

How you can Participate & Contribute?

Farmers Welfare.Org
www.farmerswelfare.org

**Your quality time,
energy & effort would be required
to monitor some of the activities by which
farmers are affected. These could include:**

Observing & monitoring some scheme(s) of government

Observing & monitoring some of the Corporations of Government of India & state government dealing with agriculture such as seed corporations, fertilisers companies, marketing agencies etc.

Keeping in touch with farmers in specific districts to know the ground reality

Based on these activities setup websites & other communication systems to share this critical information with policy planners & citizens

Meet Policy Planners in New Delhi & State capitals to sensitize them on these issues

Other initiatives

- ◆ e-Governance Projects
- ◆ NGO networking
- ◆ Rural Development
- ◆ CSR Projects
- ◆ ICT (Information & Communication Technology) for agriculture and development

Concerned with Farmers Crisis

- ◆ **About 2 Lac Suicides by Farmers (2000-2010)**
- ◆ **40% Farmers want to give up Farming (NSS Survey)**
- ◆ **Shortage of seeds, fertilizers, electricity, irrigation water & credit every year**
- ◆ **About 15 Crore families are affected by Agriculture Development & Problems**

Farmers First *e-Newsletter*

Focus on Issues of Farmers

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Initiated by an IIT alumni (IIT, Delhi, 1975 Electrical)
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Issues of Farmers in India which need attention of Policy Planners & Citizens

Suicides

Two lac suicides in last 10 years
Suicides even in Punjab, Kerala which are supposed to be rich (Due to the acute distress, more than 1500 farmers committed suicide, mainly in Wayanad district, Kerala)

Distress

40 % of farmers want to give up agriculture in India as per NSS survey
40 % farmers are in debt
Large number of farmers have to migrate for work to cities due to poor agriculture, drought or floods
Arrears of several hundred Crore Rupees are yet to be paid by sugar mills to sugar cane growing farmers in many states

Rainfed Agriculture ignored

More than 60 % agriculture area is dependent on rain only but rainfed agriculture is not receiving either attention nor investments on that scale
These areas do not get even 10 % of the budget for agriculture

Poor Management of Infrastructure

Some of the irrigation projects have not been completed for past 20 years
Utilization of irrigation potential is only 50 %
Management of Corporations, Boards, Agencies & Departments is very poor
Almost 50 % posts are lying vacant in many agriculture related departments

Low Income levels

Average net profit on 1 acre of land growing cereals is about Rs 5,000 which gives a net profit of Rs. 10,000 annually for 7 crores marginal farmers
Minimum Support Price (MSP) for food grains always lower than real input costs plus minimum profit. Management costs , depreciation & interest mostly ignored

Disadvantaged Sections Ignored

Landless numbering about 7.5 crores not even considered farmers by Government development schemes

Marginal Farmers- 7.6 Crores (less than 2.5 acre) with average of 1 acre holding are low on priority

Shortages & adulteration

Shortages of seeds, fertilisers, irrigation water
Extreme Electricity shortage- 2-4 hours per day
Spurious seeds, fertilisers & pesticides unchecked in open market

Credit Needs Ignored

Only 50 % provided Kissan Credit Cards
About 50 % of credit requirements met by banking sector

Poor Insurance & Compensation System

Hardly 10 per cent of farmers are covered by crop insurance.
Compensation is practically either not available or given after long delays

Low Government Investments & Growth

Public Investment in agriculture has come down continuously from 34% in 1st plan to 11 % in 10th plan
The investments in agriculture have reduced in past 2 decades & has led to growth rate of only 1.5 % (2007) against industrial growth rate of around 8 %

Markets & Procurement Process against farmers

Procurement Process is not transparent & leads to lots of harassment to farmers
Market yards are totally in control of traders & farmers can not participate in decision making

Low Status of farmer in society

Farmer have lost respect in society
Farmers have no say in decision making or planning for agriculture

Sustainable Model of Agriculture Ignored

Current model of agriculture development is not sustainable either economically, ecologically or for reasons of health
Agriculture intensive areas have problems of soil health, water depletion, increasing incremental cost of production and deteriorating farmers health

Futuristic Issues

Impact of WTO & international trade on farmers
Impact of Climate Change on farmers
Impact of Bio-Technology on Food Security and farmers