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1. GUIDELINES TO THE FARMERS / ASSOCIATIONS

CIFA is a professional and democratised farmers national apex association, registered and having office in various states. It has membership from 23 States in India. Its Members consist of commodity groups, input users, cooperative societies, SHG groups and many others. It proposes to enlarge the membership base by organising state level federations, commodity councils as well as village associations through out the country.

CIFA request All farmers associations to adopt common **symbol** ☺ common **slogan-Indian Farmer - One Family - One Voice** common **Strategy** as suggested in the book. This will enable farmers to understand each others issues and also develop brotherlihood amongst the farming communities.

Farmers are requested to participate both in the village associations as well as commodity council programs, as suggested in the guidelines. In addition to farmers issues, problems confronted by women & social issues are to be taken up by the associations (controlling alcohol consumption, creating awareness on girl Child importance, reducing wastage in marriages, deaths etc.,)

Farmers are requested to adopt non violent and innovative methods in projecting their problems and conveying them to the authorities. It is necessary for the farmers to understand that the policy makers are also inclined to assist in agriculture development. Mass activity including -By writing letters - holding press conferences. - Submitting Memorandums - sending Faxes - SMS - Email. Filing Public Interest Litigation (PIL)-Sensitize (Pressurising) MPs /MLAs / Officials to be adopted in conveying their problems.

Farmers are requested to contact CIFA Office at Delhi or Hyderabad or leaders of your states (details provided in the 2007 Calendar) for further information, programs and activities. All farmers are requested to seek assistance from CIFA on you problems. They are also requested to write their suggestions and ideas to make CIFA dynamic and innovative Organisation.

We appeal to all farmers in India to join CIFA to achieve economic and social equity for the farming communities.

P. Chengal Reddy
Secretary General

09-01-2007

Sanat Mehta
Chairman

*CIFA will be publishing this yearly guide. Please suggest new additions.

I - OBSERVATIONS OF SRI.SHARAD PAWARJI, HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MADE DURING HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE NATIONAL FARMERS CONCLAVE, HELD AT NEW DELHI .

ON 2ND & 3RD DECEMBER, 2006

1. This is a first time what I am observing large farmer delegates from many States participation in the conference and I am particularly happy that the conference has been organized in the campus of Pusa Institute which has done yeoman service to the Indian agriculture and agriculturists.
2. Because of this specific location you will get opportunity to see what is happening in the area of research, what is happening in the various crops.
3. In fact, from next year the total programme of the conference can be extended by one week.
4. After this inaugural session you are going to discuss crop wise problems and ultimately you are going to bring all the issues before your joint session and probably you will be able to give some definite understanding and you will be definitely provide the information to those like me who are sitting in government and got the responsibility for the decision making.
5. Our scientific community will be also happy to understand exactly the problems you are facing and you will also be able to get latest knowledge about what is happening in a particular crop which are the promising varieties and which direction we should go ahead.
6. But to organize in this capital of country is not easy and one of the main problem, all of you are facing is, the lodging arrangements. We in IRRI discuss and try to find out long term solution for the problem and if it is possible, I have no hesitation to take up programme of construction of few buildings which will provide staying arrangements to the farmers who are coming from different parts of the country and who would like to know what is happening in IRRI campus.
7. Agriculture continues to be crucial sector of the National economy and it has been repeated by many speakers in today's discussions. The issues have been raised by Sanat Bai is very important and i.e. the investment in agriculture sector. The deceleration in agricultural growth in recent past has been matter of growing concern for all of us.
8. The target of 4% growth in agriculture sector set for 10th plan could not be realized due to several constraints. Without reversal of this, there is little hope of reducing rural poverty.
9. The percentage of contribution of investment in agriculture to the total investment has been declined to about 8% from the 10% of the last two years.
10. The share of investment for communication, financing, insurance and real estate has been significantly increased.
11. Take the case of irrigation, today 60% agriculture land is totally depending on the erratic monsoon. 40% agriculture land is under irrigation today in the country. Unless and until we provide water, how we will be able to resolve the problem of food security. Availability of water is the main constraint and you will be surprised, I was just studying for the last 7 years, the total percentage of budget of Indian government has been spent or made available for irrigation purpose is 0.35%, not even 0.50%, and not even 1%.
12. If you are going to provide 0.35% budgetary provision for irrigation, how we are to face the problem of drought, problem of food security and how we are going to avoid the numbers of suicides which we are daily reading in the newspapers and discussing in the Parliament.

13. I am really happy, one of the important suggestion has been made by CIFA, 80,000/- crores has been demanded to complete all on going projects.
14. In fact, we have to substantially rise public investment Both the Centre and States should also use the resources more efficiently. In addition we must adopt a policy to encourage private investment in agriculture.
15. There is need to bring back the health of rural cooperative credit system, doubling the flow of rural credit within three years, easing the burden of debt, making the crop insurance scheme more effective, introducing special programme for dry land farming in arid and semiarid areas, taking up water shed and waste land development programmes on massive scale, ensuring adequate protection from the imports and ensuring fair and remunerative prices to the farmers.
16. There is serious need for developing technology that can enhance the farmer's income. But we should ensure that the research needs of agriculture are properly identified and privatized technology offered at affordable and appropriate, especially for the small and marginal farmers.

*" A group of
dedicated farmers leader
having faith in their goal of
unifying the farmers of India
under CIFA can alter
fate of farmers"*

- Sharad Pawar

2. WHY INDIAN FARMERS ARE ANGRY - INTRODUCTION

**“We farmers are united not because we can stand each other,
But because we understand each others”**

2-1 Why farmers are Angry?

We farmers must realise that for 3000 years villagers lived with contentment, economic sustenance and social recognition in our society. In the struggle for Freedom, the farmers have participated in large numbers with a hope that free India will enable us get more income and better facilities.

Between 1947 and 2005 India claims to have become global economic power and World services provider. Our Scientists are sending rockets to space, introduced Mercedes Benz cars in India, we have best IITs and IIMs , five Star Hotels, International Conference facilities, Corporate Hospitals, Air Ports, Air Conditioned Trains, Volvo Buses etc.

While our elite have gained wealth, comforts, name and fame, our Bharatiya Kissans have lost not only lost their sustainability but also their social respect. Agriculture is neither profitable nor the farmers are happy. While our professionals (Doctors, Engineers) go to America and earn prosperity and popularity, our farmers go to cities to beg and work as labours so that they can keep their hunger at bay. We are forced to sell our lands to educate our children and for marriage of our daughters. Every year thousand of farmers commit suicides and all of us curse our selves for continuing to be in agriculture. We have become the 21st century untouchables!

WE FARMERS ARE NOT ONLY UNHAPPY BUT WE ARE ALSO ANGRY

2-2) Why Farmers are Committing Suicide?

Every sector of Indian Democracy–Government servants, Political classes (Leaders) – Industry- Intellectuals, Judiciary as well as the media has failed to protect the interests of the farmers. The rural landscape is in shambles. Farmers see no hope of their rehabilitation in distant future. Natural calamities viz Droughts, floods and consequent crop losses, crop insurance schemes which could not come to the rescue of farmers, inadequate credit from Banks, dept burden consequent on charging higher rate of interest by banks and private money lenders on Agriculture Credit, inadequate extension services trader controlled markets, unremunerative prices, abnormal increase in the cost of inputs, spurious seed, fertilizers and pesticides, decreased investments in Agri infrastructure and anti farmer policies adopted by successive governments forced the farmers for committing suicides.

Estimated number of suicides by farmers.

1995	10719
1996	13730
1997	13616
1998	16010
1999	16079
2002	25071

2-3) Why Farmers are angry at the political leaders of the farming communities?

65% of the Parliament Members numbering about 400 are from Farming Communities of Jats, Bhumihars, Kshatriyas, Rajputs, Marathas, Reddys, Chowdharys, Patels, Goudas, Gounders etc.

We, farmers supported them in the belief that these leaders will take up Agriculture issues in the Parliament. However, we have now realized that majority of them are using political power to make money to promote their industries, contracts, business and also their children's Interest. We realized that these farmer Politicians are using the façade of caste only to get elected but not to stand by their farmers brethren.

2-4) Why farmers are angry at bureaucrats and professionals?

Most of them are from agriculture families, having studied in villages and aware of the hardships faced by their parents and brothers, After joining in services they refuse to go to villages.

The doctors, teachers, engineers, and other bureaucrats thereafter refuse to serve in rural areas. After getting a job, assured income, regular promotion and increments, they get a fat dowry. They demand share in the village properties without having least concern for their parents or brothers. Very few are honest and sincere.

2-5) Why farmers are angry at the Shri P. Chidambaram?

Every year Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister starts his Union Budget speech sermon to farming community by saying that agriculture is State subject and that he in his generosity, is extending help to farming communities. The fact is that it is the Finance Ministry who is responsible for the genocide of farmers by non-performing Banks, high taxation on agriculture inputs, restriction on movement etc., If at all one single institution responsible for the failure of rural economy, it is the Ministry of Finance, GOI.

2-6) Why farmers are angry at Dr. Manmohan Singh?

In June-2004 Dr. Manmohan Singh promised Farmers delegation that he will regularly hold interaction with farmers representatives. However, he has failed to keep up his promise and not met a single farmer leader in the past two and a half years.

Instead, he meets, the captans of Indian Industry and discusses farmers issues. He take them on foreign visits to discuss agriculture affairs. Dr. Singh has Mr. Rangarajan as Financial Advisor, and Mr. Narashimhan as Security Advisor, but he could not find a agriculture advisor.

2-7) Why farmers are angry at Agriculture Minister?

In the past 30 years, many farmers commissions under eminent leaders Bhanu Pratap Singh, Chokka Rao, Sharad Joshi prepared excellent reports so also in 1990 National Agricultural Policy was approved. However, none of them are implimented.

1. Elitist talk on agriculture doesn't help - NORMAN BORLAUG

" I am particularly alarmed by those elitists who work to deny small scale farmers in the Third World, access to conventionally improved seeds, fertilizers and crop-protection chemicals that have allowed affluent nations the luxury of plentiful, and inexpensive, foodstuffs which, in turn, has accelerated their economic development"

2-8) Why farmers are angry at NGOs?

When Christian and other Missionaries, Rama Krishna Mission, Father Ferrer, Oxform and others started hospitals and schools and rural development programs people felt that the NGOs will do great services to the under privileged. Unfortunately, in the past 30 years NGOs living in Delhi are getting huge resources from Europe have adopted anti-farmer programs.

They are opposing construction of irrigation projects, adopting modern agricultural practices of fertilizer, pesticides, high breed seed usage, oppose mechanisation which reduces physical drudgery. Most of them prefer beast welfare to that of human beings.

2-9) Why farmers are angry at Corporate Sector?

Indian Industrialist under license permit raj as well as liberalisation got preference from the policy makers, rulers and financial experts for their industrial activities. They have now become globally well known rich people.

However they rarely venture into rural areas nor think of the farmers. Majority of these corporates are insensitive to the rural society needs.

The captains of Indian industry are hailing from traditional business families have started with agro based industries of sugar, oil, jute industries. After 1960's they took up steel, cement, chemicals etc., After liberalisation of 1990s they joined world trade by taking up computers, airlines, infrastructure telecom etc., From Lakhpathi before independence became Carodpathis in 1960s. After 1990s they became billionaires. From small town traders they have promoted to international corporates.

How ever these Indian business men have least concern for farmers. The so called corporate responsibility is an eyewash. It is time now that they should pay attention to the rural areas including agriculture and farmers. Increased productivity and improved purchased capacity of 70% rural people will help the better growth of industrial sector. An equitable development of rural areas is conducive for better economic growth of the country. Development of agriculture sector through investment in Agriculture and Farmer Services is a responsibility of the corporates.

2-10) Why farmers are angry at the duplicity of the Ministry of Finance?

Finance Ministry reduced the Income tax to 30% on the pretext that it is has to be commensurate with the developed nations. ON the same pretext, MOF reduced taxes on luxury items including cars, whisky, computers etc.,

However, when farmers ask Ministry of Finance for subsidies, the stock answer is that India has 60% farmers as against 6% in developed nations and therefore cannot afford. F.M. adopt subsidy ptttern to why not farmer as done in developed notions.

2. C.H. Hanumantha Rao

The cost benefit ratio in Indian agriculture is low and is getting worse. The expenditure on inputs in the cost of production is high but the return in incremental output is low. The low cost-benefits ratio persists, in spite of subsidies on fertiliser, power and irrigation water. As a result, Indian agriculture is progressively becoming high cost agriculture. It is, therefore, necessary to reduce the cost of inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, and also ensure that institutional credit is easily available at low interest rate.

2-11) Why farmers are angry at the Officials for delayed Compensations ?

When farmers are affected by famine drought cyclone, pest, and land acquisition, the compensation paid to the farmers is delayed endlessly. Loosing a crop makes the farmers to have increased expenditure on inputs, family labour, which make them in turn borrow from money lenders.

However the Government is totally insensitive to compensation issues. The procedure to compensate the farmers is lengthy and cumbersome. It has to be initially assessed by the local officials and forwarded by the district officials to the State government. Thereafter the senior officers of the state. After along with our politician has to visit the area and give statements and published their photos in the media.

Government of India dispatches a team to visit the affected areas. Thereafter, the money has to be sanctioned by the GOI and reach the farmers through Secretaries, Directors, commissioners, Deputy Collectors, Tehsildars, village offices This delay has to be reduced.

2-12) Why farmers are angry at the pesticide residue issues?

Every week there will be sensational news items about the Pesticide residue originating from European governments or Indian NGOs. It invariably blames the farmers. The question is who is responsible for Pesticide residue? Pesticide is a crop medicine it has to be compulsorily used to control deceases in the crops.

There are no agricultural extension officers to advice the farmers on pesticides scientific usage. Cities dwellers use huge quantity of DDT for malaria control and also other pesticides for cockroaches, rats and termite controls. All these pollutants and untreated city sewage as well as industrial waste is left into the rivers and this water is used for agriculture. It is responsibility of government to advise farmers on the scientific usage of pesticides. Farmers cannot be blamed or held responsible for pesticide residual issues.

Should India adopt European standards or American standards? In Europe these standards prescribed for water are more stringent than milk. Because the European farmers use vaccine, growth hormones and vitamin zed cattle feed,. The Europeans drink wine and whisky but not water. Why should we ape at Europeans ?

2-13) Why the need for full time extension services from agriculture experts?

Indian farmers loose 50000 crores crops due to pests. Agriculture officers are not available to farmers to assist farmers in identifying pest and advising the treatment. These agriculture officials work 10:00AM to 5:00 PM and are not available on holidays. This is causing difficulties to farmers. Like police officials working 24 hours a day 365 days, agriculture officials should also be available to farmers to advise through out the year. The service conditions of the agriculture officials have to be changed.

2-14) Why Exploitation by Adthidars (Commission Agents) continuous ?

Adthidar (Commission Agents) are Part of India's agriculture marketing systems. Before independence they were controlled by village elders (Panchayats). However after 1960s and 1970s they have become highly exploitative, by charging huge commissions, manipulating prices and restricting farmer's profits. The Adthidars charge 10% commission & additional 3% & 5% on unloading and other incidentals. They also deduct 10% in the guise of bad quality. Farmers are loosing 20% to 30% in the mandies.

A unified farmer's organisation alone can control this menace.

2-15) Why No solution to problem of wild beasts?

Millions of farmers loose thousands of crores worth of crops every year due to damage of crop by wild bores, Monkeys, Elephants. Farmers cannot kill them under wild life protection Act. Government do not provide compensation for the crop losses. While our government and scientist claim to be sending rockets to space they have no solution to control wild bores. **WHY NOT QUESTION OUR LEADER ?**

2-16) Why Need for mechanising agriculture operations ?

The hand operated Milk Machines for farmwomen, sickle sharpening equipment, on farm Pesticides testing equipment are some of the equipments required by the Indian farmers. Why should drudgery reducing equipment are not be promoted?

2-17) Why Indian Agriculture is not subsidized ?

It is claimed by GOI

- a) Fertilizer is supplied at concession rate and that it is a subsidy to farmers.
- b) Electricity and Irrigation water is given at concession rate and that it is subsidy to farmers
- c) Food is provided on concession rate and that it is subsidy to farmers.

The Fact is –

- a) Fertilizer subsidy is given to factories which are inefficient and also manipulative.
- b) Electricity and irrigation are infrastructure to be provided by Government as a constitutional obligation.
- c) Public distribution is introduced due to failure of government to provide employment. Majority of it again is spent in urban areas and not rural areas.
- Hence cannot be considered as subsidy to farmers.

7. Burning Farmers Fields – Gail Omvedt

Indian agriculture policy is to often driven by ideas and illusions of small groups of people who depict farmers as subsistence producers, as clinging to traditions, as ignorant and needing protection from rapacious multinational companies. This section of pseudo Gandhians has been for a long time spreading fear about the impact of new technologies, especially bio technologies and genetic technologies.

8. Romantics of Agriculture – Gail Omvedt

For opponents of big dams and bio technology, the Green Revolution is only a symbol of un sustainability. They rarely admit that agriculture requires water and that local rain water harvest is insufficient they consider big dams and biotechnology is a conspiracy of multinationals to make farmers permanently dependent.

9. Indias economic status

India has 3 economies 1) **Business class economy** comprising of 2% of India's population. They have luxuries of cars, air travel, air conditions, computers, mobile phones etc.

- 2) **Bike economy** comprising of 15% of population who have a scooter, gas connection, TV and Fridge, their children go to English schools and have technical education.
- 3) The **bull cart economy** comprising of 83% has bypassed the reforms. Only a negligible has pucca houses and do not have basic amenities and comforts.

2-18) Why the need to make IRRIGATION a constitutional responsibility OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA?

Agriculture without water is unthinkable. It is as if asking humans to live without water. Unfortunately Governments of India have failed to realize its responsibility and provide assured water to agriculture. The political leaders due to their vested interest have divided the farming community and misguide them on the water related issues. Farmers must realize that the water and air of the country belongs to all citizens. It is foolish to consider that any particular state, region, district has right over the water that passes through their Village. Every drop of water must be utilized by our countrymen for irrigation, human consumption, and industry. Irrigation needs to be made concurrent subject and GOI to provide funds for irrigation projects.

2-19. Why the need to make ELECTRICITY FOR AGRICULTURE, A CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA?

It is the responsibility of the government to provide water to agriculture. In the absence of irrigation water supply, farmers use ground water with their investment. Therefore it is the responsibility of government to provide 24 hours of electricity to farmers.

2-20 Why farmers are angry at the misleading Agriculture labour availability issue ?

Non availability of the Agriculture labour is the biggest problem confronted by farmers in all parts of India. The working hours of agriculture labour has come down 8 hrs to 5 hrs. The youth in rural areas are not interested to do physical work in the fields. In many parts of the country mechanisation is opposed on the pretext that labour will become unemployed. Government is not making efforts to mechanise agriculture. This contradictory and confusing situation is causing many difficulties to the farmers.

2-21 Why there is no Culture in Agriculture ?

Culture is a practise which is learnt from parents or neighbours. Agriculture till 1980s was a traditional occupation in which the children of farmers used to observe and learn agriculture practises from their parents and neighbours.

However, in the recent times introduction of hybrid seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, drip irrigation, tractor usage agriculture has become totally an enterprise and also a scientifically managed activity. Farmers are spending huge money in addition to investment. They have to take into consideration the productivity and also the quality of the produce. The access to market, realization of value is very important to convert farming into profitable business proposition in the 21st century Agriculture has to be consider as an agri enterprise. Farmers have to take into consideration the consumer preference, quality aspects and his own economic issues in his farming activity.

2-22 Why Tobacco farmers are Angry ?

GOI encourages production of rackets, missals, Rifils, Brandy, Whisky and Wine production and exports. But they donot encourage farmers to increase production of tobacco. The government while collecting 10,000 crores as taxes imposes restrictions on tobacco production, processing, Marketing and exports. Indian Tobacco Farmers are the best in the world. Because of Government anti farmers policies international tobacco trade is nonaperised by China, Brazil and even Mozambik an African Country. These impractical policies makes tobacco farmers very very angry.

2-23 Why Sugarcane farmers angry at Government ?

Sugarcane is the most profitable crop in all the states of India. However government has controlled production, processing, export, and ethonal production causing huge damage to

farmers. Sugarcane produces sugar, Alcohol, Ethanol, Paper and Electricity. Government under the pretext that sugar is an essential commodity has imposed many restrictions in production as well as marketing. Brazil introduced ethanol which is used as a petrol substitute in the 1970s. However Indian government because of the lobbying by the petroleum lobby is not permitting use of ethanol. Production of ethanol increases profitability of so also sugar exports. This makes Indian sugarcane farmers angry at government.

2-24 Why farmers are angry on holidays of Government employees ?

There is no holiday for a housewife. So also rickshawpuller, 83% of small farmers, a trader, and a daily wage earner have no holidays. Whereas our 3% Government and public sector employees have approximately 50% holidays in a year. They include Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, earned leave, Sick leave and maternity leave. India a poor country depends on government institutions for everything. Especially for farmers a holiday by an agriculture office, veterinary doctor, primary health doctor, tehsil office holiday creates many difficulties. In a developing country like India government employees who are provided with job security, income security and all facilities should have been working with one single holiday a week. In fact on Independence Day and Republic Day Indians should work 12 hours so that the soul of freedom fighters including Mahatma Gandhi will be in peace. It is estimated that a developed nation Germany people work for 1800 hrs whereas the organised sectors in India work only for 1500 hrs.

3. Why are we still poor ? - Bhanu Pratap Singh

The main cause of poverty in India is our outdated, low yielding agriculture... for want of purchasing power among farmers, demand for industrial goods has slackened. – The reasons including their has been sharp decline in capital formation in farm sector.– The report of CACP has always been adverse to farmers – Controls and restrictions and trade of agriculture products remains same.

4. Booker T. Washington

Writing a poem is honour so also cultivating land. A nation which do not recognise this fact is bound to suffer.

5. Unknown

Farmer is not a weak person. However he is like a tiger brought up among sheep since childhood. Show him his real strength and he will regain his confidence.

6. Acharya Yogi Ram

Man is an incredible and wondrous manifestation of the subtle combination of the imperishable ATMAN, with the perishable extension of body and mind.

3-1) How Indian farmers are made fools? and by Whom Let us understand the problems?

Reduced investments in agriculture sector by GOI.

Government of India from 1980s has reduced investments in agriculture research, Extension, major, medium & minor irrigation, electricity, rural education, rural health, rural roads and other critical areas connected with agriculture development.

REDUCTION OF GOI INVESTMENT TOWARDS AGRICULTURE

S.No.	PLAN	Total Plan Outlay	Agriculture & Allied Sectors	IRRIGATION	Total investment In PERCENT
1	First (51-56)	2378	354	455.1	34.0
2	Second(56-61)	4500	501	580.0	24.2
3	Third(61-66)	8577	1089	1101.2	25.5
4	Annual Plan(66-69)	6625	1107	1032.7	32.3
5	Fourth(69-74)	15779	2320	2577.7	31.0
6	Fifth	39426	4865	4224.4	23.1
7	Annual Plan(79-80)	12167	1997	3753.4	47.2
8	Sixth(80-85)	97500	5095	12315.6	18.5
9	Seventh(85-90)	180000	10525	19675.7	16.8
10	Annual Plan(90-92)	123120	77250	9569.3	13.7
11	Eighth(92-97)	434100	22467	36648.8	13.6
12	Ninth (97-02)	859200	42462	63681.6	12.4
13	Tenth(02-07)	1525639	58933	103315.0	10.6

The day GOI created Department of Rural Development and started diverting resources meant for agricultural and irrigation to satisfy slogan mongering NGOs, vote catching programmes unproductive employment schemes, Agriculture started crumbling.

– From 1980 the country's important Finance Ministers are Dr. Manmohan Singh Mr. P. Chidambaram, Mr. Yeshwanth Singh, Mr. Jaswanth Singh.

3-2) How should a Kissan deal with officials?

Uttam Kethey - Madyam Vypary —Adamam Nowkary was slogan in 1950s & 1960s

Now this popular belief is reversed.

By using pressure tactics the organised sectors, especially Government Employees have cornered huge resources of the Government. With exception of few dedicated employees the others are lazy corrupt and inefficient. Keep a regular check on their performance and also write to higher official and expose them in media.

3-3) HOW DID OUR INDUSTRIALISTS ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL COMPETENCE?

From 1950s to 1990s Indians remember the long Qs for daily ration of rice, Oil, Kerosene, Sugar, Telephone, Gas, Scooter, ambassador and fiat cars. The licence and control raj has shattered our economy and by 1990 the reform process has started.

It helped Indian industrialist to become globally competitive, as the Government of India created a highly favourable conditions by liberating from the licences, inspections, and also helped him to bring latest technology and foreign investment with a nominal interest rate.

3-4) How did our army considered to be as best in the world ?

It is very simple. Our jawans are given the most modern equipment, excellent training and wonderful facilities. So they not only protected our country from aggression but also became one of the best in the world.

3-5) How is our farmers lack global competitiveness ?

While our jawans are given 21st Century Bofors Guns to fight the enemies, our Kissan are given 2nd century B.C Sickles and Ploughs to develop global competitiveness. The Indian farmers have one of the lowest facilities in terms of - a) Water availability b) Seed Replacement c) Extension d) Pesticides usage e) Micro nutrients f) Drips and sprinklers g) tractors h) Cold storages – the list is endless.

While our industrial and service sectors are removed from the shackles of controls, our Kissan and agriculture continues to be controlled by the GOI. The various components that pertain to agriculture like prices, exports, processing, storing and transporting still remains under the controls. The fact is that the Bharatiya Kissan is made a bonded labour to provide low priced food and low cost raw material.

3-6) How Farmers are made KULLU- KA- BHAIL ?

Indian farmer have *gathi* (existence) but no *pragathi* (development). Governments have made agriculture subservient to produce low cost food and low price raw material for the industry. Farmers are not allowed profit on the produce.. The high prices paid by consumers is because of the manipulation by the commission agents and middle men. Farmers receive only 30% to 40% price paid by consumers.

Farmers work only in the fields and are proud of his hard work, productivity and their independence. He does not realize that he is being exploited, manipulated and neglected.

Since farmers think and act like bulls working on *kullu* in small space, he is equated with KULLU – KA – BHAIL. CIFA wants Bhath Kissan to come out of seclusion and demand their rightful share in the Indian economy and development.

3-7) How Ministry of Finance, GOI, Failed to provide loans to farmers by Nationalized Banks?

From 1980 till 2004 the Banks have given only 11% of targeted loans to farmers.

The Finance Ministers were Dr. Manmohan Singh Mr.P. Chidambaram, Mr. Yeshwanth Singh, Mr. Jaswanth Singh.

3-8) How Ministry of Finance, GOI, allow Banks to Charge High interest rates on crop loans?

During 1980 to 2004 the banks charged 16% to 18% on short term and long term loans of farmers, While all the big corporate institutes got credit at much lesser cost. The Finance Ministers during the period were Dr. Manmohan Singh, Mr. P. Chidambaram, Mr. Yeshwanth Singh, Mr. Jaswanth Singh Mr. Pranab Mukharjee. As of now the RBI says that the banks are at liberty to devise their interest rates. This is an anti farmer order.

* This requires to be opposed by farmers associations.

3-9) How Ministry of Finance, GOI, Failed to ensure providing crop insurance by Insurance Companies ?

During 1980 to 2004 the insurance companies have failed to compensate even 10% crop losses. The Finance Ministers during the period were Dr. Manmohan Singh Mr. P. Chidambaram, Mr. Yeshwanth Singh, Mr. Jaswanth Singh and others.

3-10) How Ministry of Finance, GOI, levied High taxes on agriculture inputs of fertilizers, Pesticides, Tractors & Drip equipment?

From 1970 to 2004 the tax on tractor and car was 24% so also the taxes on pesticides drip and sprinkler equipment. In addition the State Governments also levied 8% to 16% Sales tax. The states were ruled by Congress BJP, DMK, AIDMK, Telugu Desam, Samajwadi and other regional parties.

3-11) How Ministry of Finance, GOI, Controls agriculture produce movement?

From 1960 till date the agriculture produce movements are controlled by GOI under Essential Commodities Act. This act has totally destroyed economy of farmers by controlling the storage, movement and processing.

3-12) How Ministry of Finance, GOI, imposed Controls on agriculture produce exports causing reduction in the price of MSP / SAP?.

Government of India imposes serious restrictions on the export of agriculture produce Mr. P. Chidambaram has recently banned export of sugar even though India has huge stocks. This has led to fall of sugarcane price by Rs. 200/- MT to the farmers.

3-13) How Ministry of Finance, GOI, Reduced taxes on agriculture imports and harmed farmers interest ?

Under the pretext that prices of agriculture produce in India is increasing, GOI allows import of produce without any tax (customs duty). This will damage the profitability of Indian farmers. GOI is regularly importing milk powder to control milk price, edible oil to control oil prices. Further under free trade agreement GOI is allowing import of tea, spices, and other produce which has affected the profitability of farmers.

3-14) How Political and State Governments are interfering in Cooperatives and Market yards?

In large number of states cooperative banks, societies and Market yards are used as rehabilitation centres for political supporters of the ruling party.

11.Can India prosper, While its agriculture stagnates? - Bhanu Pratap Singh

Our policy makers have ignored the fact that it is the people of any country who make or mar the future of that country, and not the politicians, industrialists and technicians. The latter can, no doubt, play an important role in the economic development of the country; but if the vast majority of our people are left wallowing in poverty and ignorance, nothing much can be achieved. There is no large country in the world, which has attained the status of a developed country, without first developing its agriculture, and achieving nearly total literacy among its people. In India, our decision- makers have ignored both. If we really want to make progress, we should first pay more attention to agriculture and human development.

12. Growth is never uniform.

Liberalisation has increased inequalities in India. Our billionaires are increasing so also people under BPL.

3-15) How Non involvement of farmers in irrigation (resource) projects management has effected agriculture?

Farmers are not involved in the water management in many parts of the country leading to wastage of water, improper cropping pattern and damage of the irrigation system. Irrigation under officials leads to many malpractices. Management of water resources by the farmers will improve efficiency in usage and better cropping patterns.

3-16) How NABARD has failed to solve the problems of Farmers ?

The NABARD was established for accelerating rural development particularly agriculture sector. But, off late, the NABARD is shying to meet the needs of farmers. It is financing as the State Governments for constructing schools, hospitals, roads, irrigation and infrastructure, neglecting the credit needs of kisans. The accumulated profits earned by NABARD out of the interest paid by farmers is being invested in Government Bonds etc., instead of providing to kisans. The NABARD is reluctant to reduce the rate of interest to be paid by farmers on agricultural loans, but paying 100's of crores as income tax to Government of India.

3-17) How the Nationalized Commercial Banks have failed to fulfill RBI Norm of 18% direct lending to farm sector?

In spite of repeated instructions from RBI, none of the commercial banks have complied with the Norm of 18% direct credit to farm sector. The RBI is of the opinion that the agriculture lending is risky and it has no hesitation to include this in their annual report. What message it communicate to all commercial banks? Unless the mind set of commercial banks is changed and every agricultural holding in the country is provided with holistic credit facilities, the farmers have to depend on private money lenders and input dealers. The kind of interest and principal waivers banks do in the name of OTS to industrialists shall be published annually.

3-18) How is minimum support price is not helpful to farmers ?

The minimum support price (MSP) is introduced by Government of India to assist the farmers from distress sale of produce. MSP calculated by CACP, works under Ministry of Agriculture, GOI. The CACP is supposed to take recommendations of State Governments.

But in reality it does not help farmers ? CACP does not consider the following

1. Family Labour of the farmer : The working hours of farmers wife children and parents.
2. The management and the supervision charges of the farmer.
3. The investments on bore wells / tube wells, electricity deposit repairs and the labour.
4. There is no profit margin for the farmers.
5. There is no saving for old age.

What should farmer do ?

- a) MSP should be the cost of cultivation (C2)+ at least 50% of the cost of cultivation (National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan has also recommended the same.)
- b) The cost of production of an industrial product include investment, interest, depreciation, management charges but the same is not followed in deciding MSP.
- c) Farmers should realize that MSP is not a charity to farmers given by governments. Any sovereign country cannot live without food security. The food production is a lengthy and complex process. Therefore, food production by the farmers and demanding a profitable price is a fundamental right of farmers.

3-19) How States are living on the Liquor Income Sinned Money of Poor People ?

State	2005-06*	2006-07**
Karnataka	3,347.72 (16.2)	4,060.34(18.0)
Uttar Pradesh	3,223.40(16.3)	3,650.00(15.5)
Tamil Nadu	3,012.14(13.6)	3,673.26(13.6)
Maharashtra	2,850.00(7.6)	3,100.00(7.5)
Andhra Pradesh	2,851.18(14.4)	3,250.00(13.7)
Punjab	1,499.00(16.4)	1,628.44(16.6)
Rajasthan	1,508.00(15.5)	1,600.00(14.6)
Madhya Pradesh	1,300.00(14.6)	1,430.00(14.3)
Haryana	1,135.00(13.3)	1,200.00(12.5)

** Expected income

3-20) How farmers movements have failed due to Non involvement of women and socially under privileged sectors ?

A farm women spends 6 hours hard work in managing a cow or buffalo. The six to eight litter Milk sells at Rs. 7/- - 9/- is highly unremunerative. None of our farmers leaders have launched a farmers movement to get a profitable price for the milk. The farmers leadership in the country have mainly concentrated on issues of electricity, price for sugarcane, cotton etc.

Similarly non-involvement of socially under privileged communities in the farmers movement is also another reasons for the failure of farmers movement. The 21st century farmers leaders have to reorient their priorities and make efforts for involving the socially under privileged sections in all the farmers association activities.

13 Rural poor to pay for urban elite – Devinder Sharma

Nearly 600 million Indian farmers will now have to pay the price to keep 1.6 lakh jobs in the service sector afloat. This is the price that the poor and marginalized must shell out to keep the minuscule face of urban elite shining.

14. Give us water, not food – Meena Menon

In Beed District of Maharashtra 167 villages in Ashti Taluk over 190 government tankers and 186 private tankers supply water to the farmers during the drought. How come the government have failed to provide assured drinking water to rural people even after 60 years of independence?

15. Is our populist democracy becoming a mobocracy ?

Perhaps yes! The way our politicians spend crores of rupees to get elected and the way ignorant illiterate people take money, alcohol to vote is leading to a degradation in our democracy .

4-1) What is the Need for Independent and Professional Farmers Associations ?

For the farmers to involve wholeheartedly in the development process, it is necessary that there should be a strong and well-knit independent organisation of farmers with units at appropriate levels such as the village, district, State and the Nation. This association should act as a catalyst amongst the farming community and make them participate effectively in all programs.

These associations should **protect farmers' interest and from exploitation of other well-organised sectors**. Secure adequate and appropriate policy and financial support from Government and also Private Sectors.

4-2) Definition of a Farmer

Great social reformer **Mahatma Basveshwara** (1105 1167 AD) said that –

“ Krishi Krutya Kayak Maduva
Sadbhaktan Padava Torayya –
Atana Tanushuddha, Atana Mana shuddha
Atana Bhava Voo Shuddha—”

“Show me the sacred feet of a farmer so that I can bow before him—

A farmer's body is pure; his mind is pure and — thoughts are pure —”

“Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country:
But its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among
the cultivators of the land”

- **Lord Chatham**

The Saint Philosopher Thiruvalluvar glorifies the farmer as follows

“Ullundundu Valvare Valvarmar rellam

Tolundundu pincel bavar”

“They only live by right,

They till the soil, and raise their own food,

Rest are just parasites, who live upon them”