

Issues for inclusion in Union Budget 2009-10

Representation submitted to:

Smt. Sonia Gandhi,

President, AICC, Chairperson UPA, New Delhi

By

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FARM SECTOR GOALS OF UPA DURING 2009-2014

1. To provide economic equity to 600 million farmers
 - ✓ assured income –risk mitigation –old age pension.
2. Develop global competitiveness of small farming –
 - ✓ Utilizing modern technologies – IT- Remote Sensing – Irradiation – Nano – GMOs – Organic - Mechanization.
3. Achieve food Security and Employment to all rural people.
4. To aim for 8% growth in Agriculture as achieved by China.

**Gram Swaraj through
Panchayat Raj**

STRATEGY-I: FINANCIAL REFORMS

1. Increase in Public and Private Investment in Agriculture.

2. To redefine agriculture credit flow guidelines to small farmers.

a) Indirect finance should not be included in 18% target for agriculture credit.

b) Sub limit of 10% out of 18% should be fixed for marginal & tenants.

3. Rural credit / deposit ratio of banks (now 57%) to be maintained at 75% (CD for metros is 90%)

4. To increase the number of Rural Bank Branches.

5. To implement the recommendations of Committees headed by Prof. Arjun Sen Gupta, Prof. Radha Krishna and Prof. Vydyanathan.

6. To provide agriculture and family, credit needs of farmers at nominal interest.

STRATEGY –II: POLICY REFORMS

1. Removing Essential Commodities Act.
2. To amend Sugarcane Act.
3. Direct fertilizer subsidy to farmers.
4. Re-organize Food Corporation of India functioning.
5. Re-structuring Public Distribution System (PDS).
6. Encourage APMC - Contract Farming - Commodity Trading.
7. To have long term agriculture policies.
8. To converge NREGs with farm activities.
9. To utilize global opportunities in Tobacco and Other related Commodities production and marketing.

STRATEGY -III: IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL COMMISSION OF FARMERS

(Dr M.S.S.Swaminadhan Commitment Report)

1. MSP should be C2+ Minimum 50%. (Remunerative prices)
2. Statutory status to CACP with adequate farmers representation.
3. Market Stabilization Fund and Risk Mitigation Fund to be provided.
4. Agricultural progress should be measured by growth in net farm income.
5. Irrigation, projects to be completed in time bound manner.
6. Village based Crop Insurance.

- Other recommendations of the Commission to be implemented.

STRATEGY –IV: EMPOWERMENT OF FARMERS

1. Agriculture planning and implementation through Panchayat Raj – Decentralized planning and implementation - bottom up approach.
2. Establishing and recognizing commodity (producers) interest groups (CIGs).
3. To encourage CIGs, partnership programs, for contract farming and direct marketing, commodity trading.
4. Empowerment of Farmers to manage Irrigation Projects, Market Yards, Commodity Boards etc.
5. To convert water as a marketable resource & incentivize conservation.

STRATEGY –V: TAX REFORMS (INCENTIVES)

- 1. Incentivize private investment in Agriculture – Research – Extension – Farmers Training and Rural Education – Health.**
- 2. To save 1, 40,000 Crores Crop losses due to pests by incentivizing crop protection availability to small farmers, tribal, tenants and dry land farmers.**
- 3. To incentivize mechanization of Agriculture.**
- 4. To incentivize Water Conservation equipment manufacturing and usage.**
- 5. To encourage organic manure production by converting urban waste.**
- 6. To encourage organic products, production marketing and consumption.**
- 7. To incentivize usage of GMOs, Nano, Remote sensing by private sectors.**
- 8. To encourage PPP in rural infrastructure, Cold Storage, Transport etc.**
- 9. To encourage PPP in TV Kisan Channels & Radio.**