



AGRICULTURE AS A MOTOR OF PRO-POOR GROWTH

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THEME PAPER
ROLE OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS IN PRO-POOR POLICY PROCESSES

By

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INDIA



Indian Agriculture -Statistics –Advantages –Disadvantages – Opportunities
 *(Key Issue: Removing Controls &Trade Barriers – Free Market)

S.NO	DETAILS (More details in Annexure – I)
1	<p>Statistics</p> <p>1.1) Land 172 MH - Farmers - 540 million people (110 Million Families)</p> <p>1.2) Production Rice -Wheat - 179 MT – Fruits – Vegetables 189 MT – Milk 100 MT Cotton 30 M Bales</p>
2	<p>Advantages</p> <p>1.1) Cheap Labour - 365 days sun shine – Diverse Agro Regions – crops – animal Husbandry – fisheries</p> <p>1.2) Low Investment – Competitive Agriculture.</p> <p>1.3) Native Crops – Mango – Natural Fiber – Medicinal - Organic</p>

3.

Disadvantages

3.1) Government Controls - Centralized Agriculture Planning – Restrictions – Trade - Prices - Procurement - Processing – Storage - Exports.

3.2) Indian agriculture is stagnating – 400 million malnutrition – children – women – 30,000 Farmers Commit suicides - Rural Unemployment and Social Unrest.

3.3) Muddled policies – suppressed prices – institutional failures

4

Opportunities

4.1) Scope for increasing production - land - Water utilization.

4.2) Scope for investment in agriculture - Finance - Technologies – Markets

4.3) Scope for Diversification - Bio Diesel - Natural Fibers - Aqua – Meat –

4.4) Realization on importance of agriculture and welfare of farmers.

S.NO	<p style="text-align: center;">DETAILS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*(Key Issue : Empowerment of Small Farmers)</p>
3	Needs for small farm sustainability in developing nations
3.1	Agriculture Centric – Farmers based economic – Policies and planning.
3.2	Empowerment and involvement of small farmers in agriculture planning, implementation and management.
3.3	Access to Information – Science – Technologies – Markets – Policies – Consumer choice – global trends – Quality parameters for improving productivity , quality and achieving global competitiveness.
3.4	Removal of controls – Licenses – Restrictions – Monopolies for Free Markets.

3.5	Increased Investments by Governments – private – international – to provide economic equity to small farmers and achieve food security.
3.6	Institutionalization & Legalization of farmer Organizations for studies , analysis lobbying and curtailing Exploitation.
3.7	Partnering with private sector (Indian and International) for Marketing –technology access and utilize global opportunities.
3.8	Join International farmers organizations for common causes.

<p>SL</p> <p>•</p> <p>N</p> <p>O</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DETAILS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*(Key Issue : Networking through CIGS)</p> <p>Key Words FO = Farmers Organizations CIGs = Commodity (Producers) Interest Groups</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Need for establishing a professional (apolitical) small farmers organizations (FOs):</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>In developing nations Pro-farmer policies will be opposed by the organized sectors</p>
<p>4. 2</p>	<p>Farmers empowerment will not be allowed by the political / vested interest.</p>
<p>4. 3</p>	<p>Politicians and administrators will oppose de-centralized agriculture planning.</p>

4. 4	FOs , CIGs can efficiently plan and manage resources to improve productivity, quality and establish own processing and marketing arrangements.
4. 5	FOs / CIGs networked at different levels will have capacity to evolve favourable policies, make institutions accountable, curtail exploitation and lobby.
4. 6	FO / CIGs will enable them establish partnership with Industry / Research / Govts.
4. 7	NGOs working in developing nations cannot network small farmers – NGOs are non-democratic – personalized agenda – limited capacities.

CIFA ACTIVITIE IN INDIA – SUPPORTED BY AGRITERRA

SL. NO	DETAILS <i>*(Key Issues : Small Farmers Partnering with Markets)</i>
1	<p><i>CIFA –Networking Small Farmers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Working as a National Level Farmers Umbrella Organization . (for Non Political FOs)</i> <i>b. Strengthening and activities for Commodity (Producer) Interest Groups (CIGs).</i> <i>c. Prepared Status Papers - Productivity - Policies – Technologies – Markets - Partnerships.</i> <i>d. Sensitizing on technologies IT- BT – Organic – Mechanization – Water Conservation</i>
2	<p><i>CIFA –Programs / Lobby Activities (details : www.indianfarmers.org)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Lobbying with policy makers through Parliament Members Farmers Forum.</i> <i>b. Organized 6 National Farmers Conventions</i> <i>c. Working with Government of India – Budget allocations - Favourable farm Policies.</i> <i>d. Yearly program 2010 for FOs & CIGs finalised.</i> <i>e. Awareness - Seminars- Studies – Documentaries – Magazine – Website</i>

3

CIFA - Partnership Programs

- a. Working with Industry - CII - Processing – Retail – Exporters.***
- b. Working with Commodity Trading – MCX / NCDX***
- c. Working with Research institutions - National and International Research Institutions***
- d. Working with Governments – BARC – Remote Sensing - ATMA.***
- e. Working with Media for creating awareness.***
- f. Working on cultural and social issues.***

4

CIFA – International programs:

- a. Working in partnership with Agriterra.***
- b. Participating in World Bank, USAID discussions.***

**STRATEGIES FOR DONOR COUNTRIES & AGENCIES
IN SMALL FARM SUSTAINABILITY**

S. NO	DETAILS
1.	<p><i>a) To assist in strengthening of existing and proposed FOs & CIGs.</i></p> <p><i>a. Assist in establishment of administrative and training facilities.</i></p> <p><i>b. Assist in Establishing info – centers – Data Collection and Studies – TV Station.</i></p>
2	<p><i>a. To prepare each developing Country farm specific analysis – Policies – Investments – Controls – Technology utilization – value additions – involvement of FOs.</i></p> <p><i>* Use World Bank (WDR) World Development Report 2008 for guidance.</i></p>

3. *To prescribe conditions on receiving countries that farmers organizations must be involved in project / program preparation, implementation and management.*

4 *Studies of farm sector issues in developing nations.*

a. Studies by academic institutions / universities.

b. Coverage through Media / TV .

c. Sending policy makers (MPs delegations)

Annexure – I
NEGLECT OF SMALL FARMERS IN INDIA

S. NO	DETAILS
1.	<p>1.1) Reduction of Investments from 30% in 1980 to 10% - 2007</p> <p>1.2) In adequate infrastructure.</p> <p>1.3) Only 25% of small farmers got credit from Government (Banks) at 7% interest.</p> <p>1.4) 75% small farmers got credit from private sector at 48-60% interest.</p>
2	<p>India's Crop losses - 22 billion dollars due to pests and diseases</p> <p>* India Pesticide usage (167 million hectares) 1.2 billion dollars</p> <p>** USA (172 million hectares) 7 billion dollars.</p> <p>*** EU (110 million hectares) 13 billion dollars.</p>

3.	<i>To prescribe conditions on receiving countries that farmers organizations must be involved in project / program preparation, implementation and management.</i>
4	<i>Fact finding of farm sector issues in developing nations. a. Studies by academic institutions / universities. b. Coverage through Media / TV . c. Sending policy makers (MPs delegations)</i>