

To,
Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Government of India
New Delhi.

01.06.2011

Dear Sir

**SUB: CROP HOLIDAY - REVOLT BY
FARMERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH**

Disappointed with the anti farmer policies of GOI and State, farmers in the villages of East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur & Warangal Districts in Andhra Pradesh are declaring crop holiday during 2011. These small and marginal farmers have decided to work as farm labour by obtaining MGNAREGA card, instead of cultivating their lands.

Ever since National Advisory Committee has introduced MGNAREGA indiscriminately in every village of AP labour cost increased by 200%-300%. The diesel cost, seed , fertilizer, pesticides prices regularly increased but not the equivalent support price. Till 2004 the crop yields & prices were taking care of production costs but not in 2011.

Under irrigation projects agriculture labour were getting works for 365 days. But after introducing MGNARGA they are not inclined to work in farms or even take up tenancy.

In 2010 & 2011 rains damaged crops and over 1 million tons Paddy was discolored.

The FCI, is not coming forward to purchase as their godowns are full. The millers have also stopped purchases as they are prevented from exports. As of May 2011 over 50 Lakh Tones (5Million Tons) of paddy is with the farmers in AP. All these difficulties disheartened farmers to declare crop holiday. (Enclosed Press Clippings)

I wish to caution GOI that the crop holiday will have serious consequence to the national economy. It is likely to spread to others states. The country has sufficient food stocks. KHARIFF 2011 will produce more food. There is no need for GOI to worry about food stock availability for PDS, Buffer Stocks and consumers. In the circusmenances I request GOI to allow export of 10 million tones of rice and wheat. I hope you will understand the situation and initiate action.

Yours Sincerely

P. CHENGAL REDDY
Secretary General