

IMAGINE INDIA WITHOUT AGRICULTURE

- ⇒ **Empowerment of Farmers-Technology Access.**
 - ⇒ **Partnering with Industry.**
 - ⇒ **Policy Reforms-Investments**

Presentation To,

Pre-Budget Discussions – 2011-12

By

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GROWTH STIMULANTS & POLICY REFORMS

S.NO.	ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	<p><u>MORDERNAZING AGRICULTURE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MACHANIZATION - WATER CONSUREVATION. - (LABOUR SHORTAGE) - (Physical Drudgery) - (TIMELY MANAGEMENT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Increasing loans with less interest. ⇒ (LIMITED USE OF EQUIPMENT) ⇒ Remove taxes on Agriculture equipment (harvesters – Transplanters). ⇒ Increased allocation for drip and sprincullar ⇒ Agriculture service (Mechanization centers) ⇒ Remove excise on tractor tyres. ⇒ Diesel coupons to farmers.
2	<p><u>INCENTIVIZING ALLIED SECTOR.</u></p> <p>1.ACQUACULTURE, (China 10% Growth)</p> <p>2. DAIRY-(Low productivity)-additional requirement of milk at 6 million metric tons per year).</p> <p>3 POULTRY (India 40 Eggs, USA 300 Eggs).</p> <p>4 HORTICULTURE. (India 6% Processing –Brazil 80%)</p>	<p><u>10 years IT holiday & Excise Exemption</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Concessional credit & Interest. ⇒ Free Import of technologies & equipment. ⇒ Income Tax Exemption under 80JJ. ⇒ Duty exemption for import of germ plasm for the dairy sector (Semen and embryos).

3	<p><u>PPP & FDI IN AGRICULTURE.</u></p> <p><u>POLICIES & TAX REFORMS</u></p>	<p><u>Tax Incentives & Excise Concessions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ FDI in Seed/ Bio Technology-Pesticides. ⇒ Agriculture research – Extension. ⇒ Retail sector/Processing. ⇒ Info Centers weather forecasting, crop losses estimation. ⇒ Establishing agriculture service (Mechanizations Centers). ⇒ Marketing & processing.
4	<p><u>LIBERALIZING AGRICULTURE SECTOR</u></p> <p>Essential Commodities Act-Modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commodity Trading - Long term export policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Remove ECA controls on all crops except Rice, Wheat. ⇒ Allow commodity trading/spot markets. ⇒ Durram Wheat-Sona Massori Rice-KP Onion-Tobacco.
5	<p><u>MGNREGA FOR ASSET BUILDING.</u></p> <p><u>(40000 CRORES BUDGET)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Linking with Agriculture Productivity. ⇒ Desilting of Irrigation projects / canals. ⇒ Desilting of Tanks. ⇒ Construction of farm in rain fed farms/forests.

6	<p><u>SOLVING FARMERS APATHY</u></p> <p>- High Risk Factors. Natural Calamities</p>	<p>⇒ Individual crop insurance.</p> <p>⇒ Calamity mitigation support to all farmers.</p> <p>⇒ Total waival of bank loans.</p>
7	<p><u>INVESTMENT IN IRRIGATION</u></p>	<p>⇒ One time investment for completing ongoing irrigation projects in time bound program.</p> <p>⇒ Special allocation for farm ponds & minor irrigation.</p> <p>⇒ Increased allocation for drip & springcular irrigation equipment.</p>
8	<p>Create a separate Venture Fund of 500 Crores for promotion of R & D GM crops.</p>	
9	<p>Earmark central funds (like Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana) to support states specifically to provide subsidy for biotech and hybrid seeds.</p>	
10	<p><u>EMPOWERMENT OF FARMERS</u></p> <p>Democratizing of Farmers Institutions.</p> <p>- Cooperatives – Market Committee – Water Uses Associations – Commodity Boards.</p>	<p>1-Central Funds allocation directly to district planning / development boards</p> <p>2- Decentralizing agriculture planning through Panchayats</p>

11	<p><u>BANKING SECTOR REFORMS.</u></p> <p>Definitions of priority sectors are diluted causing many problems to small farmers.</p>	<p>⇒ Compulsory 10% credit to weaker section.</p> <p>⇒ Credit to tenant farmers</p> <p>⇒ Increasing bank branches in Rural Areas.</p>												
12	<p><u>NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON WATER.</u></p>	<p>1- Establishing River Basin Authority.</p> <p>2- Wastage in Godavari 2010-2500 PMC.</p> <p>3- Wastage in Western Ghats 2000 PMC.</p>												
13	<p><u>Productivity Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wastages – Pre & post harvest losses. - Failure of Extension services. - Limited access to new technologies. - Water and electricity scarcity. - Limited Inputs availability. 	<table border="1" data-bbox="1241 678 1940 1125"> <thead> <tr> <th>Country-Land</th> <th>Fertilizer Usage</th> <th>Pesticide Usage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EU 110 MH</td> <td></td> <td>3.27 Lakh Tons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>China 123 MH</td> <td>50 Million Tons</td> <td>3.02 Lakh Tons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India 142 MH</td> <td>24 Million Tons</td> <td>0.38 Lakh Tons</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Increasing usage of modern inputs</p>	Country-Land	Fertilizer Usage	Pesticide Usage	EU 110 MH		3.27 Lakh Tons	China 123 MH	50 Million Tons	3.02 Lakh Tons	India 142 MH	24 Million Tons	0.38 Lakh Tons
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14	Convening Parliament Session for discussing various Agriculture Committee Reports for implementation ⇒ CACP to be made a stakeholder organization. ⇒ Dr. Arjan Sen Gupta Committee report and others.	⇒ National Commission on Farmers by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. ⇒ MSP at cost of production + 50%.
15	Today the country's investment in science and technology is only 0.5 % of GDP. Increase it to at least 1 % over the next two years and within this allocation the Ag research and development must be entitled to at least 50 percent.	
16	Support the establishment of technology transfer cells in all leading Ag. Universities and Central Ag. Research institutes.	
17	Allocate sufficient funds for the establishment of the full BRAI (Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India) in anticipation of passing the bill in 2011-12 itself.	
18	More support for rain fed agriculture – so far larger support has gone to irrigated agriculture. Last years budget proposal on supporting Agriculture in east is an effort in the right direction but still is only on paper.	
19	The focus has always been on cereals like wheat and rice, Food inflation and resultant security is not coming from shortage of cereals but the high prices of everything else from pulses, vegetables, fruits and spices, so supplying cereals will not address nutrition or food inflation.	
20	While cereals have a govt. distribution (very inefficient though) all other food products have no organized distribution and are left to deal with poor infrastructure and local networks – organized retail has the potential to help that but to allow organized retail to expand through FDI is still being debated.	

21	To enable the tobacco farming community to recover from the crippling effects of successive tax increases on cigarettes, as also the unseasonal rains/cyclone, there should be no increase on excise duties on cigarettes. This would enable the demand for leaf tobaccos to revive and benefit tobacco farmers.
22	To revive demand for low grade tobacco reduces the excise duty for filter cigarettes below 60 mm length to Rs.200/- per 1000. This would also help in controlling excise duty evasion by small manufacturing units.
23	The specific duty structure has proved to be extremely beneficial for the tobacco farming community and should be continued. As it encourages value addition, it has resulted in improved farmer earnings through usage of better quality leaf as well as through increased exports.
24	Rescheduling of 2010 tobacco farmers loans for a period of three years with zero interest.
25	Disbursement of penalties collected from the tobacco farmers during the previous year for the excess production of crop. We are requesting the government to give us back our own money.
26	To give Rs.30,000, per hectare subsidy to the tobacco farmers who losses their crop in the recent cyclonic rains.
27	To remove the service tax on Tobacco farmers.
28	Reviewing the working of public sector institutions –NABARD-FCI-ICAR-COMMODITY BOARDS-CCI.