

National Farmers Conference - 2007 has deliberated on the problems confronted by farmers, resolved to adopt and serve the following charter of demands on GOI for making necessary policy changes and additional allotments in 2008-09 budget.

Agricultural Policy Resolutions

1. Recommendations of National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swami Nathan should be implemented TOTO. Additional budget allotments under each recommendation should be made by Government of India in their budget of 2008-2009.
2. Action plans for implementing the recommendations as suggested in the National Farmers Policy 2007 of GOI should not be delayed by referring to State Governments to prepare action plans.
3. Agriculture should be included in the concurrent list.
4. Budget allotment to agriculture should be based on agriculture sector's pre-eminent role in providing food security to the nation and employment to over 600 million people accounting for 60% of the total population.
5. Agriculture should have separate budget like railways, covering all aspects from ensuring soil health, sowing, input supply, credit and crop insurance, infrastructure, investment, storing, marketing to pricing agri produce based on cost plus 50% .
6. Irrigation subject should be included in the concurrent list.
7. Farmers organizations should be consulted while taking major decisions regarding agriculture sector.
8. The managements of public and private sector organizations operating in agriculture related projects and organizations should comprise of farmers' leaders.
9. An autonomous Farmers welfare fund should be constituted headed by farmer leader to rehabilitate farmers when affected by natural calamities. This will reduce burden on the regular budget allotments.
10. Long term export policy should be evolved and implemented to create confidence among importers about continuous supplies.
11. All rural people who attain the age of 60yrs. should be provided old age pension.
12. Farm loans (Principal & Interest) should be waived when farmers are affected by crop losses successively for two years due to natural calamities and interest waived when one crop is affected and seeds should be supplied free of cost.
13. Grass root level Panchayat Raj Institutions should be involved in planning process, GOI release funds directly to Zilla Parishads instead of routing through State Governments and District Collectors.
14. Farm sector subsidies should be enhanced on par with industrial sector matching the status in Europe.
15. Organic farming activity be encouraged by providing adequate resources and incentives.

Resolutions concerning crop production and related matters

1. MSP to all agricultural commodities should be fixed by CACP based on all actual costs of production incurred by farmers by adding minimum 50% of it as recommended by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, which is not incorporated in the National Farmers Policy – 2007.
2. Following are the prices demanded.
 - a) Buffalo milk (6% fat) Rs. 20/- per Litre
 - b) Cow milk(3% fat) Rs. 14/- per Litre

c) Paddy	
i. Common	Rs. 1380 per Quintal
ii. Grade – A	Rs. 1450 per Quintal
d) Wheat	Rs. 1400 per Quintal
e) Sugarcane	Rs. 186 per Quintal
f) Cotton	
i. Long Staple	Rs. 3800 per Quintal
ii. Medium Staple	Rs. 3600 per Quintal
g) Pulses	Rs. 3800 per Quintal
h) Chillies	Rs. 3100 per Quintal
i) Turmeric	Rs. 1800 per Quintal
j) Oil Seeds	
i. Ground Nut	Rs. 3400 per Quintal
ii. Sunflower	Rs. 3750 per Quintal
k) Castor	Rs. 3300 per Quintal
l) Maize	Rs. 1300 per Quintal

- Mobile Soil testing laboratories should be pressed into action for conducting soil tests at farm level in the presence of farmers and issue soil cards on war footing basis to rectify and retain soil health for increasing productivity.
- 100% seed replacement should be ensured by supplying certified seed to all agricultural holdings in the country.
- Breed improvement programmes should be completed on a time bound programme of three years.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Hassle free, adequate agricultural credit, based on scale of finance in accordance with the actual cost of production, including imputed value of family labour, fixed for each crop should be provided at 4% simple rate of interest without service charges and not insisting on security or collateral security for loans up to Rs. 1,00,000/-.
- Agriculture extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
- Innovative Pre and post harvest technologies should be implemented to contain wastage of the produce.
- Innovative and modern implements be developed for agricultural operations from sowing to harvesting and provided to farmers at subsidized rates.
- Marketing yards should be made as marketing complexes by providing total infrastructure, processing and value addition facilities by eliminating middlemen and involving public private partnerships by offering incentives.
- Farmer friendly crop insurance schemes, taking village as unit, with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.
- Import of milk powder be banned.

Issues of General Importance

- Agriculture subject to be introduced in the school curriculum
- Government of India to provide adequate resources to bring awareness on social issues of alcoholism, girl child education, health awareness on mal nutrition etc.,
- They should be a separate kishan channel in all languages for all the 24 Hrs.

Tobacco Commodity Specific Resolutions

- a. **Farmer-friendly and pragmatic policies should be evolved and implemented** that will encourage FCV leaf tobacco growing and thus enhance their export potential.
- b. Since **imported cigarettes do not use our tobaccos**, they should be disallowed under the **Open General License** and **cigarettes should be moved to the Restricted list**
- c. **Put tobacco and cigarettes on the negative list for FTA.** Liberalization of the sort encouraged by FTA is known to encourage contraband products which do not use our tobaccos and offer unfair competition.
- d. **Farmers should not be penalized for producing more.** The Tobacco Board's policy of penalizing FCV tobacco farmers for producing in excess of targets set by them is contrary to the national objective of encouraging agricultural produce in the country at a time when over all contribution of the agricultural sector to the GDP is dwindling.
- e. **Reduce the large duty differential between cigarettes and other tobacco products.** This will allow natural movement from low revenue-yielding traditional products to cigarettes, thereby benefiting the Government through higher revenue collections.
- f. **Retain the Specific Duty Structure for cigarettes.** As compared to the Ad valorem system, the Specific Duty structure has resulted in better price realizations for the farmers, through use of better quality tobaccos and higher exports.

Sugarcane Commodity Specific Resolutions

- SMP of Rs. 186/- per Quintal be fixed.
- Sugarcane payments to the farmers be paid with 14 days as mandated in sugarcane control order 1966.
- "L" profits should be arrived every year and distributed to the sugarcane growers.
- Collection of multiple taxes be review and single tax system introduced.
- Long term sugar export policy be evolved.
- Innovative and Modern agriculture implements from sowing to harvesting be introduced and provided to farmers on custom basis.
- Hassle free adequate credit facility based on scale of finance be provided without insisting security or collateral security for loans up to Rs. 1,00,000/-.
- Mobile Soil testing laboratories should be pressed into action for conducting soil tests at farm level in the presence of farmers and issue soil cards on war footing basis to rectify and retain soil health for increasing productivity.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Agriculture extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
- Innovative Pre and post harvest technologies should be implemented to contain wastage of the produce.
- Farmer friendly crop insurance schemes, taking village as unit, with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.

Paddy Commodity Specific Resolutions

- MSP of Rs. 1380/- for common and Rs. 1450/- for Grade – A, Per Quintal be fixed.
- The FCI should procure paddy from farmers instead of millers.
- Paddy quality testing devices be introduced instead of manual evaluation.
- Long term paddy export policy be evolved.
- Storage and pledge loans be provided.
- Innovative and Modern agriculture implements from sowing to harvesting be introduced and provided to farmers on custom basis.
- Hassle free adequate credit facility based on scale of finance be provided without insisting security or collateral security for loans up to Rs. 1,00,000/-

- Mobile Soil testing laboratories should be pressed into action for conducting soil tests at farm level in the presence of farmers and issue soil cards on war footing basis to rectify and retain soil health for increasing productivity.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Agriculture extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
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- Farmer friendly crop insurance schemes, taking village as unit, with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.

Wheat Commodity Specific Resolutions

- MSP of Rs. 1400/- per Quintal be fixed.
- The GOI should procure wheat from farmers instead of resorting for imports by paying higher prices.
- Wheat quality testing devices be introduced instead of manual evaluation.
- Long term wheat export policy be evolved.
- Storage and pledge loans be provided.
- Innovative and Modern agriculture implements from sowing to harvesting be introduced and provided to farmers on custom basis.
- Hassle free adequate credit facility based on scale of finance be provided without insisting security or collateral security for loans up to Rs. 1,00,000/-
- Mobile Soil testing laboratories should be pressed into action for conducting soil tests at farm level in the presence of farmers and issue soil cards on war footing basis to rectify and retain soil health for increasing productivity.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Agriculture extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
- Innovative Pre and post harvest technologies should be implemented to contain wastage of the produce.
- Farmer friendly crop insurance schemes, taking village as unit, with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.

Cotton Commodity Specific Resolutions

- MSP of Rs. 3800/- for Long Staple and Rs. 3600/- for Medium Staple per Quintal be fixed.
- The Cotton Corporation of India should enter into the market and purchase cotton from farmers
- Cotton quality testing devices be introduced instead of manual evaluation.
- Long term Cotton export policy be evolved.
- Storage and pledge loans be provided.
- Innovative and Modern agriculture implements from sowing to harvesting be introduced and provided to farmers on custom basis.
- Hassle free adequate credit facility based on scale of finance be provided without insisting security or collateral security for loans up to Rs. 1,00,000/-
- Mobile Soil testing laboratories should be pressed into action for conducting soil tests at farm level in the presence of farmers and issue soil cards on war footing basis to rectify and retain soil health for increasing productivity.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Agriculture extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
- Innovative Pre and post harvest technologies should be implemented to contain wastage of the produce.

- Farmer friendly crop insurance schemes, taking village as unit, with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.

Spices Commodity Specific Resolutions

- Research and development be strengthened on production and marketing of spices.
- Chillies be separated from spices and exclusive chillies board be constituted with farmers leaders.
- Price stabilization fund be constituted and farmers interests be protected.
- Management of spices commodity board should be handed over to the farmers associations.
- Farmer friendly spices insurance schemes with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of loss claims should be implemented.
- Long term spices export policy be evolved.
- Innovative and Modern agriculture implements from plantation to harvesting be introduced and provided to farmers on custom basis.
- Hassle free adequate credit facility based on scale of finance be provided without insisting security or collateral security.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Agriculture extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
- Innovative Pre and post harvest technologies should be implemented to contain wastage of the produce.

Pulses Commodity Specific Resolutions

- MSP to all agricultural commodities should be fixed by CACP based on all actual costs of production incurred by farmers by adding minimum 50% of it as recommended by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan.
- Pulses quality testing devices be introduced instead of manual evaluation.
- Long term pulses export policy be evolved.
- Storage and pledge loans be provided.
- Innovative and Modern agriculture implements from sowing to harvesting be introduced and provided to farmers on custom basis.
- Hassle free adequate credit facility based on scale of finance be provided without insisting security or collateral security for loans up to Rs. 1,00,000/-
- Mobile Soil testing laboratories should be pressed into action for conducting soil tests at farm level in the presence of farmers and issue soil cards on war footing basis to rectify and retain soil health for increasing productivity.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Agriculture extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
- Innovative Pre and post harvest technologies should be implemented to contain wastage of the produce.
- Farmer friendly crop insurance schemes, taking village as unit, with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.

Aqua (Fish, Prawn etc.) Commodity Specific Resolutions

- Aqua-culture be treated on par with agriculture and incentives extended.
- International exposure be created to fish farmers.
- Indian Fishery Council be established.
- 4% VAT be exempted
- Venture Capital be provide for Aqua developing Schemes
- Containers be provided for Fish Transport
- Fish Farmers be included in the Governing of Body of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

- Awareness be created on the schemes offered by NFDB
- HSD oil be Subsidized
- Fish be supplied to soldiers in the difficult areas and military canteens
- Fish processing and value addition units be established
- New Technologies may be promoted in Fish Culture
- Water intended for fish culture be provided through irrigation canals.
- Uninterrupted Power Supply be provided to fish culture activity.
- Inclusion of fish in Mid day meal scheme
- Modern fish markets and Marketing outlets be established.

Oil Seeds Commodity Specific Resolutions

- MSP to all agricultural commodities should be fixed by CACP based on all actual costs of production incurred by farmers by adding minimum 50% of it as recommended by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan.
- Oil seeds quality testing devices be introduced instead of manual evaluation.
- Long term oil seeds export policy be evolved.
- Storage and pledge loans be provided.
- Innovative and Modern agriculture implements from sowing to harvesting be introduced and provided to farmers on custom basis.
- Hassle free adequate credit facility based on scale of finance be provided without insisting security or collateral security for loans up to Rs. 1,00,000/-
- Mobile Soil testing laboratories should be pressed into action for conducting soil tests at farm level in the presence of farmers and issue soil cards on war footing basis to rectify and retain soil health for increasing productivity.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Agriculture extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
- Innovative Pre and post harvest technologies should be implemented to contain wastage of the produce.
- Farmer friendly crop insurance schemes, taking village as unit, with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.

Horticulture Commodity Specific Resolutions

- Tissue Culture seedlings must be brought under seed certification act soon. The field variations should not be allowed more than 5% of the true to type supplied to the farmer. The quantum of 50% seed subsidy rate extended must in proportion to the area cultivated in our state.
- Regular quality electricity be supplied to horticulture crops.
- Subsidy be provided for water conserving devices viz., Drip irrigation with subsidy.
- Post Harvest Infrastructure be created
- Human Resource Development trainings be conducted for horticulture farmers.
- Farmer friendly crop insurance schemes, taking village as unit, with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements.
- Provision of Air conditioned cargo from Trichirappalli to Mumbai and Newdelhi be provided.

Plantation Crops Commodity Specific Resolutions

- Re plantation and rejuvenation programmes be implemented.
- Specific markets be developed for plantation crops with infrastructure.
- Long term plantation crops export policy be evolved.
- Cold storage facilities be developed for plantation crops.

- Innovative and Modern agriculture implements from planting to harvesting be introduced and provided to farmers on custom basis.
- Hassle free adequate credit facility based on scale of finance be provided without insisting security or collateral security.
- All taxes of GOI should be waived on agricultural inputs like planting material, fertilizers, pesticides, water saving devices and innovative & modern implements
- Plantation crops extension services should be strengthened and public, private partnerships encouraged by offering incentives.
- Innovative Pre and post harvest technologies should be implemented to contain wastage of the produce.
- Farmer friendly plantation crop insurance schemes with subsidized premium and provision for quick settlement of crop loss claims should be implemented.

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