Advantages of Liberalizing
(removing Controls and restrictions)

SUGAR SECTOR TO SUGARCANE GROWERS

Concept for Discussion
By
CONSORTIUM OF
INDIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS (CIFA)
Advantages of Liberalizing (removing Controls and restrictions) Sugar Sector to Sugarcane Growers.

Concept for Discussion

By

Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA)

Unity is strength & knowledge is power
Understand the problem & work unitedly.

Registered Office :
P. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General,
Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA)
8/32, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110 008
Ph.: 011 25842111; Fax: 011 25842123
E-mail:cifa@indianfarmers.org
cifa_delhi@yahoo.com
Website: www.indianfarmers.org

Administrative Office :
P. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General,
Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA)
Flat No.209, Vijnay Towers,
Shantinagar,
Hyderabad – 500 028
Ph.: 040 23319643; Fax: 040 23378046
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CIFA is of the view that the present evaluation system on above issues by the state officials and verified by the GOI officials is totally outdated and is not beneficial to the farmers. CIFA believes that the District Collector who is an IAS is as efficient or inefficient as that of the GOI and State IAS officers.

42. Strategies and programs for future development of Indian Agriculture:

a. Separate Union Agriculture Budget comprising agriculture, food processing, irrigation, exports and other connected subjects.

b. To make CACP as an autonomous institution and implement its recommendations.

c. To declare Minimum Support Price with Cost of Production + 50%.

d. To establish procurement centres at the District Level by providing Rs. 15 Crores as a revolving fund.

e. To provide Rs. 10 crores as risk mitigation fund to compensate crop losses (due to pests, diseases, flood, famine and cyclones) by empowering District Collectors.

f. To empower Panchayat Raj and Gram Sabhas to prepare Agriculture Planning.

g. To provide 50% subsidy and loan at 7% for all agriculture machines.
Amongst the 125 million Indian Farmers families, not 1% parents want their children to continue in Agriculture and insists to send them away to towns and cities to do any work.

If a farmers' activist tells him that his conditions are not improving because of the Government negative and restrictive policies and also the organized sectors are exploiting him, he looks with a blank face. He doesn't understand what is meant by a policy. What are the political and administrative divisions of GOI, States, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers etc. What are the functionalities of Parliament, what is an enactment, what are organized sectors, what are market trends, what is a consumer preference, what is the meaning of quality, what is pollution, what is this environment protection and all debates in Parliament, TVs, News Papers makes no meaning for him. He is so nave that when the President of India or the President of America come and ask him he will only raise the issues that is confronting him as on that day "it could be non availability of seed, in the beginning of crop season – not getting proper electricity during the water shortage and not getting profitable price after harvest."

A farmer is habituated to deal with uncertain nature, the animals and the Governments. So he has developed an instinctive behavior which he never exposes. He doesn't believe the politician, bureaucrat, businessmen, farmers' leaders or even the God Almighty. He developed shrewdness that he has to align himself to some local political leader so that the leader will help him in getting Government Subsidies, social certificate, admission in a school, or if there is a problem in a Police Station or Thahsildar. He has experienced that without bribe, none of the officials will work. The alternative is that since he has no money, his political connection will help him in getting the things done. Over a period of time he has realized attaching himself to these local political leaders, he has to participate in the meetings whenever asked for by him.
He knows that he will be provided with free transport, Biryani and alcohol. So he doesn’t mind losing 1 day wages. He has a tactic understanding with the leader that in any elections of Panchayat, MLA or Parliament, the local Leader will pay money for each vote in his family. He is not worried about the character of the candidate or the policies of the political party. In fact most of these farmers are divided on political or caste oriented leaders.

The simple farmer has noticed that his own kith and kin fellow villagers who got into jobs, businesses, professions, contracts or politics have improved themselves by leaps and bounds. When he goes to their house in town, he sees all the personal comforts of Home appliances, vehicles, etc. And over a period of time he observes that the fellow has constructed a house, purchased a vehicle, got his children well settled and that he is leading a comfortable retired life. When he comes back home he curses everybody for his fate.

B. What the hell shall we do to get out this ugly situation?

Every farmer should realize that he is all alone in this world. It is foolish to think that politicians, bureaucrats or businessmen will solve his problems. It is also impractical to seek assistance from his relatives, friends or his community men. He has to firstly understand what are his problems? Why they have come? What are the programs to solve them? And how do we implement them?

C. Guidelines and solutions:

CIFA wants that the liberalization concept paper has to be discussed in detailed by all the sugarcane growers in India. They must understand what are the present controls and restrictions! - Levy, Release Mechanism, restrictions on exports, pricing of cane etc., will liberalization policies benefit them, if so how to get the policies implemented? What is free market economy? What is the relevance of international markets
and how is an Indian sugarcane grower connected to world pricing? Is sugarcane growers and sugar industry having a long term understanding will lead to win win situation? Will it help the farmers in increasing production and getting better price? Are farmers willing to work on a revenue sharing basis with Industry without any interference of Politicians (Governments)?

2. Why CIFA is Initiating a Debate on Sugar Sector Liberalization?

Sugarcane is a familiar crop for all farmers in India. The Sugar industry provides inputs and also purchases the sugarcane. The price is fixed by Government of India (FRP) and State Governments (SAP). In the past few years, the sugarcane growers are not getting profitable price and also payments in time. The cost of production has also increased.

Since 2008, CIFA has analyzed these issues and prepared a concept note (details in the brochure) for discussions.

On 13.06.2012 CIFA submitted a representation to Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee which is appointed to study “Deregulation of Sugar Sector”.

To keep pressure on Government of India, CIFA will be implementing the following program.

3. Programs by CIFA (Sugarcane Growers Associations) in association with Co-operative and Private Sugar Factories from May - November 2012

**May - June:** Sensitizing sugarcane farmers on Liberalization. Factory wise conferences (300 - 500).
- To pass resolutions.
- To invite your MPs and MLAs to the conference.
- To constitute committees at Factory/District/State level.
- Give wide media coverage.
July - August:

➢ Leading delegation to State Capital to meet Chief Minister - Sugar Minister - officers.
➢ To take MPs and MLAs to the Chief Minister.
➢ To submit representation demanding State Government support Liberalization.
➢ To meet leaders of other political parties and demand their support.
➢ To organize press conference at state level.
➢ To constitute state level coordination committee.

September'2012:

To go to Delhi to meet Prime Minister, Commerce, Agriculture and Finance Ministers, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and others.

➢ To take your MPs and State Ministers to Delhi.
➢ To meet leaders of other political parties and demand their support.

02nd October'2012: Gandhi Jayanti – Sugarcane Growers
Liberation Day.

October'2012: Conference at Delhi - Review by National
Sugarcane Growers.

P. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General, CIFA
Date: 19.05.2012
4. Representation submitted to Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee on 10th May’ 2012.
To
DR. C. RANGARAJAN & Members of the Committee on Deregulation of Sugar Sector,
Government of India,
Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
‘E’ Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road
New Delhi-110011
Respected Sirs,

CIFA appeals to Hon’ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, to announce sugar sector liberalization on 2nd October, 2012 “Gandhi Jayanti” Day to construed as Liberation of Sugarcane Farmers.

Non Liberalization and the Controls and Restrictions on sugar sector by Government of India and States Government have hampered the growth of sugar sector.

With the Technological Advancements in improving cane productivity, recovery and production of Ethanol and Power Generation has made sugar sector a highly profitable for the farmers, industry and investors including FDI. In addition it will generate employment and save Foreign Exchange etc.

1. CIFA submits to the Committee for removal of sugar from Essential Commodities Act, Levy Sugar Obligation, Regulating the Sugar Release Controls Restrictions on Exports and also control on monopolies (detailed note is enclosed).

2- Enactment of Sugar Farmers and Industry Arbitration Authority

After liberalizing the Sugar Sector the Government of India must enact a legislation for Establishing Arbitration Authority at different
levels – District, State and National level to act as a mediator to settle disputes between the sugarcane farmers and sugar factories (Model in line with Tribunal).

3- CIFA suggests the following Price Sharing Formula:

a. The minimum price sharing formula between sugarcane farmers and sugar industry is to be fixed considering the cultivation costs of sugarcane with a mandatory provision of revenue sharing at a minimum of 70% throughout the country at the field level delivery. This price includes sale price of Sugar, Ethanol, Power and all other by-products.

b. A specific amendment is to be included to the millers for timely harvest and payment of the procurement of sugarcane from the cane grower.

4- Private Sugar Factories and Sugarcane Growers Supply MoU

a. Under each private sugar factory Farmers will enter into an agreement with Factory as supply members for duration of 3 years. The minimum and Maximum supply can be agreed upon.

b. The sugarcane growers will establish an association/committee through elections for a period of 3 years.

c. The committee will be recognized by the factory management and the government for arbitration/negotiations etc.

d. It will be obligatory on the part of factory to arrange for the supply of inputs fertilizer, extension services and mechanization.

e. Each Private Sugar Factory may consider member cane Growers'/family Insurance, Health and Education be taken up as a Corporate Social Responsibilities.
5- Encouraging Establishment of Sugar SEZ

The Government of India is requested to consider establishment of sugar SEZ to produce International Standard Refined Sugar and also ethanol. It will help FDI and also establishment of modern machinery and technologies. It will also help the farmers to have a long term contract farming with assured income.

6- Development of sugar sector in backward states

The backward states of BIHAR, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam and Madhya Pradesh have vast scope for establishing sugar complexes. In the states large area is provided with irrigation and electricity supply. The lands are well suited and the farmers have inclination to grow sugarcane.

In these states Sugar sector will enable power generation, employment in addition to ethanol which are critical in these backward states. The Government of India should incentivize the establishment of sugar complexes in backward states.

7- Increased investments (Private/FDI) in Agriculture Sector:

Sugar sector is an area which will attract private investments including FDI. The investments are in the shape of Agriculture Research, Sugar Factory, Sugar Refineries, Ethanol/ Spirit, Power Generation, Organic Products and many other products. The Government will generate huge revenue on various products mentioned above.

8- CIFA demand Agriculture liberalization policies

The slow growth of agriculture sector is due to insufficient investments by Government, private and FDI. Farmers are not allowed to have access to best technologies. The Controls and restrictions have hampered the sectorial growth. It is therefore extremely important that:
Government of India to initiate **liberalization policies in agriculture sector including FDI in retail, investment in agri research, irrigation and power generation.**

Yours sincerely,

(Satnam Singh Behru)    (Raghunath R. Patil)    (K. Prabhakar Reddy)
President               Maharashtra              Andhra Pradesh

(K.V. Rajkumar)         (G. Ajeethan)           (K. Shantha Kumar)
Tamil Nadu              Tamil Nadu              Karnataka

(Ajay Singh Tyagi)    (P. Chengal Reddy)
Uttarakhand            Secretary General
5. The Challenge before the Indian Sugarcane Growers (Farmers)

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

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

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

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

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

7. Unitig Sugarcane growers of India by CIFA:

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

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

This document identified not only the problems and conflicts in sugar sector but has found a solution to solve them. From 2011, CIFA organized sugarcane growers meetings in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,
District/zonal and other meetings for over 60 days. The time available to them to spend with the farmers especially during the agriculture season is limited. It is for this reason that 95% of the farmers never met an agriculture extension officer.

The most important persons in the lives of farmers are traders (seed, fertilizer, pesticides) and Agro Processing industries (sugar factory, milk chilling centre, jute, rice and dall mills etc.). The traders provide credit and also supply inputs as when required by the farmers. They also provide cash to farmers occasionally. The processing industry provides credit and technical services and also procures the produce from the farmers. In many villages, it is a lifelong association between the farmer and Trader & Industry.

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

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

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

The industry by introducing mechanisation will **reduce physical drudgery**, dependency on labour and **timely operation** which improves the **profitability to the growers.**
Farmer is not capable of understanding the quality parameters which come into existence every year due to individual consumer preferences and industrial (pharmaceuticals, cool drinks, ice creams, etc.) needs. The Industry will be constantly identifying new avenues for value addition as has been done in the past 10 years by introducing co-generation, ethanol production, bio-fertilizer etc.

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

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

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

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

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

Between 2007 and 2011, CIFA organized interactions with sugarcane growers in all states of India and discussed about the problems and sought their views to evolve suitable solutions.
It was agreed by majority of the sugarcane growers that the restrictions and controls on sugar sector must be totally removed. It was also suggested that the growers and industry should work in more harmony. A long term understanding between the growers and industry will help in having backward – forward linkage. It is also agreed that sugarcane growers and sugar industry should work together on issues that are mutually beneficial.

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

11. Scope for Corporate Social Responsibility by Sugar Industries:

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

12. Futuristic Sugar Technologies:

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

It is to be understood that Indian Sugarcane growers and Industry partnership is critical to develop the overall competitiveness to confront the global challenges and utilize opportunities.
13. Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee:

Dr. Manmohan Singh appointed a Committee headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan on Deregulation of Sugar Sector. CIFA was invited by the committee and the representation was submitted on 10.05.2012 (details in brochure).

14. Future Opportunities for development of Sugar Complexes:

Sugarcane renamed as "Kalpa Vriksha" by CIFA will be a major agro processing industry that will change the face of not only Indian remote rural villages but also the entire Indian Agriculture Economy.

Sugar technologies has enabled sugarcane to increase the biomass so that bagasse can produce 200-300 MW of electricity, in the remotest part of India such as Madhuvani in Bihar, Dispur in Orissa, Goraghpur in Uttar Pradesh, Danvera in Chhattisgarh, Balaghat and Reva in Madhya Pradesh. A newspaper/rayon factory with 100 tons per day can be established in these areas. Ethanol can be mixed up to 80% by the local people in the Autos, 2 wheelers, 3 wheelers, buses and lorrys.

It is to be noted that if electricity has to be supplied 24hrs., 365 days in year to these above mentioned areas in backward states of India 1000 Km transmission lines have to be laid at a very high cost. The line losses will be about 30%. Similarly, for providing petrol in these remote parts, India has to import petroleum products from 5000 Km of Iran and refine it in Mumbai and transport it 2000 Km to these remote areas.

15. Establishing Sugar SCZs:

In view of the huge opportunity for Indian Sugar in International market on long term basis, India can allow sugar SCZs. The present
turnover of sugar industry is Rs. 80,000 crores and it can grow up to Rs. 1,40,000 crores by the year 2020. Sugar sector needs an investment of Rs. 25000 to Rs. 30000 crores that can be invested by private sector and also FDI. Sugar sector are going to be the largest employers of rural youth in sugar industries, Nurseries, machinery operators, transporters and other areas.

16. Existing Controls and Restrictions:

Levy Sugar Obligation / Procurement of PDS Sugar:

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

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

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

It is requested that sugar factories should be freed from the obligation of supply of levy sugar.
17. Removal of Sugar from Essential Commodities Act:

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

As per study by A.C. Nielsen, nearly 74% of sugar consumption is accounted for by bulk commercial consumers in the manufacture of beverages (cool drinks), biscuit, confectionery and sweetmeat and for High Income households. The balance 26% is accounted for by the household segment. With dominant sugar consumption coming from commercial segment, there is no need to treat sugar as an essential commodity. It is therefore requested that ECA be removed.

18. Regulated Release Mechanism, Movement etc.:

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

All these controls are adversely affecting the sugar industry’s capacity to save / generate surplus affecting payment of a remunerative / adequate price to farmers on time. Year on year, cane price arrears get build up due to such controls which frequently leads to cyclicalidity in sugar production in India.
Marketing is a function of business and enterprise and best left to competitive forces in a liberalized economy like ours. All regulations on sale and distribution of sugar including release mechanism and stock holding limits on bulk consumers as well as traders should be done away with.

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

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

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

20. Long Term Export Policy:

Cyclical fluctuations in sugarcane and sugar output currently witnessed may be evened out over a period of time under decontrol. Imports, if required, should be met through raw sugar, either under Advance Licensing Scheme or under OGL. The duty structure should be calibrated in a manner so as to ensure payment of competitive cane price to the farmers vis-à-vis other crops so that the country is self-sufficient to meet the domestic requirement of sugar. The policy should encourage export to enable India emerge as a reliable exporter of sugar on a long term basis in the international market and develop a brand image. It will earn huge foreign exchange for India.
21. Sugar Development Fund:

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

22. Ethanol Price to be linked to petrol:

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

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

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

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

23. Co-generation of Power:

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

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

24. Removal of Compulsory Sugar Packaging in Jute Bags:

The continuation of Jute Packaging Materials Act (JPMA), 1987, enforcing 100% compulsory packing of sugar and grains in jute bags is putting unnecessary financial burden on the sugar factories. There is no logic in continuing with this Act to protect the jute industry.

Raw jute production has not been increasing in proportion to the increase in production of sugar and grains.

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

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

There is huge difference (about Rs.20/-) in cost of 50 kg HDPE bags and cost of 50 kg jute bags which translate into
District/zonal and other meetings for over 60 days. The time available to them to spend with the farmers especially during the agriculture season is limited. It is for this reason that 95% of the farmers never met an agriculture extension officer.

The most important persons in the lives of farmers are traders (seed, fertilizer, pesticides) and Agro Processing industries (sugar factory, milk chilling centre, jute, rice and dall mills etc.). The traders provide credit and also supply inputs as when required by the farmers. They also provide cash to farmers occasionally. The processing industry provides credit and technical services and also procures the produce from the farmers. In many villages, it is a lifelong association between the farmer and Trader & Industry.

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

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

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

The industry by introducing mechanisation will reduce physical drudgery, dependency on labour and timely operation which improves the profitability to the growers.
6. Problems confronted by Sugar Sector under the present regime

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

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

7. Uniting Sugarcane growers of India by CIFA:

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

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

This document identified not only the problems and conflicts in sugar sector but has found a solution to solve them. From 2011, CIFA organized sugarcane growers meetings in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,
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to be given only if the factory or institution gets profit is converted as a part of regular salary by cohering the government. The organized sectors, who constitute barely 10% of the National population have become like praetorian guards capturing all the power centres in India. The most powerful people in India including Prime Minister or Chief Minister do not dare to curtail their power or privileges.

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

30. Castes are replaced by classes in India:

The castes which dominated India for thousands of years are replaced by classes. In India, the most privileged class Bureaucrats, Doctors, Actors, Pilots, Engineers, Advocates, Contractors, Bank Employees, Teachers, Scientists, Economists, Journalists, Politicians, etc. etc.. A strong bondage of brotherhood exists amongst these classes. These classes have no hesitation to unite and fight to go to any extent for their career orientation salaries and facilities.

They will protect their fellow classmen by resorting to every means without consideration for Constitution of India, or discomforts to their fellow citizens. The most important aspect of these classes is they are extremely happy to get social integration by inter marrying, establishing exclusive clubs and other activities.

As a rule, the so called classes or organized sectors adopt a policy of “you scratch my back and I will scratch yours". A strike by peons or drivers will never be opposed by the supervisors. Because any increase in the salary of peons will automatically benefits them.
31. Understanding politics - what is Rajaneeti?

Parties are like Industries and politicians are like managers, supervisors and workers in an organized sector. Like an Industry, Government they get promotions and accordingly benefits. They connive with other organized sectors to share the benefits. For example, in a market yard, the commission agents have permanent link with the political leaders. If there is a change in the Chairmanship of the Market yard, the commission agents will automatically give him his due share. This happens at every level in India.

The politicians as a rule do not take farmers issues to a breaking point especially in regard to unorganized sectors like farmers. But all the political parties will unanimously support a strong organized sector demands.

We have observed that all political parties invariably support demands by Government employees and trade unions. In 2004 and 2005 the 5th and 6th Pay Commissions were unanimously approved. But the same political parties did not agitate for the implementation of National Commission on Farmers under Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee report.

32. Farmers must limit their involvement with political affairs

What farmers must understand is that they should not get entangled with any political party on day to day basis. Farmer should realize that as a citizen in a democracy, he has a sacred responsibility to
exercise his Vote (but not sell it for money). He should, at best can spend a day or a week canvassing to the party or for the candidate of his choice.

Farmers also should realize that the local political leaders are conducts between political bosses and masses. The local leader has to mobilize people for the leaders meetings and of course distribute money and liquor at the time of elections.

It will be foolish for farmers to believe that the political system will solve their problems. Farmers, like Government employees, labour unions, teachers unions, auto unions, bankers unions etc., should unite cutting across caste, religion and political affiliations and fight for their rights.

33. The Double Standards of NGOs:

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

But the same NGOs do not oppose medicines, mobiles, cars, aeroplanes manufactured by Multi National Companies in India. Because, they and their family members cannot live without them.
*Mumbai citizens use Rs. 250/- crores worth pesticides to control cockroaches & mosquitoes.

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

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

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

34. Technologies are saviour of India:

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

However, every technology has side effects. Anti Biotic always have side effects for certain period, so also, DDT etc. It is claimed that mobile usage will cause brain tumour. Accidents occur due to electricity shocks, domestic gas and other technologies. But it doesn't mean that people should not use them.
It is the agriculture technologies of hybrid seeds, fertilizer and pesticides that have made India self sufficient in food. But, the challenges of Indian Farmers after 2012 are complex. Our population will be increasing from 120 crores (2010) to 150 crores (2050). Our Agriculture land area is shrinking as it is diverted to infrastructure (irrigation projects, roads, mines etc.) industries and urbanization. The consumption of milk, meat, vegetables, by middleclass Indians is increasing. Farmers have to produce food, feed, fodder and fuel. This puts great stress on farming methodology.

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

35. What is great about technologies? - India is using GMOs since 30 years:

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

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

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

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

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

37. **Without huge Investments Agriculture cannot progress:**

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

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

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

The process of Liberalization both under UPA and NDA supported by all regional parties bypassed farmers. The reason is that the farmers are the largest vote banks and the political parties do not want to unite them as they will become a threat to their supremacy. The political system also want to retain control on agri sector of controlling exports, imports, price fixation, procurement, etc.

Political interests always look at populist schemes of doles as a means to keep control on rural vote banks which helps them in retaining their power. At the state level, farmer-centric institutions of cooperative societies, banks, sugar factories and market yards are used as a leverage of political patternage.

39. Consequence of Farmers neglected in the liberalization era:

The government control on free trading which prevented profitable price to farmers, increasing investments, inability to provide risk mitigation on natural calamities has led to farmers' suicides in crops like paddy and in states like Bengal.

The cumulative effect of neglect of farm sector is continuing 30,000 farmers suicides year after year. 40 million rural people migrating every year. Youth refusing to work in agriculture. 46% Farmers leaving farming, Agriculture growth stagnation at around 2%.
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1. A. Agony of the Indian Farmers

A young farmer in all the 50,00,000 villages of India is finding it very difficult to get a girl to marry him. A farmer's family when they attend a marriage or any social function is made to sit in the last row (the fact is they prefer to sit in the last row because the lady has not jewellery [mortgaged or sold] or wearing a decent saree, of course cannot afford to use cosmetics of powder, lipstick etc.). His relatives who are working as employees or businessmen or professionals avoid him because they are afraid that he may demand for loan and always be complaining about his condition. He is more or less an outcaste in his social circles.

Every farmer after getting into farming at the age of 16 or 17 confronts continuous uncertainties (same problems) day after day, week after week and year after year. He is not sure whether he will get the required loan in time. He is not sure whether the quality of seed, fertilizer and pesticides are good. He is not sure whether the Government will supply irrigation water in time or what time will the electricity will be supplied and whether the extension officer will come to his village. Incidentally, the God Almighty is also highly uncertain about providing timely rains of late; he is busy with rich people.

After working for 6 months, when he takes his produce to the market, he doesn't know why the Commission Agent deducts 10% towards low quality and 10% as commission. He is confused and bewildered as why is he not getting guaranteed income and there is no improvement in his living conditions, in spite of working 14 hours a day and 365 days an year. He cannot understand why the promises made by political parties and the officials are not solving his problems permanently or giving him economic security or personal comfort?
h. To democratise all farmer institutions – Cooperative Societies, Market Yards, Milk, Sugar and other industries.

i. To increase GOI Agriculture Research Budget to 2%.

j. Incentivize by giving 200% tax exemption for Indian Private and Foreign Direct Investments in Agriculture research & Extension, Farmers Training, Soil testing, Irrigation projects, cold and cold storage, refrigerated vans and agro processing Industries.

k. Every state to establish State Agriculture Planning Commission.

l. MGNREGA to be linked with production activity.

m. Government of India to provide 1 time investment for all pending irrigation projects to be completed in 3 years time (2015) to encourage Private sector to invest.

* For further details Contact CIFA Sugarcane Commodity Council.
a. CIFA Representative:

Shri. Satnam Singh Behru, Punjab (9814149077); Shri. Raghunath R Patil, Maharashtra (09422406188); Yogesh Dahiya, UP (09412016863);
Shri. K. Prabhakar Reddy, AP (9866399706); Shri. Giri, Tamil Nadu (09843613222); Shri. Raj Kumar, Tamil Nadu (09443538441);
Shri. Thanikachalam, Tamil Nadu (09443127251); Shri. Shantha Kumar, Karnataka (09448060640); Shri. Basavaraj Ingin, Karnataka (09448041733); Shri. Jayesh Patel, Gujarat (09924381999).

b. National Cooperative Sugar Federation:

Mr. Vinay Kumar, Managing Director, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd., Ph.: 011 26263696/7; E-mail: nfcsf@spectranet.com; Mr. Sanjay Babar, MD, Maharashtra Sugar Fed.; Prof. Jayantilal B. Patel, Chairman, Sahakari Khand Udyog MAandal Ltd., [9825146591]; Mr. Ankushrao Tope, Ex-MP, Maharashtra[942207200; 9881185111];

c. Indian Sugar Mills Association:

Abinash Verma, Director General, ISMA, Mob.: 09910272662, 011 46037800, E-mail: dgisma@indiansugar.com;

d. The Sugar Technologists' Association of India,

Dr. GSC Rao, President, Ph.: 011 64645069-72.
E-mail: president@staionline.org, edssm@gmail.com;
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 -
CIFA OFFICES

Registered Office:
P. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General
Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA)
8/32, South Patel Nagar. New Delhi - 110 008
Ph.: 011 25842111; Fax: 011 25842123
E-mail: cifa@indianfarmers.org
cifa_delhi@yahoo.com
Website: www.indianfarmers.org

Administrative Office:
P. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General
Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA)
Flat No. 209, Vijaya Towers,
Shanthinagar,
Hyderabad - 500 028
Ph.: 040 23319643; Fax: 040 23378049