

# CONSORTIUM OF INDIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS (CIFA)

Secretary General

**P. Chengal Reddy**



President

**Satnam Singh Behru**

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

12<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

Respected Sir,

## **SUB: REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR-REG**

1. CIFA, on behalf of the farmers of India, Thanks the Hon'ble Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues for approving FDI in retail and request that this be implemented by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2011.
2. **To Decontrol Sugar** : The sugar sector has vast opportunities to improve Sugarcane productivity, sugar, ethanol, and power generation, in addition to other byproducts. Due to levy, release mechanism and export restrictions, the sector is unable to progress. It is therefore requested that the UPA Govt. immediately to decontrol sugar sector from the above restrictions, including ECA Act.
3. **To remove restrictions on export of Cotton** : Indian farmers, due to availability of BT cotton, are now producing huge quantity of Cotton, which is now commanding a premium in International markets. However, the export restrictive policies are harming the interests of the Farmers. CIFA request that the GOI should allow free export of cotton without restrictions.
4. **Export of Rice & Wheat**: India has huge stocks of Wheat beyond the requirements of PDS and buffer stocks. Due to productivity increase, additional rice and wheat are coming into the market. As the international market we request that Rice and Wheat be allowed for free exports.
5. **Special Status for BPT Rice and Duram Wheat** : Indian farmers are now producing super fine non-Basmati BPT rice and high protein Duram Wheat which have excellent international market. CIFA requests that the above 2 are given equal status on par with Basmati Rice.
6. CIFA request the PM to convene special Parliament Session to discuss NCF (Dr. M.S. Swaminathan) and Bhupender Singh Hodda Report.
7. CIFA request that the floor price of basmati rice to Rs.2500 per quintal.
8. **Incentivizing Private-Public Partnership in Agriculture** :
  - a. Agriculture Research in Biotechnology and Nanotechnology has to be encouraged as they have potential to solve Pest problems, bringing alkane/saline soils under cultivation, improve productivity and quality. As the GOI has limitations in allocating resources. We appeal to GOI to incentivize Private sector including FDI.
  - b. **Extension Services now provided by State Govts. are inadequate** : 50,000 Private sector experts (fertilizer, Pesticide, seed, Tractor, drip etc) are now working in extension. CIFA requests that GOI incentivize by providing 200% Tax rebate to Private sector for providing extension services.


**"Food security first - Farmers welfare must"**


8/32, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110 008.  
Tel : 91 11 25842111, 24505048, Fax : 91 11 25842123  
E-mail : cifa@indianfarmers.org / cifa\_delhi@yahoo.com


**Website : [www.indianfarmers.org](http://www.indianfarmers.org)**


- c. **Establishing Agriculture Machinery Service Centers** : Due to non availability of labour agriculture activity has become difficult. CIFA requests that Farm machinery be given 75% subsidy and at 7% interest. Excise duties to be totally abolished on all imports.
- d. **Private Investment in Irrigation Sector** : We appeal to GOI to consider allowing private investments including FDI in completing ongoing irrigation projects. An expert committee be appoint to study this proposal.
9. CIFA request the subsidy provided to Farmers for Fertilizer and also people under PDS be given by the way of cash or through coupons to save wastage and curtail corruption.
10. **Special focus on Animal Husbandry** : Sustainability for small farmers is possible only through ancillary activity of Diary, Poultry, Piggery, Duck rearing etc. The present allocations are not sufficient. Hence the need to increase allocations for this sector.
11. **Incentivizing Fishery development** : India has 7,000 Km of coastline and 20,000 Km of rivers. In this entire area, Fisheries, Prawns, Crabs can be developed. Govt. has to allow 100% tax incentive for investment in this by private sector and also FDI.
12. **Request for Full time TV station on Agriculture** : There is an acute need for full time TV station on Agriculture in all languages. CIFA requests that either Govt. of Private sector be allowed to establish TV station exclusively for Agriculture in all Languages.
13. **Establishing National farmers Advisory Committee**: The GOI requires regular interaction with the farmers to enable it to understand farmers grass root problems and make necessary suggestions. We request, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, a National Farmers Advisory Committee be formed and that meetings be held on a quarterly basis.
14. **MGNAREGA for Agriculture Production**: The GOI initiative to establish MGNAREGA is beneficial to farm labor during off season. In Punjab, Haryana, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kaveri Delta, Mahanadi & Narmada project areas, farming operations are available 365 days a year. It is requested that the MGNAREGA works are linked with Farming operations.

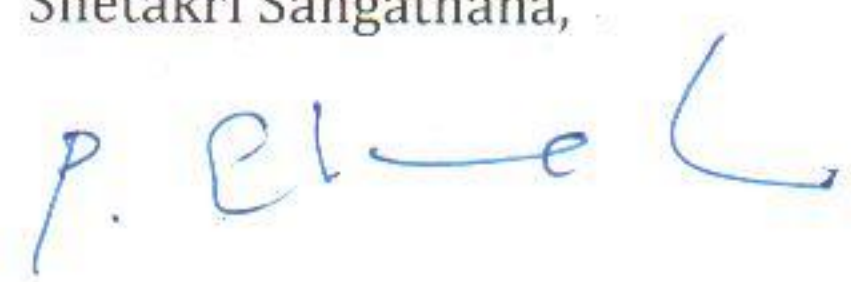
Yours sincerely


  
Satnam Singh Behru  
President-CIFA

  
Raghunath Ramchandra Patil  
President-Maharashtra  
Shetakri Sangathana,

  
K. Shanta Kumar  
President-Karnataka  
Sugarcane Growers Association

  
Y. Nagendra Nath  
President -AP  
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P. Chengal Reddy  
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Dr. Manmohan Singh,  
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Government of India,  
New Delhi

12<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

Respected Sir,

**Sub: TO CONVENE A SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.**

**Request to build consensus among Political Parties on Farmers Policies and Programs.**

As the Economist who pioneered Liberalization in 1990s, charting a new era in the growth of India's development and the Visionary Statesman who convinced the Heterogeneous Politicians of this Great country on the need for Nuclear Energy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, your deeds are lastingly indelible since they are positively felt at every strata of Society. "We Believe in Dr. Singh" said India in the last elections!

Wealth Creation, Sustained Energy & a prosperous Agriculture maintain the virtue of a Nation. In reality, the individual that is the Farmer, incidentally the backbone of the economy is yet to reap the holistic dividends of your well meaning initiatives.

We humbly believe that the Crowning Jewel to your awesome achievements will be in bringing reforms to the now desolate Agriculture sector of this Great Country. A consensus from Political Parties for making small farming sustainable by creating favorable policies, removing controls and allowing technologies and investments may well form the Bedrock of future Agriculture.

The issue of FDI & GMO Technologies, Private investments in Infrastructure, Agriculture Research as well as in Irrigation will cement India's place in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as a Global Food Provider. What India has achieved under your Stewardship will When the Dignity of the Farmer in this truly dire hour is restored, India, embodiment of the Farmer, will venerate you!

On this, CIFA appeals to the Hon'ble Prime Minister **to convene a Special Parliament session for 5 days** to exclusively discuss Farm sector issues including NCF (Dr. Swaminathan), Mr. Hood Committee Reports, to evolve consensus on Policies and Programs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Yours Sincerely

Satanam Singh Behru  
President-CIFA

Raghunath Ramchandra Patil  
President-Maharashtra  
Shetakri Sangathana,

K. Shanta Kumar  
President-Karnataka  
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**SUB: REQUEST TO INCENTIVIZE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, EXTENSION, INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING IRRIGATION-REG.**

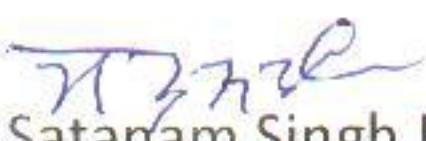
Agriculture sector crisis can be overcome by introducing new technologies such as bio technology, NANO technology, remote sensing and others. Farmers require to have expert guidance through extension service to solve pests and diseases problem and also to understand market changes. Since government has limitation in establishing cold storage chain infrastructure has to be strengthened through private sector investments. There are large number of projects that require investments to complete and provide assured water to rain fed farming.

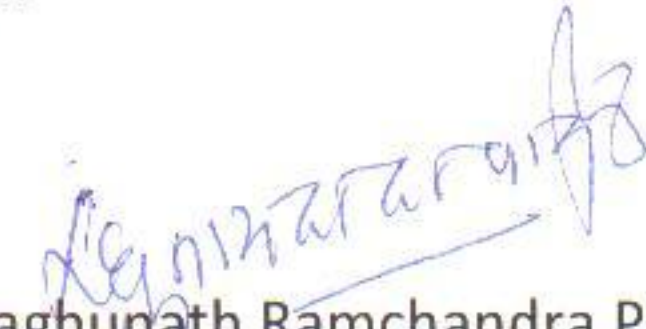
In order to solve these problems CIFA request GOI to give income tax exemption of about 200% for private sector for investments in agriculture, research, extension, farmers training etc. For establishing agro machinery service centers and infrastructure facility GOI should provide 75% subsidy and also provide loan at 7%. The GOI should totally remove excise and also provide above facility for imported agriculture machinery. It will solve labour problem which has led to serious crisis in large part of the country leading to crop holiday.


In regard to investment by private sector in irrigation project we request GOI to appoint a committee to study the possibility for PPP and also FDI in the irrigation sector.

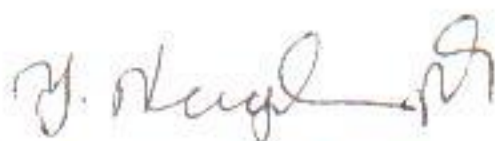
Requesting for your kind action.


Yours Sincerely

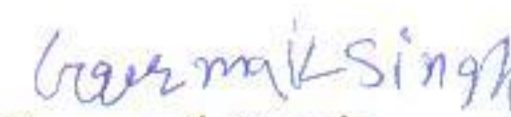
  
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South Block, New Delhi

12<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

Respected Sir,

**Sub : Request to Grant permission for FDI in Retail Sector before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011-Reg.**

**On behalf of farmers of India, we convey our grateful thanks to you and your cabinet colleagues for taking an EXTRAORDINARY and BOLD step to allow FDI in Retail.**

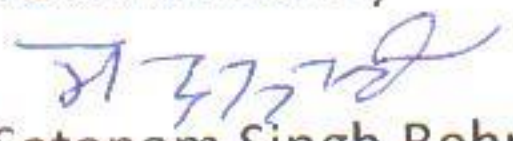
For centuries, Indian farmers were dependent only on Dalal, Adithiya/Commission agents system for marketing their produce. This system is highly exploitative as they charge 10% commission for the auctioning and also deducting 10% on the pretext of quality deficiency. They manipulate prices and cheat in weighing of the produce. They do not give official receipts to the farmers. Invariably, they evade taxes to Governments as all the transactions are unaccounted for. Also, another 3-4 middlemen involve in the chain of marketing system and take away 30 - 40% of retail price without adding any value.

The market reforms initiated by you greatly beneficial to 600 million farmers as well as 1200 million consumers. The farmers now have alternative options to sell their produce to the retailers or processing industries or exporters thereby allowing better price realization.

FDI in retail will be helpful to farmers, as it will establish producer groups and arrange for Forward-Backward linkage between the farmers and retailers. The existing producers under ATMA and the New Producer groups will have facility to get quality inputs, extension services and packing facilities.

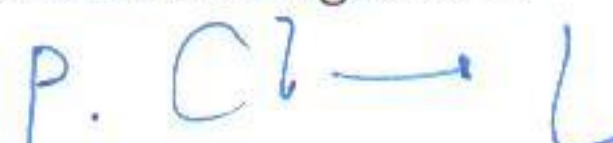
These transactions will eliminate the vicious chain of middlemen and allow for a net saving of 50% on retail price, which can be shared by the farmers and consumers, while netting additional tax to the Governments. We request that a regulatory authority also be established to monitor and curtail exploitation.

Yours Sincerely


  
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