With Eternal Gratitude from the Farmers of India

Agriterra

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Pledge

We, the Farmers of India, have decided to establish an independent Farmers organization of our own.

We believe that all the Farmers of India are One Family and should articulate their issues with one voice.

We take a pledge today that we will unitedly make efforts for achieving Economic development of Rural India and social equity to the Farmers.

Jai Kisan
MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA) is holding its 10th National Conference on 1st December, 2014 and that a souvenir is being brought out to mark the occasion.

Agriculture, as a sector of economy, has suffered neglect by successive governments since independence though more than half of India's population is dependent on it. It is probably the only profession which is uneconomic yet farmers are forced to pursue to feed the 1.25 bn strong population. An average farmer feels that he is exploited both by the government and the organized sector. There is an inherent urban bias in our psyche and system and agriculture is looked down upon. Unfortunate and undesirable though, the Planners, Policy makers, political parties, media are all inclined more towards organized and urban sectors. Rural economy has more or less remained the last priority for planners and policy makers all these years.

The woes of Indian farmers are aplenty which include steep and frequent rise in input costs, costly farm credit, natural calamities and vagaries of monsoon, lack of comprehensive crop income insurance scheme covering both yield and price, un remunerative prices, lack of infrastructure for post-harvest produce etc. All these areas need attention and action.

The NDA government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fully committed to see that agriculture is adequately taken care of at par, if not more, with other sectors of economy. The Government's endeavor is to make agriculture productive, scientific and rewarding. The NDA government believes agriculture is the engine of India's economic growth and commits priority to rural development, agricultural growth and increase in farmers' income. A holistic view on agriculture is being taken and all the issues concerning agriculture and problems faced by farmers will be systematically addressed.

I am sure the deliberations and outcomes at this Conference will be useful not only to the participants but also to the policy makers in formulating their plans/policies. I send my good wishes to the organizers and participants on the occasion and I am sure the event will be a meaningful and fruitful one.

New Delhi, 21 November 2014

(M. Venkaiah Naidu)
PRELUDE

"Consortium of Indian Farmers Association (CIFA)" is a National Farmers Apex Body representing independent farmers associations from all parts of the India.

It enables Farmers organizations to join the mainstream of Indian development process thus achieving Empowerment through Economic equity and social recognition.

It has established its presence in many states of India. In the past 10 years it has been organizing Annual National Farmers conferences to prepare charter of demands to be submitted to GOI for inclusion in the Union Budget.

CIFA has been conducting interactive sessions with Parliament Members, Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, Finance and Planning Commission, State Government and others.

CIFA assists Farmers organizations in regularly obtaining details of the programs of GOI as well as State Governments. Farmers will also have access to the consultation of committee of experts.

CIFA encourages establishment of Commodity Farmers Groups and arranging marketing partnership with retail chains, Exports, Processing industries and others. Thus it assists the farmers in identifying marketing and business opportunities.

CIFA has joined International Federation of Agriculture Producers (IFAP) and is preparing programs for farmers exchange and also develop business partnership with the International commodity.

VISION

- Facilitating farmers’ empowerment through resource management, participating in Agriculture planning, implementation, monitoring and establishing own professional organization at Apex level.
• Reducing disparities between urban and rural, organized and unorganized sectors. It acts as a catalyst for unifying the farming community by developing consensus on issues and programs.
• Protecting the interests of the farmers, women, farmer labours and socially under-privileged from the neglect of Governments and exploitation of the organized sectors.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

• To bring unity amongst all farmers associations, women groups, Panchayat Raj institutions, water users, commodity associations, as a cohesive and functional organization.
• To act as representative of all categories of farmers including Rural Woman and assist them in articulating their views with the Central and State Governments, Financial Institutions, Research, CACP, CII, NAFED, World Bank, FAO and others.
• To create awareness amongst intellectuals on the key role of agriculture and its valuable contribution as a key sector for economic and social development of India.
• Establish Forums of MPs, MLAs to support the cause of farmers.
• To analyze study and take appropriate steps and deal with issues connected with Patent Rights and WTO.
• Propagate usage of non-conventional energy including bio-diesel.
• To assist in reducing physical drudgery for women & labour.
• To organize social, cultural & sports events and honour progressive farmers and experts.
• Explore global agriculture opportunities for Indian farmers and work with International Farmers Organizations.

PROGRAMS
PROGRAMS

CIFA objectives and efforts are directed towards establishing multiple organizational structures and translating activities into a wide range of short and long term programmes as follows.

- Establishing commodity wise vertical and area wise parallel organizations.
- Provide administrative structures and experts' advice.
- Build global competitiveness through technology upgradation, organic farming and research.
- Establishment of Agri-business Consultancy Centres.
- To assist in processing, Contract Farming & Commodity Trading.
- Arrange Partnership with Processing Industry, Exporters & Trade.
- Assist in Establishing Cooperatives for various purposes.
- Join International Farmer's Organizations.
- Facilitating Domestic and International Farmers Exchange.
- Sensitization on social issues of women rights, child marriage, dowry etc.

ASSOCIATED INSTITUTIONS
A few prominent organizations are:

- ATMA
- MANAGE
- ASIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION
- CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES (C.I.I.)
- ICRISAT
- NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING AGENCY
- BHABA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER
- AGRITERRA
MEMBERSHIP

- State level Farmers Federations, Women groups (SHG), Commodity groups, Sugar, Horticulture, Commercial Crops, Cooperatives, Water users, Dairy, Aqua Farmers, Panchayat Raj Institutions and others.
- CIFA will not be affiliated to any political & caste oriented organizations.
- MP’s, MLA’s & MLC are not allowed to hold executive post.

For details write to our office or visit: www.indianfarmers.org
WHAT STOPS FARMERS FROM FORMING A UNION TO MAKE THEIR VOICE HEARD

Everyone Other Group Has Unions & Their Own Charters in India except Farmers

All organized sectors such as Government Employees, Bankers, Railway Men, Coal Miners, Doctors, Engineers, Scientists, Teachers, Auto Unions, Business men, Tea shop owner, Saloons, Rickshaw pullers, and all others have manifestos which they regularly pursue with Governments and also during Elections.

For historic reasons farmers of India due to illiteracy, linguistic barriers, social segregation are not able to evolve charter and pursue them leading to neglect by policy makers and administrators.

The charter evolved by CIFA will be propagated amongst farmers, political parties and others so that it will act as a guide for the future Government to develop policies and programs for achieving the goals of the charter. It provides problems, solutions and strategies.

The CIFA charter is also available in other languages of Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Oriya, Bengali, Assam's and Urdu in website www.Indianfarmers.org.

Farmers in India Still Plagued by Casteism while all other groups have formed into “Classes”

Casteism is prevalent in India since ages. But 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 an association or unions and have a common cause beyond the narrow caste lines. So also is the case with businessmen, industrialists, politicians, doctors, lawyers, etc.

So herein, from the category of caste, they have become a class. These classes are today extremely powerful and get all the benefits by lobbying.

But the gullible, illiterate and ignorant farmers/ villagers continue with their casteism. Why?
Farmers must realize that they are used as a caste only for political purpose or for personal motives of leaders or groups. We must learn to be careful about this caste and communal issues.

Having “Common Interest Groups” is the need of the Hour

It is now very important that farmers should be grouped into “Common Interest Groups” as forming one single union for all the farmers may not be a practical idea. Moreover the interests of each farmer are different from the other farmers based on what he is producing.

Keeping this in mind, CIFA envisages to group farmers into “Commodity Groups” based on what they are producing. For example, all the paddy farmers in one group, tobacco, sugarcane farmers and so on will form different groups each. As their interest remain common irrespective of their background, location, financial status etc. It is easier to bring them under one umbrella.
CIFA’S WHITE PAPER ON IMPROVING THE STATE OF FARMERS IN INDIA
ALONG WITH CIFA’S DEMANDS

For years, farmers and other artisans in villages are completely neglected owing to many
factors – Lopsided policies, inefficient and unstable governments, lack of lobbying, absence of
common interest groups in farmers are some of the many reasons

1. ANOMALIES IN PROCEDURE OF MSP FIXATION

   - The MSP fixed by CACP is based on 3 years out dated data collected from 5,800
centers whereas the directorate of economic & statistic GOI collects data from 9,73,184
centre which is not accepted by CACP.

   - The CACP while evaluating the MSP takes into consideration 8 factors which are not
connected with the cost of production. They include effect on the industrial costs
structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. These issues make the
MSP fixation low.

   - Between 2001 & 2009 due to above reasons farmers have incurred losses of Rs.7, 15,
520/- Crores in 8 crops over the last twelve years.

   - CACP data do not take into consideration transport, storage, over head costs and profit.
It also does not link the pricing to the living index as is done in fixing the wages and
fixing the price of industrial products.

   - The CACP fixation of rental value for Paddy during 2010-2011- Jharkhand Rs. 1,240/-,
Bihar Rs.1,825/-, Gujarat Rs. 3,415/-, Tamil Nadu Rs.3,555/-, Punjab Rs. 7,509/-,
Haryana Rs. 7576/- Wheat Gujarat Rs.2,292/-, Rajasthan Rs.3,448/-, Bihar Rs.2,340/-,
UP Rs.4,054/-, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 3702/-, Punjab Rs. 5,908/-, Haryana Rs. 6,260/-

2. PRIORITIZING ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IS IMPORTANT FOR SOCIALLY
UNDERPRIVILEGED

Large numbers of people are dependent on animal husbandry. They rear buffalos, goat, sheep,
duck etc. They include dairy farmers, nomads, tribals spread across the country.

As of now, the modern technologies are available and used extensively in poultry with the
collaboration of America.

Likewise, in dairy sector breed improvement achieved through artificial insemination from
imported breed from Europe has resulted in yield improvement in cows.

However, in the recent years buffalos are gaining importance due to their adoptability to agro
climatic variations. At present female buffalo are reared for milk production. But the male
buffaloes & calves are neglected.

India is now exporting 1.1 Million Tons of buffalo meat to Middle East and other countries. It is
 envisaged that by 2020 the buffalo meat demand will grow to 2 million tons.

CIFA Demands

- The Government of India must provide 90% subsidy to the farmers rearing male calf buffaloes. They mostly belong to socially under privileged sections for which this will be a yearly additional income.
- To support farmers during summer, fodder banks to be established specially drought prone areas.
- New breed of Goat, Sheep, Ducks and Turkey should be introduced into India to meet the internal as well as export potential.
- Fork consumption is high amongst Schedule Tribes and schedule castes and many other backward classes. White pigs are highly preferred as breakfast (bacon and sausages) by tourists in India. India can also export pork to China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea and other countries wherein it is immensely popular. CIFA demands that the Government of India (GOI) must give priority to animal husbandry as it is a highly sustainable livelihood activity to the most under privileged sections.

3. FERTILIZER & OTHER SUBSIDIES TO BE TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY TO FARMERS

The fertilizer subsidy has reached over Rs.60, 000 Crores in the recent years.

But the benefit of fertilizer subsidy has not reached over 80% of the farmers located under rainfed conditions especially in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidharbha, and Rayalseema. Likewise the tribals of north eastern state, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand use negligible quantity of fertilizer. Even in Bihar and UP due to inadequate credit, the small and marginal farmers are not using required fertilizer.

The recent introduction of nutrition based fertilizer usage is appreciable. However the farmers are unable to utilize the benefits of large subsidy and there is a need to admixture the subsidy keeping in view the need for hybrid seeds, fertilizer and also pesticides.

CIFA Demands

- The fertilizer subsidy, drip, mechanization be provided as cash to farmers based on land holding, cropping pattern etc.
- Public PDS and Scholarships, Medical Facilities to farmers' families should be provided as cash subsidy to farmers' family.
  - AADHAR CARD, Bank/Post Office Accounts should be used for transfer.

4. ESTABLISHING MECHANIZED SERVICE CENTERS

The 82% of small farmers can never dream of owning a machine with high investments and
limited operational efficiency. Tractors transplanters, harvesters are expensive and the bank interests at 14% and with working days of 100-150 days are not economical to any investor.

**CIFA Demands**

- Government provide 50% Subsidy and at 40% Interest
- Establishment of service centers by cooperative societies sugar factories and also by input and processing industries.

5. **IRRIGATION IS THE KEY FOR DEVELOPMENT - ESTABLISHING NATIONAL IRRIGATION AUTHORITY AND LINKING OF RIVERS**

60% of Indian farming comprising of 80 million hectares where in 350 million farmers are living is under rain fed condition. Where in the productivity is stagnated since 20 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of the Crop</th>
<th>Yield in 1990-91</th>
<th>Yields in 2010-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>570 Kg per</td>
<td>689 kg per</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>hectare 904 kg</td>
<td>hectare 1179 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ground nut</td>
<td>per hectare</td>
<td>per hectare 904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>1163 kg per</td>
<td>kg per hectare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'BT Cotton in</td>
<td>hectare</td>
<td>512 kg per hectare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jowar</td>
<td>2002, 225 kg</td>
<td>956 kg per hectare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bazaar</td>
<td>814 kg per</td>
<td>hectare 731 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hectare 658 kg</td>
<td></td>
<td>per hectare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Per hectare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source Agriculture statistics department of Agriculture, GOI,

In Rain fed areas, due to uncertainty of crops and low production and Slavery, Migration, malnutrition, suicides and naxalism are continuing unabated. It is for this reason that the supreme court of India on the 27th February, 2012 has directed GOI to implement linking of rivers project in a time bound manner.

**CIFA Demands**

- Implement the Supreme court judgment
- Establish “National Irrigation Authority”
6. LARGE INVESTMENTS IN IRRIGATION ARE REQUIRED TO MEET WATER NEEDS

It is reported by Parliament Committees, World Bank report and many other reports that the investment in irrigation is critical for future national economy.

India has sufficient water especially in the rainy season in many areas of Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari and others. Transferring the inter basin is technically feasible and financially viable.

The productivity of lands in the rain fed conditions will increase by 300% to 400% with water availability. An example is that under rain fed condition the groundnut is 8 bags (350 Kg) whereas under irrigated condition it is 40 bags (1700 Kg).

At the end of 11th plan, 337 irrigation projects some of them started in 1980s are awaiting completion. Huge resources are invested in these projects without getting any specific benefit. The State Government allocation is based on political consideration. The GOI is not evincing interest to complete these projects. It is for this reason that the net area under irrigation has remained more or less stagnant between 2001 (15809000 Hectares) and in 2009-10 16508).

The rain fed area continues to be the same and the flood water wastage is also continuing..

CIFA Demands

- GOI should make one-time investments for completing ongoing and pending irrigation projects.
- The present resource allocation by through NABARD should be modified and a national irrigation authority be constituted to complete the projects.

7. CHANGE THE WILD ANIMAL ACT TO PROTECT FARMERS AND CROPS

Farmers across the nation are incurring huge losses due to destruction of their crops by wild animals including wild boar, blue bull, feral cows, monkeys, elephant, chital, black buck, nilgai and others. These animals protected under wild life act are causing immense damage to the crops as well as to farmers' lives.

In Himachal Pradesh it is estimated that over million farmers in Sloan, Hameerpur, Kangra and other districts are severely affected. 4 lakh monkeys are causing a loss of 450 crores to the horticulture and agriculture products.

In Orissa between 2001 and 2010, 600 people were killed over 32195 acres crops destroyed and 5680 houses are damaged.

Karnataka has 6000 elephants causing huge loss to farmers.

In Uttarakhand since formation of the state, in the districts of Garhwal, Rudraprayag, and other districts over 327 people were killed and 828 people are injured.

The discomfort of spending over 100 nights in the cold winter and wet rainy season for millions of farmers and also being awake the whole night on precariously built "machans" is a devastating
experience year after year.

Crops of sugarcane, maize, peas, pulses, potato, rice and all the horticulture crops are all suspect able to this problem.

Under section 11 of the Indian wild life (Protection Act 1972), any wild animal which become dangerous to human life are to be controlled.

CIFA Demands

- The Government of India should remove ban on hunting wild boars and also blue bull, black buck.
- For wild cattle left without protection, the villagers be given right confiscate them.

8. DOUBLE STANDARDS TOWARDS FARMERS IN USING GENETIC TECHNOLOGY

The Prime Minister went to Japan and America to arrange for Nuclear Technology. The Commerce Minister advocated for FDI in all areas. The Defense Minister got technologies from Russia and America. The Health and IT Ministers got technologies from Germany, Switzerland and America.

But in regard to usage of Genetic technology by farmers, many Political Parties, NGOs and others are objecting on flimsy grounds.

Genetic technology is being used since 1998 by 30 countries to increase production, control pests and diseases and overcome drought/water shortage. 20,000 Varieties of Genetic food is consumed in America, China, Brazil, and Europe by billions of people every day.

1200 million Indians have been consuming genetic BT cotton edible oil, imported genetic soybean oil from Brazil and America and genetic readymade food from America and other countries. Till now no adverse health problem or environment problem is reported in any part of the world.

The genetic food is consumed by 5 million Indians living in America every day. 5 Lakh Indians visiting America as Tourists, MPs delegation, IAS, Doctors, Engineers, Judges, Industrialists, students visiting America for Conferences & Studies are eating Genetic food.

Farmers seriously object to the false propaganda on genetic food production and consumption. Farmers condemn the double standards and hypocrisy of people opposing genetic technology.

9. NEED FOR MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE

Youth are not interested to do agriculture due to physical drudgery, less wages, uncertainty of work, and lack of individual growth prospectus. Mechanization will create employment for technical and semi-technical people in villages.
CIFA Demands

- GOI should give 50% Subsidy on agriculture equipment including tractors, transplantors, harvesters, cotton picking equipment, sprayers, dusters, diesel engines, chop cutters etc. and other equipment.
- India must freely import small farm equipment used by small farmers in Korea, Japan etc.
- Taxes, Customs Duty on import equipment to be removed.
- The Agriculture equipment usage is seasonal. Therefore, the machinery should be provided 50% subsidy and the loan should be given at 4%.
- 85% of the farmers are small and marginal and therefore cannot purchase costly equipment. To overcome this problem Agriculture machinery service centers be encouraged by local agro-processing industries including rice mills, sugar factories, chilling centers, tractor dealers, fertilizer distributors and others.
- Farmer's societies or companies should be encouraged. Women dairy farmers should be provided with machines for extracting milk through society or individually at 90% subsidy.
- The machinery usage is a seasonal activity therefore the investment is not forthcoming. The GOI is to give bank loans at 50% with 4% interest.
- Agro-processing (Sugar factories) Agri-input (Fertilizer Companies), Farmers Associations or industries to establish machinery service centers as corporate social responsibility must be freely given the above facility. They should be no upper limit on the subsidy and interest component.

10. Revisiting MGNREGA

Since introduction of MGNREGA, availability of labor has caused serious problems throughout the country. This program is beneficial especially in the drought areas in the summer months when there are no agriculture activities. Farmers complain misuse and abuse, not creating any assets due to the scheme and also non availability of labor.

CIFA Demands

- To review the functioning of MGNREGA and study the possibility for linking MGNREGA with individual farmer crop activity by providing minimum 50 days work and payment of wages at 50-50

11. EVALUATING CROP LOSSES THROUGH REMOTE SENSING & TIME BOUND COMPENSATION

The present crop losses compensation is highly delay. It will enable government to increase the confidence of farmers as their losses are compensated immediately. It will enable farmers to get for information for marketing, weather forecasting.
12. RICE AND WHEAT EXPORT POLICY

CIFA Demands
- To remove BPT/ Sona Masoori Rice and Durum Wheat from procurement purview.
- Long term export (example 5 million tons) of rice and wheat to build brand image.
- Long term export of par boiled rice. Specific quantity of 1 million tons to Bangladesh to build brand.
- To encourage rice processing for ethanol and other products.

13. PRO- FARMER POLICIES FOR COMMERCIAL CROPS

Commercial crops of cotton, oil seeds, chilies, turmeric and onions require long term (5 years) export policies so as to develop contract farming. It will enable farmers, industry/exporters to adapt to market/consumer trends.

CIFA Demands
- To establish specific commodity board for all commercial crops on par with Tobacco/Rubber Boards.
- To announce 5 years marketing/export policy.
- To encourage Indian private and international industry participation in the activity.

14. LONG TERM MEAT EXPORT POLICY

India has advantages in rearing buffalos, sheep, goat, turkey, pigs, poultry, ducks etc. These activities provide supplementary guaranteed income to farmers in difficult conditions who belong to socially under-privileged conditions.

They are illiterate and have limited access to technologies and they also do not have access to credit and insurance. However the technologies are now available in India and Abroad. Similarly huge demand is available in India and other countries.

With the available infrastructure of fast communication, transport facility, investors these sectors can be developed very profitably. As of 2012 over Rs.17, 000/-crores meat is exported.

CIFA Demands
- To encourage private sector in investment on infrastructure
- To allow technologies from all parts of the world
- To allow long term contract farming
- To allow long term export policies
15. CONSOLIDATION OF LAND HOLDINGS

The average holding is about 1.5 hectares. Due to fragmentation farmers are finding it difficult to find adoption measures.

CIFA Demands

- To encourage farmers from consolidating the small holding the State Govt. must remove registration charges.

16. INCLUDING AGRICULTURE IN THE SCHOOL EDUCATION

The current education system does not showcase the importance of Indian agriculture, role of the farmers and future developments.

It is necessary for the future generation to understand the importance of agriculture which can be provided by including in the school education from 7-10 in all languages including privates schools.

17. SEPARATE UNION AGRICULTURE BUDGET BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Each decision connected to agriculture is taken by different departments and ministries. Here in there is huge delay and lack of coordination.

- The Ministry of Agriculture deals with production and research.
- The procurement deals are done by Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- MSP is fixed by Group of Ministers.
- Export Import policies by Ministry of Commerce.
- Taxes on agriculture produce are fixed by Ministry of Finance.
- The working of food processing, irrigation, Textiles, Plantation, fertilizer are dealt by different Ministries.

CIFA Demands

- Separate Union Agriculture Budget presented by a Union Minister holding the Deputy Prime Minister position, will enable the necessary focus and coordination for speeding up the growth of farm sector.

18. DEBATE ON TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN INDIA

There is a serious debate about the health problems due to tobacco consumption. While the medical and health related issues are to be seriously taken into consideration the farmer’s point of view requires to be discussed and a balanced view has to be taken by the policymakers, general public and others in India.

Across the world the Tobacco consumption is growing at 2%. In the cold countries of China, Russia, Europe smoking has become a compulsion.
In the under-developed or developing nations, smoking by youth is a social issue. Even in India the tobacco consumption is not showing any signs of reduction. Over 200 crores of cigarettes are smuggled to India from Nepal and Bangladesh. The increase in demand across the World is met by Brazil, Zimbabwe and other countries.

The issue before the farmers is -

- Weather tobacco growing farmers should stop its production?
- If so, what are the alternative crops that give similar income to the farmers?

Tobacco being a sturdy crop, stands Abiotic stress. It provides to work farmers family for over 250 days in plantation, harvesting and curing. The GOI itself is earning RS.12000 Crores per year so also state governments.

**CIFA Demands**

- The GOI should appoint a committee to study this issue and suggest measures to find solution.

19. **DEBATE ON OPIUM PRODUCTION IN INDIA**

For over 100 years Opium is a livelihood for lakhs of farmers in the highly difficult agro climatic areas of Neemach, Mandsoor of Madhya Pradesh, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh of Rajasthan and in Uttar Pradesh. It provides work for many days to the entire families.

Opium is used for medical and other purposes whereas the poppy seeds is used as food. In the past 5 years, the GOI is constantly reducing licenses to the farmers. At the same time The GOI is importing poppy seeds.

What are the reasons as to why the poppy seeds are imported is not known to the farmers. Is it because the demand for opium is reduced both in India and other countries? This seems to be not possible. Because with the increase in population and diversified medical utility of opium the demand must increase. Likewise the poppy seeds used as food have demands throughout the country.

In the past few years the government is importing 25000 tons of poppy seeds whereas the production in turkey 5,000 tons. It is obvious that turkey is smuggling poppy seeds from Afghanistan and exporting to India.

**CIFA Demands**

- The parliament committee should be appointed to study the developments in the last 5 years and fix the responsibility.
- To restore licenses to all the farmers.

20. **FARMERS’ UNIONS ACT - PARLIAMENT BILL**

Bankers, Railway men, Government Employees, Coal Miners, Transport Ship Yard workers have
specific Acts which provide them security of service income, health facilities, pension etc.

They have also tribunals for settlement of their wage increments. This enables quick and fast grievance redress. Further in every department there are separate officials & committees to deal with their issues on day to day basis.

In agro-industries like sugar and milk, where there is direct interaction between the management, farmers and labor unions, they are provided with bonus and other facilities.

But the farmers who are the suppliers of raw material to these industries are not given a share in the profits.

In fertilizer industry, where the farmers are the regular customers, there is no incentives for farmers by providing shares or bonus of the company.

CIFA Demands

- The GOI must make an enactment to establish Crop Wise Farmers Unions. They should have membership base at local level (cotton, chilies, Mango). They should be federated at the State Level.
- Each Farmers Union must have membership of minimum Rs.100/-. The registration of the Union conducting Elections should be entrusted to District Level Agriculture Officer for a duration of 5 years.
- The Unions will lead the productivity planning and negotiate with processing industries/exporters.
- The Unions should be recognized by State Government as a legal entity. They will have powers to deal with timely procurement with CCI, FCI, NAFED, MARFED and others institutions.
- They will consult with Rice Millers, Milk Industries and others on issues related to supply of seeds, extension services, payments and other issues.
- The Government must choose a competent farmers' representative and appoint him as Director in all the agro-processing and agro-input industries, so as to build more confidentiality between the two.

21. 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 retailers especially in cities will help in timely procurement, scientific storage and efficient marketing. Large retailers with Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) will develop Foreign Markets for India's special produce including mango, litchi, 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, the kirana store owner / small trader will continue with his activities. Therefore, the Opposition that FDI in retail will destroy the small trader is totally baseless.

22. Non-implementation of “National Commission on Farmers” (Dr. Swaminathan) Report

The NCF popularly known as Dr. Swaminathan Committee report is well analyzed and provides lot of 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 suggests risk mitigation fund, insurance, state level agricultural commissions etc. But this report is more or less ignored by all the Governments.

23. 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 be sold 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 now 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. Anna Hazare, Aruna Roy, Sharmila, Arvind Kejriwal and 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.
WHITE PAPER ON FARMERS’ ORGANIZATIONS (FOS) AND COMMODITY (PRODUCER) INTEREST GROUPS (CIGS) IN INDIA

The existing FOS and CIGs 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 like NDDB, Tobacco Board, Spices Board 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.

These self-proclaimed and self-serving NGO’s oppose 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. The activities of the NGOs are not transparent. They have no membership from the farmers. They are not accountable to government.

Thus an ideal FO or CIG should be formed with following basic principles:

1. They should be freely established
2. They should have a common vision
3. They should have a common economic benefit of improving productivity and quality
4. Voluntary membership should be a norm
5. They should function democratically
6. They should be 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)
This white paper discusses and analyses different dimensions of FOs and CIGs, in order to make them efficient, productive and transform into a true representative of the Indian farmer.

**Social and Political Legitimacy**

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 base, economic and social conditions, 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 at various social strata.

Political groups generally represent some sections of society and their opinion represents these sections.

Political legitimacy is of least importance for Farmers' Organizations and CIGs. At best, networking with political groups and lobbying 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. 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.

**Morality and Integrity of FO's and CIG's**

High Level of integrity in leadership and staff (upright, incorruptible) 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) that seek to represent issues and interests of farmers shall be prepared to face uncomfortable questions from the sections with conflicting interests. An honest leadership and staff, is the first and foremost condition to gain sustained confidence of the constituency. Democratic processes for electing leaders and decision making are pre-requisite.
Operational Credibility / Reliability

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 processes with time and experience.

Operational success will be achieved in a phased manner, prioritizing crops, marketing advantages, consumer preferences etc.

Policy Changes through Lobbying

In developing nations like India, policy changes such as free market economy achieved by removing restrictions on trading, processing and export of commodities, allowing Private/FDI investments, access to 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.

In India, the 1990’s liberalization policies of removing License and Control Raj, allowing technologies and investments including FDI in addition to incentives for industrial and service sectors have achieved 8% growth. On the contrary, due to restrictions, the agriculture sector achieved less than 2% during 1990-2015.

Forming Coalition/Partnership

Participation in coalition/partnership is very important for FOs/CIGs. Farmer issues are generally complex and inter related like land, water, infrastructure, credit, market etc. FO’s has should be able to participate and form coalitions/partnerships in order to deal with this vast range of issues and concerns. Moreover Coalitions/partnerships help in developing reach and identity of an organization that can further the cause of FOs strength.

Partnership programs with stakeholders such as processing industries, retailers and exporters are important. Success of FOs/CIGs stems from institutionalization and preparing a permanent activities and programs. 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.).

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, Agri Universities, ICRISAT) are equally important.

Simultaneously, working with World Bank, World Economic Forum and FAO are equally important.
Leadership Quality

Quality of leadership is also crucial for the success of FO’s and CIG’s. A professional administration / advisory structure are the key for success and sustainability. It helps FOs/CIGs develop stronger bargaining power with the authorities/other stakeholders.

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, in the absence of proper training on issues, policies and processes, this leadership potential remains unutilized or gets diverted to more lucrative professions of service sector, business and also politics.

In absence of such of leadership, FOs face the fear of losing their credibility, reliability and may also result in staff attrition. They also stand to lose financial resources.

FOs leadership has many limitations due to “short duration of the office holding”.

The major issue is language and communication skills as India has 20 major languages.

Projecting the leader in developing nation is the work if 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.

Capability to Commit and Act by FOs/CIGs

Presence of a work plan, decision making 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 program and sustains the FO/CIGs. However these processes are evolved over 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 programs and successfully implemented them.

Resource Mobilization

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.
Finances will be a major challenge 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 and passion for the outcome. Immediate results should not be expected from FO/CIGs.

**Monitoring and Feedback Mechanism**

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 on 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.

**Managing Resources - Financial**

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 barriers / obstacles in way of delivering the objectives.

Mechanisms to generate resources / support are either unavailable or are difficult to access for FOs in countries like India with illiterate and small farmers who lack 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.

**Managing Resources - Infrastructure**

Office Facilities, equipment and premises are very important. It facilitates the complete process of organizational functioning and growth. Facilities and equipment help in real time coordination and enhance 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 good premises helps in developing a common center 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.

**Managing Resources - Human**

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. Thus 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.

Managing Resources - Knowledge

Access to knowledge resources is very important. More important is the access to right knowledge / information on market, technologies, and policies at the 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 a challenge in developing countries.

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 vast in terms of time and access.

In developing nations establishing a strong information base will have tremendous advantage for increasing production, providing more income to small farmers and overall economic benefit to the country.

Capability To Adapt And Self Renew

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. Understanding 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 a regular basis.

Confidence to Change and fostering Diversity, Flexibility and Creativity

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 and malnutrition are all a case in the point.
Policies and favorable atmosphere to be created to build confidence in FO/CIGs to change, leaving room for diversity, flexibility, creativity.

A strong 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 an integral part of organizational functioning.

Risk Mitigation to Boost Confidence

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 in building confidence. Such security and cover is completely absent in developing countries like 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.

So it is important to provide a cover for possible failure with a scope for coming back.

Acknowledging Mistakes and Seeking Alternatives

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.

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.

Systematically Planned and Evaluated Learning

Systematically planned and evaluated learning, including in management is very 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, mostly in their nascent stage of development as professional organizations, are challenged by all the dynamics that are part of organizational development process.

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 will benefit the organization, but these professionals are required to be exposed to ground reality and grass root experience before any such inclusion.
Capability to Maintain Consistency – Clear Mandate, Vision and Strategy

Clear mandate, vision and strategy, understood 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.

This is due to absence of understanding of policy and market environments and restricted access to information and knowledge.

The next step after clear vision is developing a strategy. 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.

However clear mandate, vision and strategy is definitely a major factor affecting the capability to maintain consistency and is very important for FO/CIGs.

A well-defined set of operating principles (bylaws) especially commodity (producer) Interest Groups (CIGs) are very important.

Consistency between ambition, vision, strategy and operations is very important so also continuous monitoring, feedback, review system and a well-placed follow-up process.

FOs and CIGs can develop and flourish with time through guidance, support and mentoring from 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.

Success Stories of CIFA in Promotion and Support of FO’s and CIGs with Support from AGRITERRA

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.

- Convincing the farmers to be apolitical and the need for professional farmers organizations.
- Bringing together FO/CIGs with different objectives under common banner to pursue commonly accepted goals by bringing about consensus on issues.
- Establishing commodity (Producer) Interest Groups (CIGs) at different levels and network them.
- Prepare a status paper on each commodity/issue and pursue them on continuous basis till its logical end.
- To convince the FO/CIGs on the need for working with other stakeholders especially Industry (processing, retail, Exporters) Research Institutions, Input Industries and others.
- To work with Government in planning, implementation and feedback as a
complementary institution.

- Establishing a strong lobby with participation by Legislators, Parliamentary Members, MLAs
- Encouraging FO/CIGs to join international fraternity.
- Establishing Administrative and communication network to facilitate connectivity amongst FO/CIGs as well as others.
- CIFA has initiated a process of setting a clear mandate, vision and strategy for FO's and CIGs 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.
ROLE OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES - MPs and MLAs IN MAKING THE FARMER'S VOICE HEARD

How to make your MP work:

MPs are very sensitive to their voters and we can use different methods like sending him SMS, E-mails, Faxes from your village every day. For example, if we send an E-mail and a few hundreds of SMSs in one week, to our MP he will realize that we are serious about the issue or the cause.

Role of MLA:

The MLA has to regularly monitor availability of water, electricity, seed, fertilizer and pesticides to the farmer. He has to monitor the proper working of agriculture assistant visits to our village, attendance of veterinary doctor at his clinic, attendance of the School teachers at the school, attendance of Doctor and the Engineers maintaining the Canals.

Role of Farmers
We should take issues or complaints to the notice of our MLA or MP by writing a letter or through telephone. We should keep track of our MLA or MPs performance in Parliament/Assembly and whether he has discussed about farmers issues in Parliament/Assembly
We should also track whether he is taking our representations to the Ministers, Officers etc.

An MP and MLA is a powerful agent and should be used by a farmer on day to day basis. Farmer has to understand that he has a responsibility to educate these agents of power on their issues/concerns/incorrect policy decisions etc.

In regard to Member of Parliament or MLA, we cast our vote and give utmost respect when he comes to the village. The farmer must remember that it is because of his vote that the MP/MLA gets into a very important position. They get a salary of over a lakh of rupees, many other facilities, perks and benefits.

But then, MP/MLA should also shoulder many responsibilities of the farmer. Therefore, we should direct our 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, bring it to the notice of the MLA, give a press statement, if necessary organize a rasta roko.

Another important aspect of an MP/MLA to understand 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 our area because we do not understand what issues are important and how to pursue them.
TO LOG 4 PERCENT AGRI GROWTH – IMPLEMENTING THE GUJARAT MODEL NATIONALLY

Introduction

Gujarat Model for development of Agriculture has earned a great reputation and after Narendra Modi became the PM of India, the Indian farmers are waiting in great anticipation if he can turn their fortunes around as he did in Gujarat.

PM Narendra Modi’s success in achieving a 10% growth in Gujarat Agriculture is appreciable but the challenges of Indian agriculture as a whole are mind-boggling.

Challenges and Constraints to implement Gujarat Model

- Reaching out to 600 million small holders, illiterate, socially degraded and highly exploited farmers is a big challenge and it need to be done effectively
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is distorted
- We have inefficient and corrupt procurement procedures coupled by ineffective Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) which makes it even more tougher
- Though agriculture is a State Subject, all the controls are with the center – giving credit & Insurance, fixing interest rates, providing calamity fund, conducting research, deciding import and export policy, management of commodity boards, establishing agri-processing industries, investments for irrigation projects, approval of genetic technology, subsidy for mechanization and drip irrigation are all controlled by the center.
- Farmers receive 30% of price paid by consumers whereas the commission agents charge 25% at market yards
- 50% of inputs – seeds, pesticides and farm equipment are substandard.
- Seed replacement is negligible
- There is 40% post-harvest loss
- Pests, diseases, weeds, heat, cold wave, floods damage Rs,1,20,000 crore crops every year
- Unabated migration from rural to semi-urban and urban areas, suicides, malnutrition, naxalism are other areas of concern
The Faceless and Voiceless Farmer

Managing a state is very different from managing politics, power lobbies and manipulations at the center. Every other industry and service sectors have excellent connections with high profile bureaucrats and leaders and have huge resources at their disposal to influence the policy making bodies and policy makers at the center. But it is the poor Indian farmer who has neither a face nor a voice.

What Should the Modi Government Do?

- **Establishing an Independent Cabinet Committee** - Thus it is important for the Modi government to initiate a speedy action plan that can show results. An independent Cabinet committee comprising the minister concerned and administrators, economists, scientists and representatives of industry and farmers must be established to prepare a short, medium and long term programme and implemented in these 5 years – 2014 – 19.

- **Kisan Channel in all Languages** needs to be announced immediately.

- **Prepare Guidelines** for collectors for utilizing Rs.70,000 crores of MGNREGA fund

- **Announce pension for farmers** above the age of 60 so that they lead a respectful living in their old age

- **Direct all states to implement Krishi Mahotsava.**

- Prepare a road-map for encouraging the private sector to invest in agriculture research, infrastructure which includes cold storages, godowns, food processing plants and so on.

- **Announcing 50% subsidy** on all farm equipment with **loans at affordable rate** of interest as less as 4% because agricultural machinery has seasonal utility and there is no ROI for most part in the year

- **Provide 90% subsidy** for drips and sprinklers

- **solar and other non-conventional energies** must be given special incentives

- **Separate Board for Every commodity** at both the state and the center levels – The board should prepare a productivity programme, identify new technologies, introduce mechanization and water conservation systems etc.

- **5-Year Export Programme** for every commodity must be announced by the Government

- Before the winter session of the parliament, Government must announce incentives, subsidies, export quotas for the next 5 years

- **National Irrigation Authority (NIA)** in line with National Highway Authority (NHA) must be established for mobilizing resources close to Rs. 10 Lakh Crore between 2014-15.
• **River Valley Authority** – Water has become a highly controversial issue and is leading to water wars between the states. The existing irrigation projects are using only 40% of the water because of lack of political will. Many irrigation projects are pending for the last 20 years.

To address all these issues, a River Water Authority need to be established with financial, administrative and judicial powers for constructing projects, maintaining canals and suggest cropping pattern.

**Assured water** will increase the productivity by 300% to 400%. The land value per hectare will increase from 1 lakh to 10 lakh making 300 million farmers into millionaires.

• **Autonomy for Agricultural Research Institutions** is the need of the hour. Nuclear, Space, defense and other labs already enjoy autonomy and have direct access to PMO.

• **All India Agricultural Services** must be established to give a special impetus and focus to agricultural administrators

**Conclusion**

The projects will permanently solve drinking water problem, increase ground water levels thus leading to the growth of agro-processing industries and creation of employment and wealth in the rural areas.

The disposable income in the hands of 300 million farmers will in turn increase demand for consumer goods and boosts industrial production.

The farmers will also have access to quality health care and education and enhance their quality of life.
**INDIA – PULSES**

*India is the highest producer, consumer and importer of pulses.*

Contrary to cereals and total food grains production, pulses production in India has been erratic and featured by low productivity due to lack of incentive for diverting fertile and irrigated land for pulses cultivation. Pulses are largely grown in rainfed conditions by predominantly small and marginal farmers. Consequently low yields/production have turned India into a net importer or pulses to the tune of 2-3 million tons annually. Sustained efforts by government aided by support from both research institutions and backed by extension services growth in pulses production surged and thankfully during crop year 2010-11 pulses production crossed 18 million tons which is considered a landmark in pulses production, although it declined slightly in the subsequent year. In the last year 2013-14 with the favorable weather, we believe the total pulses production in the country could by around 18.5 million tones.

Though India is leading producer of Pulses if falls short of meeting domestic demand. The production pulses hovers around 18-19 million MT and it imports 2-3 million tons of pulses.

An overview of National Scenario is as under:

Area, Production and Yield of major pulses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Pulse</th>
<th>Area (Mn/Ha)</th>
<th>Production (Mn/MT)</th>
<th>Yield (Kg/Ha)</th>
<th>Major States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bengal Gram</td>
<td>8.95</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>MP, UP, AP, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, Maharashtra.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Gram</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>2.65</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>Maharashtra, UP, MP, Karnataka, AP, Gujarat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lentil</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>UP, MP, Bihar, WB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Peas</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>UP, MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Gram</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>Maharashtra, AP, UP, MP, TN, Karnataka, Orissa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Gram</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>Rajasthan, Maharashtra, AP, Bihar, Karnataka, Gujarat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Pulses</td>
<td>25.42</td>
<td>17.21</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>Maharashtra, AP, MP, UP, AP, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Growth projection of various pulses in India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2030</th>
<th>CAGR (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bengal Gram</td>
<td>7.87</td>
<td>9.12</td>
<td>9.68</td>
<td>10.22</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Gram</td>
<td>3.59</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>5.04</td>
<td>5.52</td>
<td>4.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Gram</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Gram</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lentil</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Pulses</td>
<td>21.72</td>
<td>26.43</td>
<td>29.43</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The shortfall in pulses is mainly due to near stagnation in production at 18.19 million tons. So, there is pressing need for import of pulses as per the statistical data of Government of India.

Impact of Import on Domestic Pulses.

In value terms, India’s pulses import totaled $2.3 billion in 2012-13, which is 28% higher over $1.85 billion in the previous year. With rupee depreciating, this situation will not only impact domestic prices, but will also prove a burden on declining forex reserves.

As India is a major importer of pulses in the global markets, dominant exporters of pulses like Canada, Australia and Myanmar factor Indian demand in their production and marketing plans and aggressively push their produce in the Indian Market. Since import duty on pulses is ‘zero’, overseas suppliers are able to fine tune their prices to capitalize on the Indian market opportunities. While Canada dominates in yellow peas and lentils exports, which is over 50 percent of India’s pulses imports, Australia has a significant share in lentils and desi chana (Chickpeas) with Myanmar having a lion’s share in tur, urad and moong exports into India. In the past India was excessively dependent on cheaper imported pulses, but now with Indian rupee depreciating, dependence on imported pulses needs to be reduced to the minimum.

After going through the status of pulses based on Government documents Farmers actually refute the Government records of area, production and productively as incorrect on the ground that actual production is not being correction recorded. The national scenario is that productivity is on the gradual increase in the Southern and Central India viz., Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh whereas it is on decline in the northern India viz. UP, Gujarat, Bihar and also AP. The reasons are farmers have shifted from pulses through Soya Bean and Cotton as the productivity of these commodities and prices are also remunerative.
In Gujarat farmers have shifted to Oil seeds and Cotton. In UP Blue Bull problem is at increase and Gangetic plain farmers are taking up to production of wheat and rice which give two crops an year instead of pulse which is a single crops.

Rajasthan has shifted from pulses to Guar Gum. In Karnataka farmers have taken up the farming of Soya Bean and Cotton which resulted in reduction of pulses area to the tune of around 1.00 lack hectares since last year.

However, stagnation is also the major reason is that there is no breakthrough in pulses research. Though the ICAR Claims to have released around 100 verities of seeds only around half dozen have been transferred to field cropping and the varieties are 'Maruthi, Asha, BSMR, TS-GJ-11' etc.

Coming back to the farmer's version, the productivity ranges between 10-20 quintals per hectare. Actually a system of 'Dribbling & Transplanting of nursery in Tur has given a record production up to 40 quintals per hectar in Bidar district of Karnataka with farmer's technology of 5-8 spacing of width and 5-6 ft. Distance of plants.

Therefore basically what is needed is basically the correction of Government Records on the area, production and productivity. A few suggestions for increasing Pulses productivity and safe guarding the farmers interest is noted listed below:

1. There is pressing need to augment production of quality seeds which will ensure that the yield levels that are achieved in the trial farms are translated to actual yields across the country. The present yields on all India bases continue to be poor and there is a sufficient scope to increase the same by overcoming the yield gap. India needs to reduce the cost of production in line with global levels so that Indian farmers' net realization on pulses farming is attractive. The only way to achieve a reduced production cost is by raising productivity and maximizing the efficiency of resource management including monsoon management, mechanization, bio-fertilizer and bio-pesticides. In the long run India would be in a position to export pulse if our cost of production and yields are comparable to global levels.

2. Farmers are upset over the poor procurement support from government on the pulses front at Minimum Support Price (MSP) levels. During peak arrival season often farmers are driven to desperation as the procurement agencies are not geared to undertake procurement operations across the pulse growing areas of the country. The level of commitment to procurement is generally poor as was evidenced in 2012 and 2013 particularly in case of urad (black gram). It should be noted that in the case of rice and wheat, strong procurement network has helped both farmers and government to maintain growth trajectory in production.

3. As the production in the recent years has shown steady increase, farmers need to be encouraged to go for value addition and establish market linkages through their own network/Farmer Production Organization (FPO). This will help them to get out of the traditional supply chain constraints, which is
DRYLAND FARMING

Introduction

India ranks first among the dryland agricultural countries in terms of both extent and value of produce. Out of every 3 hectares of cultivated land in India, nearly 2 hectares are rain-fed lands.

- Total Cultivated Land in India – 142.1 Million Hectares
- Dryland Farming – 91 Million

Thus in the foreseeable future nearly 60% of our population will depend on rain-fed agriculture.

Dryland farming produces -

- 87% of Coarse Grains
- 82% of Oilseeds
- 79% of Pulses
- 54% of the Total Crops

Rain-fed crops such as pulses, oilseeds, cotton and maize have a great demand. But there is a huge gap between the current yield and the potential yield of these crops in dryland conditions.

There is also vast scope of increasing supplementary enterprises, especially dairy and desert horticulture.

Rain-fed/dryland areas suffer from a number of constraints.

Major Constraints in Dryland Agriculture

Bio-Physical

- Inherent Poor quality land and degraded natural resource base
- Low and erratic rainfall
- Shallow soils and low moisture holding capacity
- Sparse Vegetative cover
- Poor rainwater management

Socio-Economic and Infrastructural

- Extreme Poverty and low purchasing power
- Low Literacy and resistance to change from traditional system
- Socio-political conflict
- Inadequate credit facilities
- Subsistence orientation and dominance of low value crops
- Low risk bearing ability
- Large scale out-migration of active adult male workers
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- Inadequate credit facilities
- Subsistence orientation and dominance of low value crops
- Low risk bearing ability
- Large scale out-migration of active adult male workers
- Lack of infrastructure like road, irrigation, transport, market, storage and telecommunications
- Restriction to free movement of farm produce
- Lack of legal protection for sharing of natural resource on equity basis

**Technological and Extension Constraints**

- Top Down approach
- Inherent weakness of resource management technologies
- Low level mechanization
- Weather dependence technologies
- Lack of integration of livestock research
- Low preference of scientist and policy makers
- Adhocism in development efforts and bias to short term gains
- Lack of technological options to suit diverse environment and meet the requirement of farmers
- Lack of appreciation for incorporating traditional wisdom in development of technologies
- Inadequate research-extension-farmers linkage and lack of updated information of extension personnel
- Inadequate HRD initiatives for extension personnel leading to low motivation of extension staff
- Larger dependence on input supplying activities than on-farm development technologies

**ACTION IS NOW NEEDED TO**

- Increase investment in land improvement and water conservation
- Institute proper price policy
- Establish efficient marketing structures
- Ensure adequate supply of credit
- Provide protection against risks
- Strengthen agricultural extension
- Development of cost effective technologies
- Improve productivity

**Initiatives that can improve rain-fed farming in India**

- **Water-Shed based technology** had shown that yield of crops with improved technology can be raised to about two times than the traditional yield.

- **Improving economic state of the farmers is the key** – this can be done by raising the marketable surplus by improving productivity and promoting agri-business activities in rain-fed areas.

- **Re-Orientiation of Extension System**
  - NABARD may have to pay special attention for refinancing activities for developing rain-fed agriculture
  - It has to provide guidance to development of financial institutes like commercial banks and RRB
✓ It may identify some of the areas / location specific projects for raising the income of the whole farm rather than productivity of individual crops

- Provide more credit and better market price support for dryland farmers
- Protect the rain-fed crops from the shocks of international prices
- Improve the efficiency of resource use to decrease the cost of production especially for oilseeds, cotton, coarse cereals
- Provide adequate agricultural insurance to reduce the risk of yield and price fluctuations

**Conclusion**

It is very evident from the above facts that successful and profitable dryland farming is crucial for our farmers and unless and until adequate measures are taken to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dryland farming we will rapidly erode the natural resource base thus making farming unviable in the years to come.
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With Best Compliments From...

ATMA
Agricultural Technology Management Agency
With Best Compliments From...

Isma
Indian Sugar Mills Association

With Best Compliments From...

Allana®
ANAM ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURING CO.
Dept. of: THE INDIA FRUITS PRIVATE LIMITED.

FACTORY:

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EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT
PINCODE 533 126
ANDHRA PRADESH
&
D7/N1 SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
GUMMIDIPONDI – 601201
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT
TAMILNADU

LEADING MANUFACTURERS OF ALL TYPES AND SIZES
OF TRANSMISSION LINE AND DISTRIBUTION
CONDUCTORS AND LT AB CABLES

ALSO MANUFACTURERS OF ALUMINIUM WIRE ROD BY
CONTINUOUS CASTING AND ROLLING PROCESS

FOR ANAM ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURING CO
DEPT. OF THE INDIA FRUITS PRIVATE LIMITED

DIRECTOR
CONSORTIUM OF INDIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS, NEW DELHI
STATUS PAPER ON PADDY (2014)
BY
NATIONAL PADDY COMMODITY COMMITTEE

ISSUES PERTAINING TO GOI

1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUES</th>
<th>PRESENT POSITION</th>
<th>DEMAND BY COMMODITY COUNCIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fixing of MSP for Paddy</td>
<td>1. Recommendations of various Committees viz., Shri L.K. Jha, Dr. Asok Mitra, Dr. S.R. Sen, Prof. C.H. Hanumeworki Rao and Prof. Alag$^{2}$ under costs of cultivation schemes of CACP have not been implemented while computing costs of cultivation at grass root level.</td>
<td>1. Recommendations of various Committees under Cost of Cultivation Scheme be implemented and all costs actually incurred by farmers taken into consideration while collecting data at grass root level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. CACP is recommendatory body only for MSP</td>
<td>2. CACP should be made an autonomous body for fixing MSP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The following terms of reference are adversely affecting in fixation of MSP: 1) Trends in market prices, 2) Demand and supply, 3) Effect on industrial cost structure, 4) Effect on cost of living, 5) Effect on general price levels, 6) Effect on issue prices and implication on subsidy, 7) International price situation, 8) Intra crop price parity</td>
<td>3. The whole system be reviewed, transparent procedures, methodology evolved and CACP be strengthened by inducting more Farmers representatives including women by granting autonomous status to enable farmers to protect their interests.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. No transparency in collection of data and farmers not involved.</td>
<td>4. MSP should be all costs actually incurred by farmers by adding minimum 50% of it i.e. (C2-Minimum 50% of it) as recommended by National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. a. Cost of production is projected based on three years old data.</td>
<td>5. a. MSP be increased proportionately whenever agricultural inputs prices are increased by taking into cost of index into consideration as being followed in the case of salaries of employees of various sectors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. The methodology followed, regarding imputing family labour, rental value of land, interest on capital, depreciation on farm assets and agricultural machinery, cost of transportation, marketing charges and storage is not in conformity with recommendations of various Committees and working groups.

7. There is no relevance between the costs actually incurred by Farmers, the data obtained from grass root level, compiled by Agricultural Universities, State Governments, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, analyzed by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and finally fixed by GOI.

8. The MSP fixed has no relevance with costs of cultivation actually incurred by Farmers and fixed by GOI.

9. According to Govt. sources Rs.1 hike in diesel price increases the cultivation cost by Rs. 100 per hectare.

10. MSP for paddy fixed by GOI do not adopt the same parameters as adopted in fixing industrial product prices and Government employees salaries.

11. The MSP for paddy is fixed at Rs. 1255/qtl for the year 2012-13. During this period the fertilizer prices have increased more than 100% and labour charges increased 40%. The MSP is fixed below the cost of cultivation.

12. As per recommendations of National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the MSP be fixed by taking all costs incurred by farmer by adding minimum 50% of it (C2+Minimum 50% of C2).

2. Purchase (procurement) of Agriculture produce affected by floods etc.

1. When the crops are affected by rains / cyclones / Hurricanes, the colour of the grain will be affected.

2. Government agencies i.e. FCI and Market Yards are reluctant to pay MSP fixed for Paddy.

3. The State Governments are approaching GOI of India.

b. Actual productivity has to be taken while computing cost of cultivation.

6. MSP be fixed and announced 6 months before Kharif and Rabi harvests reach markets as recommended by experts groups.

7. CIFA demands MSP of Rs.2700 per Qtl. (Rs.1800+50% i.e. 900)
| 3. Seeds | 1. Supply of certified seed is not satisfactory  
2. High yielding good quality rice varieties are not available |
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. National Policy on Soil Health</td>
<td>1. Consequent on use of excessive chemical fertilizers and not following rotation of crops, the soils are badly degraded and needs immediate treatment to improve quality and quantity of yields. The National Research institutions and Commissions appointed for the welfare of farmers emphasized the need of the soil health.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 5. Standardization of Water Soluble Fertilizers (WSF), Organic Fertilizers & Extension of incentives on per with chemical fertilizers | 1. Subsidy only on straight and complex but not on WSF.  
2. Vermi compost, Vermi waste, green manure, Organic manure and bio-fertilizers are manufactured by several small scale units without maintaining standards and quality.  
3. The farmers are put to crop losses due to adulteration and high prices. |
| | 1. The State Governments should amend marketing committees, Acts and Rules facilitating purchase of Cotton affected by rains, cyclones etc. |
| | 1. Production of certified paddy seed by public and private institutes to be increased.  
2. Good prominent and high yielding rice variety seeds to be made available to farmers. |
| | 1. National policy on soil health be evolved to rectify and restore soil fertility.  
2. Mobile soil testing laboratories be introduced and soil tests made at the fields in the presence of farmers.  
3. Soil health cards to be provided to farmers like in Gujarat.  
4. Quality micro nutrients be provided for balancing soil health. |
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4. No specifications are fixed for manufacturing organic fertilizers / bio-pesticides.</th>
<th>4. Incentives and Tax Holidays to be offered for new entrepreneurs under PPPs Scheme.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Research &amp; Development</td>
<td>1. The research and development failed to produce short duration, drought and saline resistant varieties. &lt;br&gt;2. Present research is mainly focused on domestic rice requirements only. &lt;br&gt;3. No plan of action for producing required quantities of broader, foundation and certified seed.</td>
<td>1. Development and supply of High Yielding and Hybrid Varieties be ensured. &lt;br&gt;2. Research as to be strengthened to develop high yielding varieties, suitable for international consumers / Markets. So that 100% export oriented rice zones can be created to get remunerative prices to farmers and foreign exchange and other direct and indirect revenues to the nation. &lt;br&gt;3. Research to be strengthened to evolve high yielding varieties for all round production &lt;br&gt;4. Development of Resistant varieties to Brown plant Hopper, stem Borer and Rice Blast disease to be ensured &lt;br&gt;5. Research on Integrated Pest Management be ensured. &lt;br&gt;6. Development of storage structures and control of storage pests to be ensured. &lt;br&gt;7. Rodent control technologies to be developed and implemented. &lt;br&gt;8. The research institutes should honour its primary responsibility to maintain Nucleus seed, develop elite germplasm and release high yielding varieties regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Transfer of Technology</td>
<td>1. Transfer of improved paddy production technologies remain as most neglected component and consequently</td>
<td>1. Emphasis to be given on a cropping system approach rather than a single crop development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the benefit of improved varieties and production technology could not be harnessed.

2. Dissemination of improved technologies from lab to land consumes long time and adoption by Farmers is not ensured.

approach.

2. Improved crop production technologies to be propagated based on agro-climatic zones through demonstrations on Farmers fields and organizing training programmes for Farmers including women.

3. Quick dissemination of knowledge on improved technologies to be ensured.

4. Aggressive transfer of production technologies to be ensured through Frontline demonstrations and Block demonstrations involving EDA, KVKs, NGOs, SAUs and private sectors under PPPs Scheme by offering incentives and Tax Holidays.

5. Bottom up approach of technology development and dissemination by involving farmers should be ensured.

6. ATMA concept of NATP project be extended to all the States and districts in the country.

8. Mechanization

i) Small implements

1. Agriculture labour shortage is a major constraint in completing sowing and harvesting operations in time.

2. Physical drudgery involved in culture practices driving away the workforce to urban areas for better jobs.

3. Traditional culture practices consume more than hours and also physical drudgery on the part of both labour and animals.

4. Lacking small implements for weeding, transplantation, inter-cultivation, and harvesting.

1. Innovative bullock and power drawn modern farm implements be invented and introduced for timely completion of sowing and harvesting operations under PPPs Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.

2. All taxes and duties on agricultural mechanization equipments to be removed.

3. The agricultural implements to be provided with 75% subsidy.

4. Agricultural implements to be made available on custom hire services through village panchayats, co-operatives, self help groups.

5. Less power operated tractors for weeding, transplantation and harvesting to be imported or domestically manufactured.
9. Crop Insurance

1. The premium collected on crop loans ranges from 2.5% to 3%.
2. Weather based.
3. All risks are not covered.
4. Procedures adopted for indemnifying losses are against farmers’ interest.
5. The insurance claims are not settled in time and farmers are required to pay extra interest on the loans borrowed.
6. In other countries the premium is subsidized and farmers interest protected while indemnifying losses by extending financial support.

1. The premium to be reduced by subsidizing as in the case of other countries.
2. Cumbersome procedures adopted for indemnifying losses be reviewed and crop losses indemnified quickly as in other sectors and countries.
3. The crop loss claims be settled within 30 days from the date of crop damage. Interest on claimed amount to be borne by crop insurance company.
4. Remote sensing technology to be applied for settling crop loss claims in a time bound programme.

10. Food Corporation of India – Review of functioning

1. The FCI procurement policies differ from State to State.
2. FCI has reduced levy procurement from 75% to 25% and supplying the same under PDS to BPL families under food security bill at subsidized prices. Due to this rice market is adversely affected and farmers are forced to distress sale of Paddy.
3. FCI procuring paddy directly from farmers in the state of Punjab and Haryana. Where as it is procuring rice from millers in the case of Andhra Pradesh and other states.
4. No transparent methodology adopted in the process of procurement regarding shrunken, shrivelled & immature (SSI) norms.
5. No equipment for testing SSI norms.
6. The manual testing adopted is biased. The traders are benefitted and farmers are resorting distress sale.
7. In the absence of scientific quality testing, traders are deducting 1 to 2 kg per bag.

1. QIFA demands procurement of paddy directly from farmers.
2. Minimum Support Price (MSP) has to be made statutory and Government should ensure entire Paddy produced by the farmers to get MSP. Or the Government has to discontinue supplying rice at subsidized price to BPL families under Food Security bill. Instead Government may give direct cash transfer to BPL families to buy food grains from open market.
3. National paddy commodity Committee of QIFA to be consulted by FCI to create awareness among Paddy Farmers on quality norms and organize training programmes.
4. Scientific equipment to be introduced for testing SSI norms.
5. The FCI should provide warehousing, pledge loan facilities to enable farmers to store and dispose produce when he obtains remunerative price.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Long term import and export policy on Rice</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. There is no long term policy of imports and exports based on supply and demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The present import and export policy is beneficial to traders but not farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The internationally preferred varieties like BPT 5204, ponni are restricted for export.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Unilateral imposition cut down to 1 to 2 kg per lox</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Comprehensive long term import and export policies to be evolved based on demand and supply to protect farmer's interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Export of rice to be permitted after the domestic buffer norms requirement is fulfilled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Special varieties like BPT 5204, ponni etc to be treated on par with basamoti rice and should be allowed for export without any quantity restrictions.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. MINISTRY OF FINANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Inadequate Agriculture Credit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The total area cultivated under paddy is estimated to be about 11 crore acres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The cost of cultivation per acre is estimated at Rs 25,000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The scale of finance fixed for paddy is ignored and the banks are resorting for under finance and driving farmers for private borrowings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. All paddy Farmers in the Nation be provided with bank loans.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The scale of finance fixed for respective crops be sanctioned and disbursed to the farmers according to NABARD guidelines for crop loans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Micro Credit Institutions, Post Offices and Private Banks like ICICI, HDFC and Axis to be involved for providing credit to the farmers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| <strong>2. Rate of Interest on Agriculture Loans</strong> |
| 1. Different Banks are charging different rates of interest ranging from 7% to 14% on Agricultural loans. |
| 2. Lesser Interest is charged on housing and Industrial Loans. |
| 3. Agriculture is a priority sector and hence lesser rate of interest is required to be charged on Agricultural Loans |
| 4. The National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan recommended 4% rate of Interest on |
| 1. Simple rate of interest at 3% be charged on agriculture loans without collecting any service and other charges on loans up to 5.00 lakhs. |
| 2. Instructions be issued to banks for not insisting no due certificates from farmers. |
| 3. Adequate credit be provided to Paddy Farmers based on the scale of finance fixed. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Woes of debt on</th>
<th>4. The practice of charging higher rate of interest after due and penalt interest be dispensed with in the case of agricultural loans.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failure of two consecutive crops either in dry or irrigated conditions will cause irreversible damage to the family of farmer.</td>
<td>1. The total loans have to be waived by Government in the case of two successive crop losses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The agricultural activity is spread over long term and the farmers not only invest money but also their own family labour.</td>
<td>2. Interest has to be waived in the case of one crop loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. It is not possible under any circumstances to recoup the loss. The Crop Insurance Schemes in place are against the interest of farmers.</td>
<td>3. Interest on rescheduled agricultural loans should be on par with fresh loans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-scheduling of crop loans is not beneficial to the farmer as he can not increase the production or he will get 100% more price.</td>
<td>4. Housing loan to farmers and study loan to their children has to be provided against rural property security at 3% interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therefore the farmer cannot repay the losses sustained in two years.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Housing loan or study loans for farmers and their children are denied.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>4. MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION POWER</th>
<th>4. Providing of irrigation facilities to dry land Cotton farmers in the country.</th>
<th>1. All the paddy lands in the country to be provided with irrigation facilities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 55% of dry land paddy farmers are dependent on rains. Since rains are highly unpredictable the farmers are put to immense difficulties.</td>
<td>2. The ground water user farmers to be provided free electricity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Providing water to agricultural activity is a constitutional obligation of the government.</td>
<td>3. Subsidy should be unlimited for all categories. Supply should be immediately with good after</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The farmers depending on groundwater are investing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Rs 1.5 to Rs 2.0 Lakhs on bore well and pump set. 
4. Subsidy for limited area, supply is time consuming, after 
sale service is very very poor. 
4. Research should be initiated on fertigation 
through drip.

STATUS PAPER ON PADDY – NATIONAL PADDY COMMODITY COMMITTEE

ISSUES PERTAINING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

<table>
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<tr>
<td>1. Fixing state remunerative</td>
<td>The production costs are abnormally increased. The farmers are incurring huge losses due to un-remunerative MSP fixed by GOI. In such situation some of the State</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>price for Paddy</td>
<td>Governments are announcing State Advisory Price to provide relief to farmers. Such State Advisory Price is not announced by all State Governments to prevent distress</td>
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<td></td>
<td>sale by Farmers.</td>
<td>Mandatory provisions to be evolved for paying State Advisory Price to provide relief to farmers when the MSP fixed by GOI is not remunerative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Modern Farm implements</td>
<td>The Paddy Farmers are using traditional farm implements for different operations. It consumes more man hours and also physical drudgery on the part of labour.</td>
<td>Innovative and modern farm implements be invented for operations from transplantation to harvesting and provided on subsidized rates under PPPS Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from sowing to harvesting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3. Agriculture Extension     | 1. Reach to fields – very poor 
| Services                      | 2. No Professionalism. 
                               | 3. Multiple jobs to attend and therefore no focus on agricultural extension per se. 
                               | 4. No Specialization – sometimes unsuitable for special crops grown in the area. 
                               | 5. No knowledge / skills on markets and their operations. 
                               | 7. Mobility and communication not optimal. 
                               | 8. Most of the precious time lost in data collection, meetings and distribution of subsidies; inputs etc. 
                               | 9. Most countries in the world have an effective extension |
|                               | 1. The agri-extension services be strengthened at Gram Panchayat level. (Local Govt.) 
                               | 2. The technically competent officer who can gain confidence of the farmers on the crops that grow in the fields at the village level be appointed. 
                               | 3. The agri-extension officer / Veterinary officer / Agriculture Officer / Fisheries extension workers, as the case may be, be employed by Gram Panchayat. 
                               | 4. A Library be established with adequate Literature about the crops grown in the village besides agriculture allied activities. 
                               | 5. A Desktop computer be provided in each Library with agriculture information Network to provide |
|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Delivery system either state operated, commodity group operated, Farmers' organizations delivered or private. Unfortunately we have not got any. | Online market and crop-related information. |

6. CDs and DVDs on relevant crop practices be made available in all libraries.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Present Position</th>
<th>Demand by Commodity Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Procurement of Paddy at MSP.</td>
<td>Farmers are not getting MSP for paddy.</td>
<td>The State Government should procure paddy at MSP from farmers directly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Exempting special paddy varieties like BPT 5204, Ponni etc from general levy procurement.</td>
<td>The specialty varieties are procured at the MSP fixed for general varieties.</td>
<td>These consumers preferred special varieties of paddy should be exempted from general levy procurement, to encourage the production of these paddy varieties, which involves high cost of production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Removal of restrictions on interstate movement of special varieties like BPT 5204, Ponni etc.</td>
<td>Few State Governments are restricting interstate movement of consumer preferred rice varieties.</td>
<td>Entire Nation should be treated as one zone and there should not be any movement restrictions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2. MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Present Position</th>
<th>Demand by Commodity Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**3. MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Present Position</th>
<th>Demand by Commodity Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Credit by co-operative institutions</td>
<td>1. Many of the Commercial Banks have no rural branches. The Cotton growers are depending on co-operative institutions for credit facilities, but they are unable to meet the credit needs. 2. 75% of public sector banks share covers only 1/3rd of</td>
<td>1. An action plan be evolved by State Governments to provide credit requirements to Cotton growers. 2. Recommendations of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan Committee, along with other committees be implemented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agriculture loan accounts and 25% share of cooperative banks cover 2/3 of loan accounts.
3. The funds released under Prof. A. Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations have not been passed on to Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies and the very purpose of the scheme is defeated.
4. Funds released under the scheme be passed on to Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies.
4. Action plan be evolved for protecting autonomy of co-operatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. MINISTRY OF MARKETING</th>
<th>ISSUES</th>
<th>PRESENT POSITION</th>
<th>DEMAND BY COMMODITY COUNCIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Market Yards</td>
<td>1. Market yards are managed by committees nominated by the Government with local politicians, traders and middlemen affiliated to the party in power.</td>
<td>1. Market yards to be managed by farmers who grow crops and utilize the services of Market Yards. The committee to be formed by election with stake holders.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. No proper accounting of arrivals and sales.</td>
<td>2. Innovative electronic equipment be introduced for accounting arrivals and sales.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Non-functioning electronic weighing machines.</td>
<td>3. The arrivals in the market yards have to be weighed with electronic machines only.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Labour domination in Market yards results excess expenditure and waste of produce.</td>
<td>4. Labour domination has to be checked. Option be provided to farmer to handle with his produce.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Traders form into syndicate and create an atmosphere for distress sale of commodities.</td>
<td>5. Auction to be conducted transparently with assured minimum support price. Video graphing to be carried out during auction.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Instant payment is not made.</td>
<td>6. For delayed payment, the farmer should be paid a month's interest at 24 to 36 percent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. No proper storage and cold storage facilities.</td>
<td>7. Storage and cold storage facilities be provided.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. No pledge loan facilities.</td>
<td>8. Pledge loan facilities be provided.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9. Commission is collected at 8 to 10 percent.</td>
<td>9. Cess collection system be tightened. Sales be accounted for with innovative electronic devices.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10. Receipts are issued on white papers.</td>
<td>10. Permanent official printed receipts be issued.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11. Cess collected out of sales not properly accounted for. Direct levy to the Government.</td>
<td>12. In the name of grading and quality 1 to 2% cut is imposed on quantity of the produce.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13. No scientific equipment for grading or testing quality.</td>
<td>13. No scientific equipment for grading or testing quality.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14. No waiting or resting facilities to farmers in the market year market</td>
<td>14. No waiting or resting facilities to farmers in the market year market</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMINENT</td>
<td>PRESENT POSITION</td>
<td>DEMAND BY COMMODITY COUNCIL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Cess collection system be tightened, sales be accounted for with innovative electronic devices.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>No cut be imposed on the quantity of produce brought by the Farmer to market yard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Scientific equipment be introduced for grading and testing quality.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Waiting and resting facilities be provided to farmers at market yards.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Accountability and liability be fixed on officials who violate the rules in force.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Marketing intelligence and intervention schemes be strengthened and implemented to contain distress sale by Farmers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Rural development cess from GOI and Market Cess/VAT collected by State Govt. has to be used for rural infrastructure development.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**5. MINISTRY OF FORESTS**

| 1. Menace of Wild Animals | The paddy crop is damaged by wild animals extensively. | The protection mechanism has to be evolved by State Governments for protecting paddy crop by wild animals. |

**6. MINISTRY OF COMMERCIAL TAXES**

| 1. Cess / Tax on Cotton | The State Governments are collecting Cess / Tax on Cotton | The collection of Cess / Tax on Cotton has to be waived. |
# STATUS PAPER ON PADDY - NATIONAL PADDY COMMODITY COMMITTEE

## ISSUES CONCERNING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

<table>
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<td>1. Extension Services</td>
<td>The State Governments are unable to provide agriculture extension services. The extension staff are diverted for other works ignoring extension services. When the crops are infested by pests and diseases the farmers are not only affected by crop losses but also incurring expenditure for purchasing pesticides etc. suggested by dealers.</td>
<td>Action plan be evolved for providing Agriculture Extension service by Private Sector under Public Private Partnership Scheme (PPPPS).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Credit</td>
<td>The banks provide only 25% to 30% of credit needs of agriculture. The private money lenders, traders and input dealers provide the balance of 70% to 75% with higher rate of interest ranging from 35% to 46%.</td>
<td>A fool proof mechanism be evolved for containing charging of higher rate of interest by private money lenders, traders and input dealers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Spurious Fertilizers and Pesticides</td>
<td>The markets are flooded with spurious fertilizers and pesticides. Taking advantage of innocence / ignorance of farmers the traders are manipulating issues to the disadvantage of farmers.</td>
<td>A definite plan of action be evolved by Government and inputs industry, by strengthening vigilance, to eliminate spurious fertilizers and pesticides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Marketing</td>
<td>The market yards are dominated by middle men traders. The committees appointed by the Governments for managing the affairs are unable to protect the interests of farmers.</td>
<td>The private agro-processing centres and retail chains be established with infrastructure facilities for processing, value addition, packing and retail marketing to enable the farmers to obtain remunerative prices under PPPPs Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. manufacture of Innovative and Modern Farm Implements</td>
<td>The farmers are using traditional farm implements for agricultural operations and harvesting crops. It consumes more man hours and also physical drudgery on the part of labour.</td>
<td>Innovative and modern farm implements be invented for agriculture operations and harvesting crops which facilitate quick agriculture operation and reduce physical drudgery under PPPPs Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>DEMAND BY COMMODITY COUNCIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Seed</td>
<td>1. Unavailability of seed which has farmers’ choice.</td>
<td>1. Development of high yielding varieties with Bt gene incorporation, so that farmers need not purchase seed every year. If it is hybrid he has to purchase every year if it is variety he need not every year. Already we have wonderful varieties like Shivani, Nanakshahi, Nondyal, varieties but without Bt gene. Hence, Government should purchase that gene from private companies and inject into our varieties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. State Governments have no sufficient resources to supply required quality seed to farmers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid Cotton and Bt Cotton</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Hybrid to be discouraged and good varieties with relevant gene incorporation are to be popularized. It not only solves availability issue but drastically reduces cost of seed as hybrid seed cost per acre is Rs. 1,000/- whereas as variet Rs. 250/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Some of the hybrids are more popular (Canak, Br. Breni, Mahamadika, Zadi, Meera, Jackpot, Vikram - 5). But in the market, many such hybrids with high yielding and resistant genes are available but awareness is lacking to farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Production of Hybrid Cotton seed by public and private institutes be increased under PPPs Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5. Specific action plan be evolved for 100% seed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**D. Fixing of MSP for Cotton**

1. Recommendations of various Committees viz., Shri. I.K. Jha, Dr. Atul Kohli, Dr. S.R. Sen, Prof. C.R. Hanumantha Rao and Prof. Asgh under costs of cultivation scheme of CACP have not been implemented while computing costs of cultivation at grass root level.

2. No transparency in collection of data and Farmers not involved.

3. Previous years data is considered for fixing current year MSP without taking into consideration the cost index.

4. The methodology followed, regarding imputing family labour, rental value of land, interest on capital, depreciation on farm assets and agricultural machinery, cost of transportation, marketing charges and storage is not in conformity with recommendations of various Committees and working groups.

5. There is no relevance between the costs actually incurred by Farmers, the data obtained from grass root level, compiled by Agricultural Universities, State Governments, Directorate of Economics &

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6. New technology be provided by Government of India.

7. Area specific and high yielding varieties be produced and distributed at affordable prices.

8. Agricultural graduates, progressive farmers and staff of Seed Societies be trained for production of quality seed.

---

1. Recommendations of various Committees under Costs of Cultivation Scheme be implemented and all costs actually incurred by farmers taken into consideration while collecting data at grass root level.

2. The whole system be reviewed, transparent procedures, methodology evolved and CACP be strengthened by inducting more Farmers representatives including women by granting autonomous status to enable farmers to protect their interests.

3. MSP should be all costs actually incurred by Farmers by adding minimum 50% of II (i.e. C2-Minimum 50% of II) as recommended by National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. A.S. Swaminathan.

4. MSP be increased proportionately whenever agricultural inputs prices are increased by taking into cost of index into consideration as being followed in the case of salaries of employees of various sectors.

5. MSP be fixed and announced 6 months before
6. The MSP fixed by GOI is only Political Support Price (PSP) but not based on the data obtained from various sources.

7. According to Govt. sources Rs.1 hike in diesel price increases the cultivation cost by Rs.100 per hectare.

8. MSP is being announced after the farmers commence Kharif and Rabi sowing operations. Thus farmers have no choice of crop selection.

9. MSP for Cotton fixed by GOI do not adopt the same parameters as adopted in fixing industrial product prices and Government employees' salaries.

10. The production cost of Cotton is estimated at Rs.4000/- per q.t during the year 2012-2013. As per recommendations of National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the MSP be fixed by taking all costs incurred by farmer by adding minimum 50% of it (C2-Minimum 50% of it)

11. Thus MSP is to be fixed at Rs.6000 per q.t (Rs.4000+50% i.e. 2000), where as the Government fixed only Rs.3600 to Rs.3800 per q.t.

1. When the cotton crop is affected by rains / cyclones / Hurricanes, the quality of the cotton will be affected and quality will be changed.

2. Government agencies i.e. CCI and Market Yards are reluctant to pay MSP fixed for Cotton.

3. The State Governments are approaching GOI of India for purchasing Cotton affected by rains / cyclones / Hurricanes.

4. This procedure is time consuming and Farmers are

1. CCI has fixed the moisture norm of 8% to 12%. This causes problems to farmers affected by cyclones and high rains. The moisture parameter must be increased up 18% and must purchase from the farmers. The export policy of the government is also highly inconsistent.


3. The State Governments should amend marketing

Kharif and Rabi harvests reach market, as recommended by experts groups.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>d. National Policy on Soil Health</th>
<th>1. National policy on soil health be evolved to rectify and restore soil fertility.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Mobile soil testing laboratories be introduced and soil tests made at the fields in the presence of farmers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Soil health cards be provided to farmers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Quality micro nutrients be provided for balancing soil health.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>e. Standardization of Water Soluble Fertilizers (WSF), Organic Fertilizers &amp; Extension of incentives on par with chemical fertilizers</th>
<th>1. Subsidy only on straight and complex but not on WSF.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Vermi compost, Vermi wash, green manure, Organic manure and bio-fertilizers are manufactured by several small scale units without maintaining standards and quality.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The farmer are hit to crop losses due to adulteration and high prices.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. No specifications are fixed for manufacturing organic fertilizers / bio pesticides.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Development of Resistant varieties to sucking pests. Cotton Leaf Curl Virus and cotton bollworms be ensured.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 3. India's average cotton yield is only 450 Kg/ha lint as compared to the target of 800 Kg/ha lint. |

5. Neither the Govt. of India nor the State Governments are coming to the rescue of affected farmers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Transfer of Technology</th>
<th>A. Transfer of Improved Cotton Production Technologies</th>
<th>1. Transfer of Improved Cotton production technologies remain as most neglected component and consequently the benefit of improved varieties and production technology could be harnessed. 2. Dissemination of improved technologies from lab to land consumes long time and adoption by Farmers is not ensured.</th>
<th>1. Emphasis be given on a cropping system approach rather than a single crop development approach. 2. Improved crop production technologies be propagated based on agro-climatic zones through demonstrations on Farmers fields and organizing training programmes for Farmers including women. 3. Quick dissemination of knowledge on improved technologies be ensured. 4. Aggressive transfer of production technologies be ensured through Frontline demonstrations and Brock demonstrations involving SDA, KVKs, NGOs, SANs and private sectors under PPPs Scheme by offering incentives and Tax Holidays.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>compared to world average of 603 kg/ha. In view of low yield and poor lint quality, there is an urgent need for stepping up of productivity and quality of cotton in the country.</td>
<td>3. Research on Insect Resistant Management be ensured. 4. Research on Organic Cotton production technologies be ensured. 5. Research on Integrated Pest Management be ensured. 6. The research Institutes should honour its primary responsibility and develop elite germplasm and release high yielding varieties regularly. 7. The success of 2nd generation Bt cotton is helpful to the farmers. But, labour problem especially for weeding operations has become expensive and farmer wants 3rd Generation Bt cotton technology.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
h. Mechanization
Small implements

1. Agriculture labour shortage is a major constraint in completing sowing and harvesting operations in time.
2. Physical drudgery involved in culture practices driving away the workforce to urban areas for better jobs.
3. Traditional culture practices consume more than hours and also physical drudgery on the part of both labour and animals.
4. Lacking small implements for seeding, inter-cultivation, stubble incorporation and harvesting.

i. Crop Insurance

1. The premium collected on crop loans ranges from 2.5% to 7%.
2. Weather based.
3. All risks are not covered.
4. Procedures adopted for indemnifying losses are against farmers' interest.

5. Bottom up approach of technology development and dissemination by involving farmers should be ensured.
6. ATMA concept of NAPTT project be extended to all the States and districts in the country.

1. Innovative bullock and power drawn modern farm implements be invented and introduced for timely completion of sowing and harvesting operations under PMPS Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.
2. The agricultural implements be provided with 75% subsidy.
3. Agricultural implements be made available on custom hire services through village panchayats, co-operatives, self help groups.
4. Less power operated tractors with seed drills and harvesters to be imported or domestically manufactured.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>1. The scale of Finance fixed for Cotton is Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 35,000/- in different states. None of the banks - Cooperative, Nationalized and Private Banks are adequately providing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Commerce</td>
<td>1. Government is importing Cotton which results fall in the Cotton prices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>2. The Government importing Cotton even though there was huge stock within the country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Commerce</td>
<td>3. The Import policies are arbitrary and are harmful to the interest of Farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>4. There is no long term policy of imports and exports based on supply and demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Commerce</td>
<td>5. The present import and export policy is beneficial to traders but not farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>1. Long term import and export policies be evolved based on demand and supply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Commerce</td>
<td>2. Government not to allow import of Cotton without consulting and approval of Farmer organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Commerce</td>
<td>3. Export of Cotton be permitted after the domestic requirement is fulfilled.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2. Ministry of Commerce**

- To ban import of Cotton without approval of Farmers Associations.

- Due to insufficient Cotton procurement centres of CCI, Farmers are facing problem in selling their Cotton. The traders are benefited and farmers are resorting distress sale.

- CIFA demands procurement of Cotton by CCI from Farmers by opening sufficient procurement centres in all cotton producing districts.

- National Cotton Commodity Committee of CIFA be consulted by CCI to create awareness among Cotton Farmers on quality norms and organize training programmes.

- Scientific equipment be introduced for testing Cotton lint quality and staple length.

- The CCI should provide warehousing, pledge loan facilities to enable farmers to store and dispose produce when he attains remunerative price.
b. Rate of Interest on Agriculture Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Different Banks are charging different rates of interest ranging from 7% to 14% on Agricultural loans.</td>
<td>1. Simple rate of interest at 4% be charged on agriculture loans without collecting any service and other charges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Lesser Interest is charged on housing and Industrial Loans.</td>
<td>2. Instructions be issued to banks for not insisting no due certificates from farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Agriculture is a priority sector and hence lower rate of interest is required to be charged on Agricultural Loans</td>
<td>3. Adequate credit be provided to Cotton Farmers based on the scale of finance fixed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan recommended 4% rate of Interest on Agricultural loans</td>
<td>4. The practice of charging higher rate of interest after due and penal interest be dispensed with in the case of agricultural loans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The Banks are charging compound interest, service and other charges etc.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. The banks are insisting no due certificates from farmers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Waiver of total loans or failure of two crops and interest on loss of one crop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Failure of two consecutive crops either in dry or irrigated conditions will cause irreparable damage to the family of farmer.</td>
<td>1. Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme 2008 has not provided anticipated relief to farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The agricultural activity is spread over long term and the farmers not only invest money but also their own family labour.</td>
<td>2. The total loans be waived by Government in the case of two successive crop losses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. It is not possible under any circumstances to recoup the loss. The Crop Insurances Schemes in place are against the interest of Farmers.</td>
<td>3. Interest be waived in the case of one crop loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Re-scheduling of crop loans is not beneficial to the farmer as he cannot increase the production or he will</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION POWER</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>a. Providing of irrigation facilities to dry land Cotton farmers in the country.</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. 65% of dry land cotton farmers are dependent on rains. Since rains are highly unpredictable, the farmers are put to immense difficulties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Providing water to agricultural activity is a constitutional obligation of the government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The farmers depending on groundwater are investing Rs1.3 to Rs2.0 Lakhs on bore well and pump set.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Subsidy for limited area, supply is time consuming, after sale service is very very poor.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>b.</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. All the cotton lands in the country be provided with irrigation facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The ground water user farmers be provided free electricity.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Subsidy should be unlimited for all categories. Supply should be immediately with perfect after sale service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Research should be initiated on fertigation through drip.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5. Therefore the farmer cannot repay the losses sustained in two years.
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<td>The State Governments are unable to provide agriculture extension services. The extension staff are diverted for other works ignoring extension services. When the crops are infested by pests and diseases, the farmers are not only affected by crop losses but also incurring expenditure for purchasing pesticides, etc., sold by dealers.</td>
<td>Action plan be evolved for providing Agriculture Extension service by Private Sector under Public Private Partnership Scheme (PPP5).</td>
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<tr>
<td>CREDIT</td>
<td>The banks provide only 25% to 30% of credit needs of agriculture. The private money lenders, traders and input dealers provide the balance of 75% to 70% with higher rate of interest ranging from 36% to 48%.</td>
<td>A fool-proof mechanism be evolved for controlling charging of higher rate of interest by private money lenders, traders and input dealers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPURIOUS FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES</td>
<td>The markets are flooded with spurious fertilizers and pesticides. Taking advantage of innocence/ignorance of farmers, the traders are manipulating issues to the disadvantage of farmers.</td>
<td>A definite plan of action be evolved by Government and inputs industry, by strengthening vigilance, to eliminate spurious fertilizers and pesticides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARKETING</td>
<td>The market yards are dominated by middle men, traders. The committees appointed by the Governments for managing the affairs are unable to protect the interests of farmers.</td>
<td>The private agro-processing centres and retail chains be established with infrastructure facilities for processing, value addition, packing and retail marketing to enable the farmers to obtain remunerative prices under PPP5 Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANUFACTURE OF INNOVATIVE AND MODERN FARM IMPLEMENTS</td>
<td>The farmers are using traditional farm implements for agricultural operations and harvesting crops. It consumes more man hours and also physical drudgery on the part of labour.</td>
<td>Innovative and modern farm implements be invented for agriculture operations and harvesting crops which facilitate quick agriculture operation and reduce physical drudgery under PPP5 Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISSUES</td>
<td>PRESENT POSITION</td>
<td>DEMAND BY COMMODITY COUNCIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Fixing of MSP for Cotton</td>
<td>The production costs of Cotton are abnormally increased. The farmers are incurring losses due to unremunerative MSP fixed by GOI. In such situation some of the State Governments are announcing State Advisory Price to provide relief to farmers. Such State Advisory Price is not announced by all State Governments to prevent distress sale by Farmers.</td>
<td>Mandatory provisions be evolved for paying State Advisory Price to provide relief to farmers when the MSP fixed by GOI is not remunerative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Modern Farm Implements from sowing to harvesting</td>
<td>The Cotton Farmers are using traditional farm implements for different operations. It consumes more man hours and also physical drudgery on the part of labour.</td>
<td>Innovative and modern farm implements be invented for operations from sowing to harvesting and provided on subsidized rates under KPPS Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Agriculture Services Extension</td>
<td>1. Reach to fields - very poor 2. No Professionalism 3. Multiple jobs to attend and therefore no focus on agricultural extension per se. 4. No Specialization - sometimes unsuitable for special crops grown in the area. 5. No knowledge / skills on markets and their operations. 6. No knowledge / exposure of private sector inputs / products. 7. Mobility and communication not optimal. 8. Most of the precious time lost in data collection, meetings and distribution of subsidies, inputs etc. 9. Most countries in the world have an effective extension delivery system either state operated, commodity group operated, Farmers' organizations delivered or Private. Unfortunately we have not got any.</td>
<td>1. The agri-extension services be strengthened at Gram Panchayat level. (Local Govt.) 2. The technically competent officer who can gain confidence of the farmers on the crops that grow in the fields at the village level be appointed. 3. The agri-extension officer / Veterinary officer / Horticulture officer / Fisheries extension workers, as the case may be, be employed by Gram Panchayat. 4. A Library be established with adequate literature about the crops grown in the village besides agriculture allied activities. 5. A Desktop computer be provided in each Library with agriculture information Network to provide online market and crop related information. 6. CDs and DVDs on relevant crop practices be made available in all libraries.</td>
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<td>ISSUES</td>
<td>PRESENT POSITION</td>
<td>DEMAND BY COMMODITY COUNCIL</td>
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<td>7. The financial support for maintaining the libraries be provided by the GOI / State Govts. As in the case of USA and many other countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATION</td>
<td></td>
<td>8. The Extension officers of various disciplines be provided training with updated techniques by GOI and State Governments under PPPs Scheme by offering incentives and tax holidays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Credit by co-operative institutions</td>
<td>1. Many of the Commercial Banks have no rural branches. The Cotton growers are depending on co-operative institutions for credit facilities, but they are unable to meet the credit needs.</td>
<td>1. An action plan be evolved by State Governments to provide credit requirements to Cotton growers.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Co-operatives played catalyst role in providing Rural Credit, particularly agriculture.</td>
<td>2. Recommendations of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan Committee, along with other committees be implemented.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. All the public sector banks put together contributed only 25%, whereas cooperatives along contributed 75% to Rural Credit.</td>
<td>3. Funds released under the scheme be passed on to Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies.</td>
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<td>4. Till 2001 - 2002 cooperatives maintained appreciable annual growth rate in providing rural credit.</td>
<td>4. Action plan be evolved for protecting autonomy of co-operatives.</td>
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<td>5. Now the position is reversed. Co-operatives share has come down to 25% and public sector share increased to 75%.</td>
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<td>PRESENT POSITION</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Political, Trader &amp; Middlemen controlled markets.</td>
<td>Market yards are managed by committees nominated by the Government with local politicians, traders and middlemen affiliated to the party in power.</td>
<td>I. Market yards be managed by farmers who grow crops and utilize the services of Market Yards. The committee be formed by election with stake holders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i.</td>
<td>Market yards are managed by committees nominated by the Government with local politicians, traders and middlemen affiliated to the party in power.</td>
<td>ii. Innovative electronic equipment be introduced for accounting arrivals and sales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii.</td>
<td>No proper accounting of arrivals and sales.</td>
<td>iii. The arrivals in the market yards be weighed with electronic machines only.</td>
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<tr>
<td>iii.</td>
<td>Non-functioning electronic weighing machines.</td>
<td>iv. Labour domination be checked. Option be provided to farmer to handle with his produce.</td>
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<tr>
<td>iv.</td>
<td>Labour domination in Market yards results excess expenditure and waste of produce.</td>
<td>v. Minimum Support Price be fixed by market yard. Auction be conducted transparently. Video graphing be carried out during auction.</td>
</tr>
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<td>v.</td>
<td>Traders form into syndicate and create an atmosphere for distress sale of commodities.</td>
<td>vi. For delayed payment, the farmer should be paid a month's interest at 24 to 36 percent.</td>
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<td>vi.</td>
<td>Instant payment is not made.</td>
<td>vii. Storage and cold storage facilities be provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>vii.</td>
<td>No proper storage and cold storage facilities.</td>
<td>viii. Pledge loan facilities be provided.</td>
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<td>viii.</td>
<td>No pledge loan facilities.</td>
<td>ix. Cess collection system be tightened. Sales be accounted for with innovative electronic devices.</td>
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<td>ix.</td>
<td>Commission is collected at 8 to 10 percent.</td>
<td>x. Permanent official printed receipts be issued.</td>
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<td>x.</td>
<td>Receipts are issued on white papers.</td>
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<td>xi.</td>
<td>Cess collected out of sales not properly accounted for.</td>
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<td>xii.</td>
<td>In the name of grading and quality 1 to 2% cut is imposed on quantity of the produce.</td>
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<td>xiii.</td>
<td>No scientific equipment for grading or tasting quality.</td>
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<td>xiv.</td>
<td>No waiting or resting facilities to farmers in the market yard market.</td>
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<td>ISSUES</td>
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<td>xi. Cess collection system be tightened. Sales be accounted for with innovative electronic devices.</td>
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<td>xii. No cut be imposed on the quantity of produce brought by the farmer to market yard.</td>
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<td>xiii. Scientific equipment be introduced for grading and testing quality.</td>
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<td>xiv. Waiting and resting facilities be provided to farmers at market yards.</td>
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<td>xv. Accountability and liability be fixed on officials who violate the rules in force.</td>
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<td>xvi. Marketing intelligence and intervention schemes be strengthened and implemented to contain distress sale by Farmers.</td>
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<td>4. MINISTRY OF FORESTS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Menace of Wild Animals</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>The cotton crop is damaged by wild animals extensively.</td>
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<td>The protection mechanism be evolved by State Governments for protecting Cotton crop by wild animals.</td>
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<td>5. MINISTRY OF COMMERCIAL TAXES</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cess / Tax on Cotton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The State Governments are collecting Cess / Tax on Cotton</td>
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<td>The collection of Cess / Tax on Cotton be waived.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CIFA : 10TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE :
A NOTE ON LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT & MEAT PROCESSING FOR THE
YEAR 2014-15

1. PRESENT SITUATION

Livestock is providing livelihood to over 70% of the farmers. The Dairy and poultry have achieved
good success. The small ruminants are yet to be upgraded. As of now, the meat, milk, egg and beef availability
can be considered as satisfactory. The performance of meat exports is good. The problems confronted are the
breed improvement is limited to few states and requires to be enlarged to encompass the backward states. The
networking of milk collection has to be further increased in these areas. The availability of fodder is problematic
in large areas, especially in the rainfed villages. The utilization of the male buffalo calves, producing sufficient
Green grass, making available fodder seeds so as to produce green fodder, silage making and storing in silos for
distribution in summer months. This sector is not getting sufficient attention from the policy makers from both at
Central and State level.

2. LIVESTOCK RELATED RESOLUTIONS & ACTIVITIES (2014-15):

A) It is resolved that CIFA should update the existing programs in the Livestock sector by fine tuning them
in association with private sector, including exporters, processors, researchers, feed producers, and others.

B) CIFA, in association with AIMA, will establish connectivity with farmers associations. To contact
NABARD farmers clubs and NGOs working in the area and assist them in consolidating their activities and
linking them with CIFA.

C) To adopt the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA, 1976) recommendations on buffalo
development for increasing buffalo meat production potential in India.

D) To work with Governments on the existing schemes of Male buffalo calf rearing for pragmatic slaughter
policy & free movement of animals and Salvaging of buffalo calves from early death, artificial insemination,
fodder seeds supply schemes, by studying the existing patterns and make them more dynamic and
convert them into result oriented schemes.

E) Establish coordination committees of farmers and other stake holders at the state level and National
level with full time administrative facilities, for collecting information, arranging interaction among
members and assist in other related AH activities promotion with focus on conservation of buffalo elite
germ plasm from urban dairies in particular.

F) Germ plasm conservation & distribution for High milk yield from elite bull Germplasm.

G) To consider resources for FMD vaccine procurement (& availability), which is a major cost element and
needs external funding support. Livestock health monitoring and laboratories are other vital elements
which need Government’s special attention.

H) Livestock Feed & Fodder awareness & production with special drive of State Governments would be on
Agenda. Facilitating easy availability of molasses to farmers for livestock feeding as it would be highly
relevant and beneficial for crop residue based feeding systems followed in India.

I) The coordination committee will establish contacts with the Members of Parliament, Ministers, officials
and other connected people so as to act as a strong Advocacy body.

J) To organize seminars, workshops and establish website for the benefit of the stake holders.
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