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HARD REALITIES OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE
(ECONOMIC SURVEY 2007-08)

☞ Decline in over-all GDP rate from 9.6% (2006-07) to 8.7% (2007-08), owing to decline in growth rate of manufacturing and AG sectors.
☞ Decline in AG GDP rate from 3.7% to 2.6% during the same period as above, despite normal rain fall.
☞ Decline in rate of growth of food grains during 1990-2007 to 1.2%, Less than population growth of 1.9%
☞ Decline in AG share of Gross Capital Formation from 10.2% (2001-02) to 5.8% (2006-07).
☞ Decline in AG loans from 18% (1980-81) to 8.7% (2004-05) as against mandated 18% every year.
☞ Slow growth of irrigated area at the rate of only 1.25% (1989-90 - 2006-07).
☞ Decline in area under food grains over 16 year period from 1990-91, at an annual rate of 0.26%.
☞ Increase in unemployment rate to 8.28%(2004-05) from 6.28% (1993-94).

Complied by
(K. Ramasubba Reddy)
Advisor, CIFA
EDITORIAL

DON'T BE COMPLACENT DR. SINGH

60,000 Crores debt waiver is considered as a final solution to all the problems of farmers. From UPA Chairperson, intellectuals, Industrialists, Bureaucrats and the Media as well as International development organizations are relaxing with illusionary feeling that solution to the farmers problems is found.

The focus is now shifted to inflation, stock market fluctuations and the coming elections. The political big wigs have commenced their campaign to win elections in Karnataka, Rajasthan and other states.

However we farmers are highly skeptical about the drama that is unfolding before us. The financial benefit has not at reached even one farmer in any part of the country. The SMP announced for sugarcane for 2008-09 has disappointed million of farmers in 10 states of India. Imposing restrictctions on private sector procuring wheat in Punjab and Haryana is highly disappointing. But the farmers are not reacting because the wheat is not ready for harvesting and yet reach the mandis. The controls on commodity trading ban imposed by Government is not appreciated by farmers or by re-farmers.

We farmers are laughing at the incompetence of Government to control inflation manipulated by few hoarders. We are aghast at the utter contempt shown by cement and steel industrialist at the Government.

Our farmers message to Dr. Singh is Please don't be complacent. You have go into the fundamental defects of Governance by bringing about reforms in administration, adopt long term policies, fixing responsibility, decentralize administration, empower farmers & panchayat raj and initiate a discussion with a industry for active participation in agriculture.

A small advice “Have a sincere agriculture advisor in PMO”

P. Ch. L
RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY CIFA ON 13/03/2008 DURING
INTERACTION WITH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS FARMERS FORUM

1. MODIFICATIONS, SUGGESTIONS
IN UNION BUDGET-2008-09:
   a) Disparities and inconsistencies of 5
      Acre Norm:
      Not helpful to the dry land farmers
      of Rajasthan, Vidharbha, Bundelkhand etc.
      where 2 hectares land has no productivity.
      Similarly, Agro processing Industries linked
      farmers of Sugarcane, Tobacco will not get
      the benefits.
      SUGGESTIONS:
      It is suggested that an amount of
      Rs.50,000 which is now being given by the
      banks to small farmers without security be
      made as the basis for waiving of Agricultural
      Loans.
   b) Cut of Dates:
      (Agricultural loans borrowed during
      Kharif -2007,April to September) are not
      eligible for waiver under the scheme.
      SUGGESTIONS:
      It is suggested that the cutout date
      be extended from 31/03/2007 to 31/12/2007.
   c) No incentives for prompt repaying
      farmers.
      SUGGESTIONS:
      It is suggested that 4% interest
      incentive be given to the regular payee
      farmers.
   d) Tenant farmers are excluded from
      the scheme.
      SUGGESTIONS:
      To modify the tenancy Act to enable
      tenant farmers to avail loans. The % of
      tenant farmers is constantly increased. In
      many Districts of India over 70% are tenant
      farmers. Due to complexity of tenant Act
      there are no written agreements.

   e) 2% subvention in the interest.
      SUGGESTIONS:
      2% subvention to be extended to
      medium and long term loans.
   f) Non-inclusions of poultry farmers
      and fishermen.
      The poultry farmers as well as
      fishermen are part of agricultural activities.
      3.2 million poultry farmers are supported
      by 20 million maize and 4 million soya
      farmers. They are facing many natural
      and market risks and have incurred
      thousands of crores losses.
      SUGGESTIONS:
      The loan waiver scheme must be made
      applicable to poultry farmers and
      fishermen.
   g) Unorganized farmers not covered
      by the Government.
      India has large number of migrant
      farmers and nomadic farmers as well as
      tribal farmers who are not covered under
      financial schemes of Government.
      SUGGESTIONS:
      It is requested that the above category
      of the farmers be provided with financial
      support through Tribal councils, Community
      organizations and SHGs.

2. THE PROBLEMS OF PRIVATE
   MONEY LENDERS:
   It is proved that higher rate of interest
   charged by Private Money Lenders is
   leading to farmers suicide. But the fact
   remains that Institutional finance is
   available to only 25% to 30% farmers and
   the balance of 70% to 75% are compelled
   to depend on Private Money Lenders. The
   role of money lenders is high in the case of
   backward areas and Tenant farmers.
3. **SUGGESTIONS TO SOLVE PRIVATE MONEYLENDERS PROBLEMS:**
   a) It is suggested that the Government to consider a moratorium on private money lenders loans.
   b) Government is requested to arrange debt swap of money lenders loans.
   c) Government/Reserve Bank of India is requested immediately to pass money lenders Act with details of specific interest rates and recovery proceedings.
   d) During 1920s in the State of Bhav Nagar (Gujarat) and in Ajmer State in 1953 money lenders debt relief Act were passed and implemented for the benefits of farmers.

4. **ALTERNATIVE FLOW OF CREDIT TO FARMERS:**
   Ministry of Finance is requested to increase Credit flow to farm sector to cover all Agricultural holdings and farmers in the country.
   **SUGGESTIONS:**
   a) Processing Industry, rice and oil mills, textile mills, food processing Industry, retail chains may be involved in credit to farmers.
   b) In the Tribal areas, specially in North-east and Chettisgarh the average loan is only Rs. 350/- per hectare as against Rs. 3,800 in Southern States. Credit flow to be channeled through Tribal Councils and Committee Panchayats.

5. **ISSUES OF OIL SEEDS SECTOR:**
   Production of oil seeds has failed to keep pace with increasing consumption and population. Imports are increasing and productivity is stagnated.
   **SUGGESTIONS:**
   a) To revive oil seeds technology mission.
   b) To increase resources to oil seeds Research.
   c) To encourage private sector in oil seeds extension.

6. **MARKET REFORMS:**
   The APMC encouraged by the Government and also forward marketing and commodity trading are beneficial to the farming community. However, the Government has no consistent policies.
   **SUGGESTIONS:**
   a) To encourage Commodity Trading by removing restrictions and controls.
   b) To remove Commodity Transaction Tax imposed in the recent Budget.
   c) To encourage Contract farming by implementing APMC.

7. **DECENTRALIZING AGRICULTURAL PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION:**
   It is highly beneficial to involve Panchayat Raj & farmers Organizations.
   **SUGGESTIONS:**
   a) To empower Panchayat Raj to prepare Agriculture Plan and implement.
   b) Government of India to provide direct funding to Panchayats.
   c) To democratize Commodity Boards under farmers and professionalized management.

8. **STATUTORY FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVEMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR AGRO PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SUGAR, MILK ETC.):**
   Labour Unions, and other service sector organizations have statutory powers and are involved by Government in the deliberations. The Industries are providing directorship to the representatives of Labour union on the Board of Directors of the Company. The Non Statutory Corporate organizations of CII are also consulted by Government. Similarly, farmers organizations have to be provided statutory recognition.

*April, 2008*
SUGGESTIONS:

a) To pass Act to provide statutory provisions for farmers representative to be a Director on the Board of Management of Private and Government Agro Processing Industries.

b) Farmer Organizational representatives are to be nominated on the Board of Directors of Banks, FCI, NABARD,CCI and FMC.

9. LONG TERM AGRICULTURE POLICIES:

There is need to have long term policies for Agriculture. It will help develop, processing, branding, marketing. It will encourage long term contract farming which is beneficial to the producers, processors and consumers.

SUGGESTIONS:

a) To fix quantum of Exports for cereals, sugar and other Commodities.

b) To remove restrictions on the value addition of all agricultural produce.

c) To encourage ethanol production blending and pricing policies.

10. SUBSIDIES TO FARMERS:

Government is providing huge subsidies to farm sector - Fertilizer - FCI - CCI etc. However large number of farmers including Tenant, Dry land farmers and Tribal farmers are not getting the benefits of subsidies.

SUGGESTIONS:

To provide direct subsidies to the farmers through fertilizer coupons, based on land holding or sale receipt in the market yard or Bank loan.

11. INVOLVEMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

NOTE:

Private Sector has huge financial resources, Management skills and Organizational capacities. The Rural Education, Health and Agriculture (extension, Information Centers, Soil testing, farmers school, research) have potential for investments. So also Technology transfer through Electronic Media, Radio, News Papers, Magazines etc. Investments in Rural sports and Cultural activities.

SUGGESTIONS:

a) To provide 200% IT Rebate for Agriculture and Rural investments by the Corporates, individual donors and NRIs.

b) To encourage this activity as a social responsibility by the Corporates.

c) Trusts and endowments created for the above activity to be given IT exemptions

12. LEGAL REFORMS:

There are many hurdles in promoting Agriculture growth which against free market economy such as Essential Commodity Act. The Revenue Recovery Act is a Social stigma for the farmers. The tenancy Act is not practicable and is not beneficial to the farmers or the tenants.

SUGGESTIONS:

To remove Essential Commodity Act.

b) To remove Revenue Recovery Act.

c) To amend Tenancy Act to be effective.

Dated: 14th March, 2008
Place: NEW DELHI

P. CHENGAL REDDY
Secretary General
C.I.F.A.
WRITE YOUR SUGGESTION TO WORLD BANK

Annexure: Emerging thrusts of the next World Bank India Country Strategy. The World Bank has started the process of preparing a new Country Strategy for India, as the current Country Strategy, prepared in 2003, covered the period 2004-2008. The next Country Strategy will cover the period 2009-2012. Since the summer of 2007, the new India Country Director, Ms Isabel Guerrero, has consulted widely with government counterparts, civil society organizations, think tanks, research organizations, donor partners, and staff on what the World Bank should do in India in the next few years. At the consultations with civil society in New Delhi in August-September 2007, participants suggested that further consultations be held in some states. The present event stems from that recommendation and aims to garner a wide range of views on the emerging thrusts of the new strategy. Because the preparation of the strategy is in its early stages, a written document is not available, but a presentation will be made.

Three main themes are emerging from the consultations held so far. Some of the challenges India is facing are listed under each theme: Inclusive growth. India is growing fast, but future growth is constrained by infrastructure gaps and skills bottlenecks. Moreover, progress in income poverty and other human development indicators is not as fast as it could be. Also compelling in this context is the fact that, when large segments of the population do not contribute to growth, their talents and inventiveness are lost. Sharing the benefits of growth more widely then is a pressing development need for India. Responsible growth. It is imperative for India to maintain its high-growth path and bring basic services to all its people; but it is also imperative for it do so without placing an unsustainable strain on its natural resources. This challenge becomes even sharper given the very real threats posed by climate change. The management of water resources, for instance, is a key concern in the context of potentially aggravated flooding and droughts which will affect millions of people and their livelihoods. A viable path is then needed to help India attain a low-carbon, high-growth future. India has leapfrogged in many areas recently, including telecommunications and services. It now has the chance to leapfrog in the deployment of clean and efficient technologies, as both agriculture and manufacturing must develop to provide needed growth. Effective government services. Improving the quality of core public services is a key challenge before the emergent India. There is a growing public demand for more effective systems of accountability and transparency that can improve the quality of public expenditure and ensure that public money achieves its intended purposes.

The World Bank is exploring ways in which it could assist the Indian government address these challenges. In terms of how the World Bank operates, discussions so far have highlighted the need for greater strategic focus, greater selectivity, and a stronger focus on achieving results on the ground. More time and resources would be devoted to assisting the government and other counterparts during the implementation phase of projects, and a renewed effort would also need to be made to monitor and evaluate results.

The present consultation comes at a crucial time in the preparation of the strategy, and World Bank officials look forward to inputs from civil society organizations.

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April 2008
AGRIPODICY ADVOCACY

ORPHANS OF THE MOTHERLAND?
G. RAMACHANDRAN

Farmers are largely seen merely as an inconvenient but unavoidable link between the soil and our tables. They produce to serve our interests. This land is theirs. But they are not its children in the fullest sense, says G. RAMACHANDRAN, in a critique of the farm debt waiver that he terms just a pretentious panacea.

It would be unethical to claim any originality in the context of the title. ‘Orphans of the Motherland’ is a blues track sung by Sonny Landreth. Blues music is both vocal and instrumental. It is African-American in origin and style. Blues refer to spirits that are down. Blues express hopelessness and sadness.

African-American communities of the US sang the blues before the Civil War (1861-65). They have sung the blues long after the Civil Rights Act in 1964. They have sung the blues to unburden their hearts. India does not have a blues tradition. If it did, its farmers too would have poured their hearts out to express their dejection and fears.

Farmers would have informed us that they are the orphans of this motherland. This land is theirs. But they are not its children in the fullest sense. Is their plight beyond any repair and reconstruction? Will there be reform and redemption? Will there be heartiness and earthiness in their lives?

Blues instrumentalist

Experts have thoroughly analysed the waiver of farm loans announced by the Finance Minister. They have scrutinised its motivation, merits and methodology. One major conclusion has emerged. The waiver in the current context is a pretentious panacea. It will do no real good to most farmers in the short term and in the long term. The causes of the woes that wreck farmers will remain.

The experts think the plight of India’s farmers is awful. There is an unusual congruence of views. Every expert has more or less the same views and explanations. But they offer no solution. They are unanimous in stating that the waiver will do nothing to raise farm incomes. The waiver is just another waste, is it?

Has India’s Finance Minister accomplished the impossible? He certainly has drawn attention to the sadness, the misery and the hopelessness of farmers by merely promising to bail out the banks that have lent to farmers. That one promise — even if airy — has jolted a whole nation into action. Is he a perceptive blues musician who is no vocalist but knows how to play some wind instruments? Is he the genius that can pull, pluck and twang the strings too?

**The onion test**

Onions are pungently flavourful. They are breathtaking. It is tough to suppress the truth that they have been eaten. Some courage is required. If you
have it, take the onion test. Do you feel happy and relieved when the government bans the export of onion in order to bring down its price? Consider what Delhi’s Chief Minister did in July 2007. Anticipating a rise in price, the Chief Minister met India’s Agriculture Minister with two demands. First, onion export from Maharashtra should be banned. Second, Maharashtra’s onions should be routed to Delhi to keep prices low.

The chairman of Delhi Agriculture Marketing Board (DAMB) did not protest. The DAMB is a statutory body that is supposed to help farmers get the best price possible. It did not matter that Maharashtra’s onion producers would have a lower price realisation and a much lower income or worse — a loss — as a result of the ban. Delhi consumes about 400 tonnes of onion per day. To secure this supply, it was considered perfectly right to ban the export of thousands of tonnes of onions.

Please put your hand to your hearts and ask what India’s farmers are to you. They are your suppliers, right? It is their duty to work the farms, toil under the merciless sun and move their harvest to your larder and table, right? Their freedom to sell what they produce at a price they choose to can be curtailed and crushed, right?

Many of us think that farmers are merely an inconvenient but unavoidable link between the soil and our tables. We think it is both necessary and defensible to treat them as our undeclared serfs. So, we do not hesitate to seek a ban on the export of rice and pulses. The export of basmati rice is acceptable because rich farmers grow basmati. But the export of ordinary rice should be and can be banned because the small farmer grows such rice. The export of wheat and sugar too can be and will be banned because farmers are our serfs.

Therefore, farmers will get what we think they should get, and no more. They cannot seek what they want. But we can seek what we want. We will get what we think we should get. Everyone else has all the rights, including the ‘right to strike’. But farmers are seldom given all these rights. They are not India’s first-class citizens, are they? They are merely a component of the framework of essential commodities. They are here to serve us. They are here to serve our interests.
Ousted from the markets

Our interests would be jeopardised if farmers belonged fully to the markets for inputs, information, output and prices. So there is an elaborate system of subsidies. Subsidies are supposed to protect farmers. Some think subsidies mollycoddle farmers. But subsidies shackle them while protecting our interests at our option.

Some subsidies are put options. These allow others to sell inputs to farmers at the highest possible prices. All other subsidies are call options. These allow consumers to buy farm output at the lowest possible prices. Farmers buy inputs at the highest possible prices. Farmers sell output at the lowest possible prices. Surely, the waiver will do nothing to raise farm incomes, can it?

Farmers are the option sellers in India. The subsidies are the option prices we pay. All risks and all losses belong to farmers. All certainty and all profits will belong to us. Thus, farming incomes derived from rural enterprise and resourcefulness are suppressed and crushed. These incomes are also exposed to high risks. We are the cause of the sadness, misery and hopelessness of farmers, are we not?

Ousted from their lands

Farmers produce to serve our interests. They own their lands too to serve our interests. Nothing is theirs. Consider the objectives of economic development, industrialisation, better infrastructure and global competitiveness. Towards pursuing one or more of these, it is perfectly right to forcibly acquire their lands.

Lands can be and will be forcibly acquired by the government. The Land Acquisition Act of 1894 makes such acquisition legal. Farmers have no choice but to acquiesce to the forcible acquisition. It is not ironical that Independent India has to use a pre-Independence Act to snatch farmers' lands. It is not ironical too that Republic India has to use a monarchical Act to pack off farmers from their lands. Humane subtleties such as fertile and not fertile lands and fair market prices and unfair low prices are presented and discussed to hide the iron fist.

To understand how hypocritical we are, we need to observe the bid-by-auction for cricket players that will play in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Cricketers had the volition to play the IPL or to stay away. No one could be coerced. No one could be short-changed. The big-bang wicket-keepers, batters, bowlers and fielders got the better bids. The big bids reflected the future cash inflows to the bidding team's owners. We cheered all of these. We called it an exciting innovation.

But farmers can be coerced. They can be short-changed. The price paid for their lands will not have to reflect the future cash inflows to the new owners. Farmers do not have the volition to offer their lands, if at all they wish to, to the highest bidders. Farmers do not have the right to hold on to their lands. They are the orphans of the motherland, aren't they?
ESTABLISHING FARMERS' COMMODITY INTEREST GROUPS (CIGS) IN YOUR DISTRICTS

Join ATMA a programme initiate by Government It will provide assistance in increasing productivity, quality, marketing and lobbying

1. Specific Objectives of the Project
   a. Commodity specific producers (Fish in this case) will be organized into Commodity Interest Groups/Societies
   b. To be networked at different levels up to the state, National level and at each level specific activities will be performed.
   c. The CIGs will be assisted in improving productivity, quality, Marketing Linkages.
   d. CIGs will be empowered to deal their organizational issues independently and manage their institutions.
   e. And all other issues that are required to be managed by an independent farmers association.

2) Issues confronted by Farmers

2-a) At the local level
   1. Labour problems.
   2. Lack of remunerative price.
   3. Price rise of inputs.
   4. Natural calamities.
   5. Non availability of proper technical Advice.
   7. Stagnations in productivity specially in varietals.
   8. No direct marketing.
   9. Non availability of sufficient credit to tenant farmers.
   10. No information on government schemes and programmes.
   11. Insufficient subsidized supply of quality seed.
   14. Non availability of technology related to value addition.

April, 2008
2-b) **Multiple Ministries/Departments/Institutions to be handled by Fish Farmers CIGs at State and National Level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department under Govt. of India</th>
<th>Department Under State Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Credit (Banks)/ interest rates &amp; crop insurance</td>
<td>1. Irrigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Export/Import Policy</td>
<td>3. Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Market Yards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Organizational Structures**

Networking of the commodity farmers groups at different levels includes

1. The Village will comprise of one or more Commodity Farmers Groups (CIGs) or Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies.

2. The District Farmers Association Federated from the Village/Mandal/Block level groups.

3. The State Commodity Farmers Federation.


4. **Activities of the Project**

1. Farmers / Societies / Associations active participation at all stages.

2. To promote best practices of production.

3. Enhance skills of the farmers through HRD for management of institutions understanding of national International policy and lobbying.

4. To establish own value addition units and direct marking both with in the country and internationally.

5. To establish linking with private sector for processing and value addition and assist farmers groups in MOUs, Arbitrations and other issues.

6. Linking them to public organization like – universities, research institutes, government, bank etc.

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**April, 2008**
Flow chart depicting the Activities of CIGs / Farmers Associations at Different Levels

**INSTITUTION**

- National Commodity Council

**ACTIVITIES**

- CACP
  - Policies / Lobbying
- F.C.I
  - Taxes / Incentives
  - Info. on National and International market trends - Supply / Demands
  - Credit - interest - insurance

- State Commodity Federation

- Quality Inputs supply
- Identifying Marketing Partners
- Irrigation/Electricity

- District Commodity Association

- Extension / Training Programmes
- Establishing own Processing units.
- Curtailing Exploitation at Markets

- Village CIGS/ MACS

- Trainings on Best Production Practices
- Providing Quality Inputs
- Mechanization / Labour
- Water conservation practices
- Godown - Hypothecation

For further detail contact: Federation of Farmers Associations, 209, Vijaya Towers, Santhi Nagar, Hyderabad, A P-500 028, Ph : 040 - 23319643, Fax : 040 - 23378046
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April, 2008
"GROWING INDIA"

Jyoti Sahare, P.D.
FFA, Hyderabad

A universally recognized that, Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy, and a farmer is the base of the agriculture. A farmer technically known as agriculturist, a scientist, a artist, who is doing farming since the time of civilization. History proved that, during the excavation in Mohindezaro and Harrapa, technique of farming was found. Therefore, it can say, the skill of farming is running in blood of farmer. A farmer never goes any school to run plough in field, or say, never farmwomen attend any training for using sickle in field. Agriculture is an art comes from family to family. Unfortunately, a conservator of natural resources is became a waiver, called as a surrender of known right or privilege.

Can Indian suppose to Indian farmer surrender his right of farming?

Answer could be No, as result, Indian govt wake up and made historically decision to keep farmer stick with farming.

At last thing is growing, India's Finance Minster announced waiver package, Certainly this waive off will be a relief for many and going against many economical principals. But it will be interesting that will it lead to better credit availability for the farmers in short and long run perspective.

Expert, said that the waiver package is a path braking event and good sign that government is taking efforts and investing in bottom of the pyramid.

Keeping on track, Since last 5 year the issue of farmers' indebtedness and farmers suicide becomes a matter of intense debate, whenever, the root cause of the current crisis is not indebtedness alone - indebtedness is just a symptom. The underlying causes are stagnation in agriculture, increasing production and marketing risks, institutional vacuum and lack of alternative livelihood opportunities.

Govt of India appoint an Expert committee to discover the source of debt, accordingly, the data revealed that, total debt of farmer households was estimated at Rs.1.12 lakh crore in 2003; of which Rs.65,000 crore was from institutional agencies and Rs.48,000 crore from non-institutional agencies. Private moneylenders accounted for Rs.29,000 crore and traders Rs.6,000 crore. About Rs.18,000 crore of debt from non-institutional sources, a major portion of which was from moneylenders, carried an interest rate greater than 30 per cent. Clearly, there is an urgent need to relieve the farmers from private debt carrying high interest rate by transferring it to institutional agencies.

April, 2008
## Distribution of Debt by Sources across Major States: 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Institutional</th>
<th>Non-Institutional</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Cooperatives</td>
<td>Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>34.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>4.9</td>
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<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>31.5</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
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<td>0.5</td>
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<td>16.9</td>
<td>50.1</td>
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<td>Haryana</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>42.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>53.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>55.7</td>
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<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>51.2</td>
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<td>West Bengal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>38.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>17.6</td>
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<td>Bihar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>27.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Source:

In all states which had reported suicides among farmers, the incidence as well as debt per farmer household was high. However, sources of debt varied. For example, in Maharashtra, the major source was institutional agencies, whereas in Andhra Pradesh, non-institutional agencies accounted for bulk of the debt. Definitely a waiver package could help to small and marginal farmers to complete relief from the debt. Implementation of package is more important rather than its announcement, as the success of any effort is depend on its appropriate implementation, Indian farmer suffered lot pain of indebtedness, some farmers could not tolerate and commit suicide. The picture couldn’t portrait again, as its very panic. Farmers cooperative, Federation, NGO, Youth club and Mahila mandal needs to take care of that the complete debts has been eliminated from their jurisdiction area. As per debt expert committee the list of 100 agriculturally less developed and distressed districts has been made on the basis of credit help.
Human beings and plants are living organisms and are susceptible to diseases. Humans by virtue of Research in Medical field have overcome dreaded diseases and increase their lifespan.

Similarly crops (plants), the livelihood for 600 million farmers are also susceptible to diseases. Pesticides are plant medicines. Indian farmers loose Rs. 90,000 Crores crops every year due to pests. This huge loss represents their investment and income to farmers families and food security of the country.

However the wise men of Liberalization levied 10% excise on pesticides in 1994 and by 2008 it stands at 16%. Excise on Pet dog foods, Pan Masala and Walkmans is reduced but some how forgotten about pesticides.

What shall we (Farmers, M.P’s & Intellectuals) do about it?

P.C quotes Thirukkai eloquently. So let see what the Saint says about pesticide.

"Erinum nanral eruidudal kattapin
Nirinum nanradan kappu."

"More important than ploughing is manuring; then, after weeding,
More vital than Water Management is Plant Protection."
(Source: TIRUKKAL, Vol-2. Editor Dr. S. M. DIAZ, IPS. Ph.D.)

I request those who read this appeal to write to P.C and remind him that we all want best medicine at low cost, so also the farmers(66% small) who need best pesticides at low cost. Ask P.C to totally waive off excise duty on pesticides!

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Send your comments to chengal.p@gmail.com.