GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE BY BRINGING POLICY & ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AT NATIONAL FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS MEETING – 14TH – 18TH MARCH’05, NEW DELHI

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1. NEED FOR INCLUDING AGRICULTURE IN CONCURRENT LIST:
EXISTING SITUATION OF AGRICULTURE:
- Indian industry and service sector have become globally competitive.
- Limitation of states in Resource Allocation, Planning & Marketing.

**SUGGESTION:**
- Inclusion of Agriculture in CONCURRENT LIST will enable GOI to allocate Resource on equitable basis
- It helps in Integrated Planning – Implementation & Monitoring

2. ADVANTAGE OF SEPARATE UNION BUDGET PRESENTATION BY UNION MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:
**MINISTRIES & SUBJECTS:**
- Agriculture : Research – Universities – Production – MSP
- Commerce : Commodity Boards – Export, Import Policies - WTO
- Rural Development : Water Sheds

**BENEFITS OF SEPARATE BUDGET:**
- All Departments under Ministry of Agriculture will enable comprehensive planning quick decisions – build farmer confidence.
- Understanding Market fluctuations – making midterm corrections.

3. DISINVESTMENT IN PUBLIC SECTOR AND REINVESTMENT IN IRRIGATION SECTOR:
**CHALLENGE: INDIA CANNOT SURVIVE WITH MONSOON AGRICULTURE?**
- Assured water has to be provided in drought prone areas to make agriculture self-sustaining.
- Construction of irrigation projects including transfer of water from excess river basins to deficit river basins is necessary.
- GOI budget allocations for irrigation during 2004-05 is inadequate.

- Public Sectors wherein huge money is invested can be partially disinvested to the extent of 49%. The resources raised thereon can be reinvested on irrigation sector.
Private participation in the management of private sector will improve the efficiency and make it transparent.

4. STRENGTHENING OF COMMODITY BOARDS UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF FARMERS:
   - Commodity boards functioning under Ministry of Commerce and are unable to develop global competitiveness. During 1960s –
   - There is also need to establish crop wise commodity boards at different levels.

5. TAX FREE AGRICULTURE:
   - Taxes on all agriculture inputs have to be removed for a period of 10 years to develop competitiveness in productivity for all the farmers.

6. PROCESSED FOOD FOR COMMON PEOPLE IN INDIA:
   - Providing processed foods will save wastage for farmers and time for consumers. It will create huge employment.

7. 100% SEED REPLACEMENT FOR RESOURCE POOR FARMERS:
   - China has achieved high productivity rate due to regular replacement of hybrid/quality seeds to farmers. India should adopt similar models.

8. TOTAL BREED IMPROVEMENT IN 5 YEARS:
   - Improving the breed will provide an income of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.12,000/- to every family of India.

9. MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES – TO BE CONVERTED AS REMUNERATIVE PRICES:

10. TO ACTIVISE AND ENLARGE THE ACTIVITIES OF AGRICULTURE TV CHANNELS & RADIO:

11. SPECIAL INCENTIVES REQUIRED FOR ORGANIC, MEDICINAL AND ALTERNATIVE PLANTATIONS:

12. CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL FARMERS WELFARE FUND:
   - Natural calamities and unforeseen problems faced by farmers be attended by providing a farmers welfare fund.
   - Need to build partnership between small and marginal farmers and the processors to stand competitiveness.

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