



Agriculture Summit 2005

REFORMS FOR RAISING FARM INCOME

April 9-10, 2005- New Delhi

Summary Report

Jointly organised by



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India

FICCI

Federation of Indian Chambers of
Commerce and Industry

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I - Executive Summary

Indian agriculture, the mainstay of the livelihood of over 60% of the population, is set to receive a “New Deal” with the Government committed to formulate a comprehensive package for reforms and policy changes vital for increasing farm income, productivity and making the sector globally competitive.

In the backdrop of the new internal and external challenges faced by the farm sector and the alarming deceleration in the rate of growth of agriculture during the past decade, the Government is proactively looking for solutions to the problems bedeviling the sector and has expressed its intent on charting out a well-defined roadmap for putting agriculture at the centrestage of the national agenda.

To provide critical inputs to the Government in the mammoth task of pushing through second-generation reforms in agriculture and provide the trigger for accelerating national economic reforms, **the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India** and the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** jointly organised **Agriculture Summit 2005 – Reforms for Raising Farm Income** in New Delhi on April 9-10, 2005.

Central to the deliberations of the Summit was Public-Private Partnership for giving a strategic thrust to develop a new policy and regulatory framework for raising farm sector growth and productivity, income, employment and reduce poverty.

With this in view, the Agriculture Summit set out to unearth implementable ideas and solutions to the myriad problems dogging Indian agriculture and put the farm sector on the road to self-sustained growth.

Specifically, the Summit sought redefine Government intervention to make Indian agriculture demand driven, highlight the success stories of the private sector in their initiatives to raise incomes of farmers and partnering with farmers, enhance financial flows to the farm sector, push for much higher levels of public investment in agriculture infrastructure, increase value



addition in agri products, augment efficiency of input use, promote extensive R&D activities, create an enabling environment for attracting private investment in all stages of the agri value chain, leverage competitive advantages to maximize opportunities in the world market, assure sustainable farm income through alternative models of risk management, adopt new technologies & farming practices and promote bio fuels as renewable and environment-friendly alternative fuels.

It is widely recognized and appreciated that with its different agro-climatic regions, India is geographically well suited to produce different varieties of fruits, vegetables and a variety of crops all around the year. The country enjoys competitive advantage because our farmers are the most cost-effective producers in the world.

Yet, India's agriculture sector continues to languish. There is a yawning gap between performance and potential. And India's share of the world trade in agri products is a measly 1.5%. The Agriculture Summit was thus aimed at unraveling the core issues that afflict Indian agriculture and giving the farm sector the centrality that it deserves in the pursuit of reforms, growth, development with equity and inclusiveness.

'New Deal' to Rural India

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his Inaugural Address set the ball rolling by giving a clarion call to accelerate the growth rate in agriculture if the rate of growth of the economy is to be stepped up to 7 to 8%. "Unfortunately, there has, in fact, been a deceleration in the past decade. While the Tenth Plan assumed that agricultural production would grow at the rate of 4.0%, the reality is that in the first three years of the Plan we have not been able to ensure even 1.5% rate of growth. It is to reverse this neglect that our Government stated at the very outset that our priority would be to give a "New Deal to Rural India".

This "New Deal" required immediate steps for

- *Reversing the declining trend in investment in agriculture*
- *Stepping up credit flow to farmers*
- *Increasing public investment in irrigation & and wasteland development*



- *Increasing funds for agricultural research & extension*
- *Creating a 'single market' for agricultural produce*
- *Investing in rural healthcare & education*
- *Investing in rural electrification*
- *Investing in rural roads*
- *Setting up commodities futures markets*
- *Insuring against risks inevitable in a commercialized agrarian economy*

The Hon'ble Prime Minister said it was imperative to consider the entire country as a common or single market for agricultural products, for which it was important to systematically remove internal controls and restrictions, enable and facilitate direct marketing between farmers and NGOs, cooperatives and private companies.

Challenges & Opportunities

*The **Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar**, in his **Keynote Address** unveiled his vision of Indian agriculture and stated that the agriculture sector in India presented many challenges and opportunities. "We have a wide range of diverse agro-ecological conditions making it possible to grow different crop type, including horticulture, in all parts of the country. Yet, the price of fruits and vegetables is high and consumption is low. India has a huge internal market; yet, good harvest in a particular season leads to fall in prices. Increased production often faces marketing challenges. There is a good liquidity in the banking sector; yet, a large number of farmers are dependent on the informal financial sector for their credit needs.*

India needs a second green revolution with an end-to-end approach where production and productivity patterns are tied up with markets and end users. This according to me is India's biggest challenge – and must be faced by both the public and the private sector".

He enumerated several imperatives to put Indian agriculture on a sound footing. These include:

- *Easy credit availability*
- *Large investments in all agricultural processes*



- *Increase in cropping intensity*
- *Efficiency in water use*
- *Creation of post-harvest and marketing infrastructure*
- *Revision of the APMC Act*
- *Proper risk management*
- *Improved crop insurance scheme*
- *Assured irrigation facilities*
- *Tapping opportunities in horticulture*
- *Recognition to warehouse receipts to facilitate agri trade*
- *Godown accreditation policy*
- *Electronic interlinkage of mandis*
- *Focus on demand-driven agriculture research*
- *Strengthening of agriculture extension*

The Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Smt. Radha Singh, in her **Welcome Address**, pointed out the unshackling of India's entrepreneurial initiative is evident in all sectors, except agriculture where it is still in a nascent stage. Although some restraints on entrepreneurial activities have been removed, many still remain. Steps are under way to liberalize the Essential Commodities Act, the APMC Act, the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act and a myriad of other food related laws, through an Integrated Food Law, with States being central to such partnership.

She said, "in a fast changing world our ageless practices have to be moulded and crafted with care, to bring in reforms that are consensual and unhurting. The road map for agricultural growth has also to recognize that we no longer are in the era of shortages, and that meeting the challenges of a changing environment is ever so more demanding - requiring complete links with end-use. India's gigantic strides in agriculture have stopped short of such end use linkages, leaving the last mile uncovered. That crucial last mile is what needs our focused attention".



The Agriculture Ministry, she said, would seriously continue to pursue the agenda of increasing investments under contract farming, marketing, food supply chain and infrastructure development along with exports. It noted that the dependence of the rural population would need to shift from crop-centric agriculture towards activities such as grading, storing, processing, marketing and retailing. This shift from subsistence farming to enterprise farming can occur only when the Central and State Governments, corporates, cooperatives, research and financial institutions enter into collaborative partnership for investing in transfer of technology, creation of appropriate new technology fueled by strong market and xeffective demands.

*In his **Theme Presentation**, the **Chairman, Agriculture & Rural Development Committee, FICCI, Mr. P M Sinha**, outlined FICCI's strong advocacy of agri reforms and policy changes, with a view to increasing the income of the farmers, farm productivity and make Indian agriculture globally competitive. The FICCI Task Force on Agriculture has been striving to identify major bottlenecks that hinder the growth of Indian agriculture, identify its competitiveness in the global market, and suggest a policy framework that would rejuvenate it.*

He also pointed that there is a need to address the conflicting domestic policies relating to production, procurement, pricing and distribution; the rising Minimum Support Prices, ineffective subsidy system, regulated domestic markets, lack of infrastructure facilities, low productivity, low value addition and ad-hoc export policies. It would be difficult for India to attain a higher trajectory growth in agriculture and compete in the global market in absence of solutions to these critical issues”.

FICCI, he said, strongly believes that for the growth of agriculture sector as a whole, a solid partnership between the farmers, Central and State governments, agriculture universities, agri research institutes, and industry is critical. Planned and need-based integration of industry with agriculture would ensure that benefits percolate to the farmers.

*In his **Vote of Thanks**, the **FICCI President, Mr Onkar S. Kanwar**, stated, “we at FICCI felt vindicated by your (Prime Minister's) emphasis on one of the key constraints affecting India's economy. Four years ago, motivated by the same concern we had formed our Agriculture Task Force to define a comprehensive set of reforms to galvanize Indian agriculture. Since then, the urgency of this task has become all the more apparent”.*



While welcoming the Government's resolve to invest 6% of GDP in education, he strongly urged a similar aspiration for agriculture, a sector which provides livelihoods to over 60% of our population. Mr. Kanwar expressed confidence that with the prime Minister's personal commitment, the Indian farmer could look towards a more prosperous future. This would require a new partnership between the farmers, the government and the corporate sector.

Public - Private Partnership

The Summit was structured into four **Plenary Sessions and six Parallel Sessions** to allow experts from Government agencies and the private sector to delve deeply into problems bedeviling the farm sector and suggest practical solutions.

Plenary I focussed on creating a demand-driven research agenda: Role of Public-Private Partnership (PPP). It threw light on the CSIR experience in building PPP; ICAR's perspective on a roadmap for reforms; lab to farm; role of private sector; and Government's role in facilitating agri research in private sector. **Plenary II** was on PPP in marketing and infrastructure. It focussed on new initiatives in PPP in agri marketing & infrastructure; marketing and distribution: reforms for the private sector and alternative marketing models. **Plenary III** was devoted to risk management for protecting the farmer. It dwelt on leveraging commodity futures and derivatives trading for price discovery and risk management, farm insurance: past experience and alternative models, and delivery mechanism for farm insurance. **Plenary IV** focussed on financing PPPs in agriculture. The issues it discussed were: new initiatives in agri value chain and lending opportunities for banks and financial institutions' ways to enhance credit flows through revitalisation of cooperatives and expansion of Self-Help Groups and global experience in financing PPP in Agriculture.

Parallel Session I-A was devoted to a new framework for bio fuels. It focussed on the current status on bio diesel and bio fuel and its prospects in India, strategies for commercialising bio diesel and bio fuels and the potential for Jatropha. **Session I-B** was on water conservation, water use efficiency and micro irrigation. It focussed on water conservation for dryland farming and incentivising the farmer to promote water use efficiency. **Session I-C** focussed on extension and support for quality inputs, with special reference to the extension mechanism for ensuring technology adoption and quality of inputs. **Parallel Session 2-A** looked at growth options for



fisheries and meat development with focus on current scenario and growth prospects for fishery and raising India's share in global markets. **Session 2-B** was on the current scenario and growth options for dairy and poultry raising India's share of these sectors in global markets. **Session 2-C** focussed on value addition in agriculture and horticulture products, with special reference to creating partnerships between growers and processors, market opportunities at home and abroad for processed food, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures that hamper competitive advantage.

The Sessions were Chaired by the Members of the Planning Commission (**Prof Abhijit Sen & Dr Kirit S Parikh**), Secretaries of various Ministries (**Smt Radha Singh**, Secretary, Deptt of Agriculture and Cooperation, MoA, **Shri S C Tripathi**, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Shri D P Singh**, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, and **Shri P M A Hakeem**, Secretary, Deptt of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, MoA), **Dr (Mrs.) C T Misra**, Additional Secretary, Deptt of Agriculture & Cooperation, MoA, **Mr C S Rao**, Chairman, IRDA, **Dr R A Mashelkar**, Director Genral, CSIR and **Dr Shankar N Acharya**, Honorary Professor & Member, Board of Governors, ICRIER.

Role of Cooperative Bank Credit

*In his **Valedictory Address**, the **Hon'ble Finance Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram** announced that the Government would impress upon State Governments the need to impart efficiency in the operations of cooperative banks to make available developmental credit to the farmers on soft terms.*

"The cooperative banking sector is the weakest of the three links in the credit delivery mechanism to the rural sector", the Hon'ble Finance Minister said and added that while the Centre would ensure that commercial banks and regional rural banks work for the framers, the onus of low-cost funding through cooperative banks rested squarely with the State Governments.

"In my view, these issues must be resolved quickly. Contract farming must be given a new thrust. Mandis must be privatised. The APMC Act must be amended. It is not enough for State Governments to promise amendments. A new Seeds Bill must become law. There must soon



be an integrated food law and eventually retail must be opened up at least for agricultural products and foreign direct investment must be allowed into retail”.

The Hon’ble Finance Minister laid stress on the following issues:

- *New thrust to Contract Farming*
- *Amendment to the APMC Act*
- *Enactment of a new Seeds Law*
- *Introducing an integrated food law*
- *Opening up of retail for agricultural products*
- *Allowing FDI in retail trade*
- *Development of rural infrastructure - rural extension & agro-based food processing*
- *Improvement in cold storage & transport facilities*
- *Development of efficient marketing*
- *Creation of proper markets*

The easy and cheap supply of production and developmental credit, he said, was the key to raise growth rates in agriculture from the current level to 4% and urged State Governments to recognise their responsibilities. The Central Government, he assured, would make the commercial banks and RRBs work for the farmers.

Wastage of Produce

Hon’ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries (Independent Charge), Mr. Subodh Kant Sahai, pointed out that India is the 3rd largest producer of food in the world, the largest milk producer, the second largest fruit and vegetable producer, the largest livestock holder besides a large quantum of various products.

He said, “though we do have to travel on the road of high production and productivity, what is of concern is the harnessing of the production which is already available. During harvesting of various produce, we often see gluts emerging leading to wastages and destruction of produce.



We, in the Ministry, have also been running schemes and programmes to take this industry forward. We have sanctioned 49 Food Parks. These Parks provide the basic facilities necessary for starting up food processing industry and would be beneficial in the sense that the external economies of scale shall be available to the units being set up in such Park. We intend to further improve upon the existing scheme for Food Parks. After discussion with industry, we have formulated a revised scheme of Mega Food Park which we intend taking up with Planning Commission for their approval”.

Areas Targeted for Investment

In the **Presentation on Proceedings of the Summit, the Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture**, outlined the areas identified by the Summit for targeted investment. These include:

- Dryland farming
- Micro irrigation
- Horticulture
- Warehousing
- Commodity exchanges
- Grading & standardisation of produce
- Silos & bulk handling infrastructure
- Food processing and value addition
- Supply and cold chain
- Modern markets
- Wasteland development
- Fisheries & livestock development

The **Senior Vice President, FICCI, Mr. Saroj Kumar Poddar**, called for an incentive mechanism for motivating the States to step up investments like in the irrigation sector. The time was ripe to restructure subsidies for productive investment and for redirecting them for strengthening Public-Private Partnership.



Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India



The **Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Dr. (Mrs.) C. T. Misra**, presented a vote of thanks and the **Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture Mr. A. K. Agarwal** moderated the Valedictory Session.

The Agriculture Summit was a big draw as it brought together several hundred participants representing the entire spectrum of agriculture – farmers, growers, input and fertilizer associations, export organizations, commodity boards and exchanges, research institutions, NGOs, financial institutions, insurance companies and grain dealers.

The Summit also witnessed participation by a glitterati of diplomats, officials of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture and related sectors, Vice Chancellors and scientists from agriculture universities, international agencies like the FAO, IFPRI, World Bank and ADB, representatives from the private sector, national and international experts, economists, the media and other leading stakeholders in agriculture.



II - Issues and Recommendations (Ministry- Wise)

1. Ministry of Agriculture

A. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation

a. *Marketing & Infrastructure*

1. Implement the Model APMC Act, with a few critical changes, in consultation with the Industry to encourage direct marketing, to free the farmers to sell to whoever they want, enable them to get the best price for their produce, and create partnerships with banks, finance and logistics companies, for lowest cost financing and marketing. States should be incentivised through budget allocation for speedy implementation of the amendments.
2. Develop a new Act, which should focus on strengthening and modernizing marketing infrastructure by attracting private investment.
3. Allow professionally managed Wholesale Markets. Treat organization of markets as a service industry, and allow markets to be set up by the private sector and farmers' cooperatives. This will attract private investment in creation of much needed marketing infrastructure, create competition and ensure better service to the farmers.
4. With the increasing globalization, rising trading opportunities, cost competitiveness, emphasis on value addition through standardization, changing composition of the Indian diet, there is a need to develop alternative marketing models like:
 - a. Contract Farming without unnecessary restrictions – The role of the Government should be to facilitate contract farming & not control it.
 - b. Private Mandis. Also the improve management & quality of services being provided by the existing mandis.
 - c. Direct Marketing like ITC e-choupal.
 - d. The NDDDB model of public-private partnership, which provides a viable alternative for small farmers should be replicated.
5. Create partnerships with banks, finance and logistics companies.



6. Encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Food Retailing.
7. Facilitate Food Retail Supply Chain, given the growing urbanization, rising population, working spouses, increasing household disposable incomes and the projected increase in demand for food. (The private final consumption of food in India was Rs 5,000,000 million in 1999-2000)
 - a. Allow super markets/retail chains (permitting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)) in urban areas. It is well known that almost 40 per cent of goods sold by retail chains in the world, are either agriculture products or processed foods, and that these retail chains have backward linkage with farmers through contract farming mode. This provides huge market opportunity at fair prices to farmers, as middlemen have no role.
8. Permit options trading.
9. Provide safety net to farmers by financial risk management.
10. Introduce effective Agricultural Insurance.

b. Water Conservation, Water Use Efficiency & Micro-Irrigation

1. More priority should be given for in-situ moisture conservation like compartment bunding, ridges & furrow, tied ridges, double cropping, strip cropping, mulching and vegetative barriers.
2. There is a scope to create Water User Associations (Participatory Irrigation Management) for operation and maintenance of water distribution and application systems.
3. Individual farmers should also adopt water conservation and water management practices like water harvesting, micro-irrigation on Farm Reservoir Technology etc.
4. Bring awareness among the farmers for natural resource conservation using On Farm Reservoir (OFR) technology/ farm ponds. The Success of Chattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand on drought management, farm ponds during Kharif, using this technology should be widely replicated in other places also.
5. Use of Farm Yard Manure, Vermi-compost, green manuring, recycling of crop residues and bio mulching.



c. *Extension & Support for Quality Inputs*

1. Encourage public-private partnership, in extension services, based on Sangrur Model. Encourage interaction between the allied bodies of government like ICAR, IARI, and agricultural universities. Encourage private sector participation in mass media pertaining to agriculture.
2. Replicate models like Hariyali Kisan Bazaar Model, where farmers can access variety of agriculture inputs, finance, extension and marketing facilities.
3. There is a need to empower farmers through information, capacity building and organizing.
4. India should promote International standards on agri practices like EUREP GAP Standards.
 - a. Develop and introduce India GAP to become a reliable global player in agriculture
5. Urgent need for overall upgradation in input quality:
 - a. Government should encourage and introduce quality guidelines for nursery, seed, feed and agro chemicals.
 - b. Corporate bench marking certificates for inputs manufacturers should be introduced. Introduce proper certification of consultants operation in agriculture. Issue operating licenses to ensure quality and health of inputs.
 - c. Establish mobile quality testing laboratories.
6. Establish Toll Free numbers for farmers to register complaints against poor quality of inputs, adulteration etc.
7. Promote market access, credit, knowledge and information to increase farm income and develop efficient delivery mechanism through integrated approach.
8. Promote micro-enterprises amongst matured SHGs, support marketing strategies and capacity building of SHGs.
9. Pesticide Act Section 19 (4) needs to be amended. Government should bring out clear strategic documentation for pesticides use in the country. Establish facilities for testing pesticides residues. Shift in focus from pesticide usage per se to proper, safe and judicious usage of pesticides. It is recommended that State Governments should evaluate its laboratories concerned with pesticide residues analysis for its competence in testing and also for the availability of necessary infrastructure including pesticide instrumentation for testing



pesticides residues. In case of deficiencies, concerned State government should take steps to impart training to its analytical staff and also provide funds and upgrade the quality of testing facilities to the level acceptable internationally.

10. Need for dealer training and formulation of context - driven policies.
11. Train the educated unemployed youth in the villages.
12. Introduce greater number of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business centers to provide agriculture extension through agriculture graduates on self-employment mode. Appoint Agriculture Graduates as Agri Finance Agents.
13. Efforts must be made in making the farmers aware of the various new opportunities and the dangers associated with them.

d. Value Addition in Agriculture & Horticulture Products

1. Reform Phytosanitary Regulations & make it more user friendly.
2. One time certification of Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ).
3. Import permits application to be simplified.
4. Reduce high inspection fees for quarantine inspection.
5. Address and mitigate the issues like quota, tariff, SPS and pest risk analysis.
6. Awareness for value added products has to be created among the farmers. Forward and backward linkages with the markets to promote the growth of value added industry.
7. Strengthen linkages and interaction between growers and industries.
 - a. Map the requirements of the Industry and then accordingly plan the production.
 - b. Promote growers cooperatives in food park region wherein growers will produce for the industry
8. Concentrate on aggressive marketing campaigns to generate awareness among the farmers.
9. Identify a productive zone and try to cluster the area specific production.
10. Focus on emerging niche markets i.e. Organic and Functional health foods which have higher potential to raise the farm income.
11. Infuse technology in the processing industry to make it more vibrant and dynamic. Promote



the industry to evolve a strong brand name.

12. Invest in export market intelligence collection and dissemination.
13. Invest in quality promotion through development of quality standards, certification and brand promotion.
14. Incentivise creation of facilities for collection, sorting, grading and transportation of agri produce to Processors/Markets.
15. Implement Seed & the Quarantine Act. The Inspection Fee as prescribed in schedule III of the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order 1989 makes the imported planting material expensive. The schedule of Fee, therefore, needs a relook.
16. The State Government should also form a strong team of young horticulturists to be trained in EUREPGAP standards and inspection and be made responsible for taking the concept to the farming community of the state to promote implementation of EUREPGAP Standards.
17. An effective mechanism should be developed for drawal of samples of fruits/vegetables from export-oriented farms for sending them to approved test laboratories, for compliance of EUREPGAP Standards

e. *Revitalization of Cooperatives*

Strengthen Credit delivery by revitalizing cooperatives.

f. *Some of the aspects related to Infrastructure Development which require immediate attention of Ministry of Agriculture:*

1. Develop basic Infrastructure using Public-Private Partnerships.
2. Provide seed capital for agricultural infrastructure and leverage with private participation.
3. Value Chain Approach in Agri-investments in an integrated and planned manner.
4. Permit to open private markets and purchases outside mandi.
5. Support storage infrastructure including ports and temperature-controlled storage.
6. Create multi-channel strategy like credit bureau for the farmers to bear the problems of financial risks.



g. National Committee on Plastic Culture in Horticulture under Ministry of Agriculture should take the following necessary actions pertaining to some of the policy recommendations in propagating micro-irrigation:

1. Micro-Irrigation technology enables irrigation at high levels of efficiency of 80-90 percent as compared to 30-40 percent under conventional irrigation systems. Hence this technology needs to be promoted extensively.
2. The irrigation system needs to be modernized to enable delivery of water on demand basis to farmers through pipes based on the crop water requirement.
3. Drip and Sprinkler irrigation being cost intensive at the initial level, need to be supported for enabling farmers to adopt the technology. Assistance at the rate of 50% cost of the system is considered optimum.
4. The coverage of area under micro-irrigation so far is only 2.2 million hectares against the potential of 62.5 Mha. Hence efforts need to be made to increase the coverage of area under this system at an accelerated pace, which is possible with effective Public-Private Partnership.
5. Conveyance of water from source to field as well as creation of water harvesting facility needs inclusion in the micro irrigation (MI) assistance package.
6. Facilitate loan: Drip technology need be given a special status so that farmers can avail of loan irrespective of default. Reduce the interest rates for the loans availed on purchase of equipments.
7. Adequate training should be imparted to the farmers on the technological aspects of the micro irrigation before they are given assistance for installing micro irrigation systems. This would enable proper post installation maintenance and care of the system.
8. The system manufacturers need to ensure proper post installation maintenance of the micro-irrigation system. The dealers should be well trained and should keep sufficient stock of the spares.

B. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture

a. Growth Options for Fisheries

1. Pass the Aquaculture Authority Bill.



2. Facilitate import of selected exotic species having good export market.
3. Make India a processing hub by importing fishery products for re-export.
4. Clear ambiguities in sanitary import permits.
5. Amend the MPEDA Act 1972.
6. Diversify aquaculture to new exportable varieties of fish and shellfish Induction/standardization of technology for breeding and culture of candidate species.
7. Ministry of Agriculture should take into consideration farmer friendly insurance cover to small-scale fish and shrimp farmers.

b. Growth Options for Meat

1. Include meat as an eligible item in the “Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana” (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme).
2. Restore APEDA Financial Assistance for upgradation of export oriented abattoirs / processing plants as was applicable during 1997-2002.
3. Include Buffalo meat under APEDA’s Transport Assistance Scheme for new markets in Africa / CIS where freight cost from India for reefer containers is much higher than from competing countries.
4. Restore Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for frozen Buffalo meat.
5. Exempt Service Tax on transportation of meat products processed for exports. This is presently applicable only for fruits, vegetables, eggs or milk even for domestic consumption.
6. Premium priced Buffalo calf meat for niche markets.
7. With improved livestock health, access to upper end markets like the EU could be possible.

c. Growth Options for Dairy

1. Integrated crop-centric livestock development approach in dry land farming areas.
2. Encourage corporate participation in the dairy sector by incentivising on some of the core areas of investment.
3. Expand the co-operative model and adopt cluster approach.



4. Improve the working efficiency of village level dairy cooperatives and milk unions with a view to improve their sustainability and financial viability.
5. Empower women in dairying.
6. Replicate the successful technologies developed by Punjab and Haryana in low milk producing states.
7. Rationalize regulatory requirements and their implementation.
8. Disseminate information on breeding, feeding and processing.
9. Improve the overall efficiency of Bull breeding farms, semen stations, and Artificial Insemination (A.I.) service including delivery of semen and liquid nitrogen.
10. Understand and respond to the farmer's needs for high quality services, technology and credit systems at his doorstep.
11. Establish fodder banks at strategic locations for providing fodder during emergencies and periods of fodder scarcity.
12. Improve the State veterinary services particularly with respect to adequate vaccination cover and disease diagnostic services.
13. Introduce livestock health insurance schemes for dairy animals.
14. Increase value addition in dairy sector. Banks should ensure that all backward and forward linkages are available and prepare a scheme in a compact manner so that inputs and services including marketing of milk are available.
15. Liaison local agencies, foreign institutions and donors for business and manpower training and development programmes.

d. Growth Options for Poultry

1. Ministry of Agriculture should accord the status of agriculture for poultry farming and incentivise the farmers with similar benefits bestowed upon agriculture farmers in the country.
2. Focus on increasing yield of maize and soya bean and also increase the acreage under these two crops. This will be needed to meet the feed requirement of the growing poultry and dairy business.
3. Have quarantine measures for imported products.



4. Include eggs in the Mid Day Meal program.
5. Credit facility to poultry farmers as per agriculture norms.
6. Induct minimum support price system to protect small farmer.

C. DARE & ICAR

1. Increase funds for agricultural research.
2. Increase Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Research and Development with focus on identified crops and productivity yield increase in match with the best in international agriculture.
3. Public-Private Partnerships in identifying effective participation in agricultural research and development.
4. Create Regional Centres of Excellence for the above.
5. Set up incubation centres: R&D ideas should be supported and incubated by the government. There should be incubation centers on different aspects of agriculture and located across the country.
6. Allow co-sharing of facilities with industry. Public R&D institutes have huge physical assets, hence industry should be allowed to avail these assets.
7. The Ministry of Agriculture should permit private sector to locate their R&D units within the premises of Public Research Institutes like IARI and ICAR in similar lines of CSIR.
8. The revenue generated through research and development by research institute/agency should be allowed to retain those for the development of their research itself instead of forwarding those revenue to the headquarters of ICAR. The Ministry of Agriculture should take a positive approach for this.
9. The Ministry of Agriculture should make guidelines to facilitate easy mobility of scientists to and from industry.
10. In case of Bio-fuels, the Ministry of Agriculture should
 - a. Extend technical support through professionals to farmers.
 - b. Provide R & D support to find out new applications of Glycerin
 - c. Arrange extensive training to farmers



11. ICAR should commercialize R&Ds developed by them. There should be demand-driven approach for the research done in the institutes. Proper interface between private sector and ICAR officials should be developed on a regular basis.
12. Scientists have to be placed on the Board of Directors of Private sector so as to learn the business skills and vice versa for identifying focused Research and Development in ICAR.
13. Some of the strategies like establishing a marketing group in each lab and devolution of decision making, awards for marketing and business development and specialized business development-consultancy have to be adopted by ICAR to make its research institutes generate business and income.
14. Studies should be conducted to identify comparative advantage of each region as far as the best crops to be developed by that region. Each region should be incentivised and developed as special production zones for each crop.
15. An analysis has to be done of the best variety of crops traded in the international market and we should try to bring that variety into India and promote its development in the country.
16. The curriculum of agricultural education should be revised thoroughly, keeping in view the global changes taking place in agrarian sector.
17. Build solid partnership between the farmers, Central and State governments, agriculture universities, agri research institutes, and industry.
18. Research Institutes should adopt and develop package of farming practices, which are locally relevant, and within the resource base of the farmer. Research Institutes should be given freedom to operate research agenda as per local needs.
19. The Agri research institutes should focus on optimizing water usage practices and rationalized chemical inputs to build sustainability.
20. There is an urgent need for institutional mechanism for promoting PPP in agriculture research and extension. Develop public-private partnership with input companies on the basic research agenda.
21. Agriculture biotechnology needs to be focused as one of the prime areas for PPP.
22. Private industry should have increased access to germ-plasm /breeder seeds and the technology testing cost being charged by ICAR institutions to private seed companies should be reduced.



2. Ministry of Food & PD and Consumer Affairs

a. General Recommendations

1. Scrap the Essential Commodities Act.
 - a. When everything is freely imported, free movement of local agriculture produce, between States, should be permitted. India should have a 'single market' for agriculture produce.

b. Marketing & Infrastructure

1. Promote development of a Warehousing Receipt System for agricultural commodities
2. Make Warehouse Receipt as Negotiable Instrument.
3. Announce standards and grades for all crops and horticulture products so that pricing is linked to the grades. Also communicate the standards widely.
4. In order to provide a viable alternative to the village Arthiya System, an effective warehouse system needs to be introduced.
 - a) Permit 70 per cent of stock kept by farmers in warehouses to be paid immediately on the ruling price of the day. Agri futures markets to flash daily prices of products transparently allowing farmers to sell their entire produce in the warehouses on the price of their choice. 30 per cent of the balance payment to be paid on final price as chosen by the farmer less pre specified storage charges.
 - b) There is a need to encourage certified warehouses all over the country, which meet certain specifications and standards to store the produce.
 - c) Lay down various standards and specification for certified warehouses, as also rules and regulations for managing them including fidelity aspects.
 - d) Set up urgently an accreditation agency for certified warehouses and warehouse receipts. Encourage private sector, cooperatives and panchayats to set up rural godowns. Specify standards and permit warehousing receipt system.
 - e) Promote latest information system for warehouse receipt to help in identifying ownership of produce, transfer of lien, hypothecation of receipt for loan and trading of the produce in the context of spot delivery.



- f) Exempt various taxes and levies arising on the negotiability of the warehouse receipts.

c. Protecting the Farmer: Risk Management

1. Forward Contract Regulation Act to allow Options and Weather Derivatives.
2. Define Standards & Grades for agricultural commodities and develop mechanisms for communication and dissemination of transparent pricing (post offices and railway stations may be instructed to carry agri produce prices, as they are access points for farmers).
3. Banks and International Trading Exchanges should be allowed free access.

d. Food Corporation of India

1. Support the initiative of Food Corporation of India to encourage States to procure and distribute food grains within the State:
 - a) It is necessary to involve States more actively in agri-marketing as they are independently managing PDS supply through their own agencies
 - b) Another option for States could be to out-source procurement, handling and distribution to private sector, ensuring MSP to farmers
 - c) Alternatively, States governments having potential of marketable surplus should meet their part requirement
 - d) The money saved, in terms of transportation, storage, preservation, could be in turn used to strengthen the State agri-marketing infrastructure
2. FCI to maintain buffer stock for specified products for each quarter.

3. Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Finance

a. Marketing and Infrastructure

1. Rationalize Taxes

- a. Cascading effect of multiple taxes (mandi tax, purchase tax, sales tax, commissions, octroi & entry tax, tax on basic raw materials etc.) at various stages from harvesting to marketing



- b. Considerable variation in tax & fee structure across States
 - Purchase arbitrage opportunities for all players to the detriment of the farmer
 - c. There is need for bringing uniformity in the State level tax structure in agricultural commodities for improving the market efficiencies. Taxes and fees on raw agricultural commodities should be rationalised, with a limit ceiling of 4 per cent. In principle, raw agricultural commodities should attract zero tax (including purchase tax, mandi tax, commission of agents, and so on, which in Punjab today accounts for about 11 per cent on wheat). This can be done by allowing grain companies/traders to buy directly from farmers without going through commission agents, and abolishing purchase/sales tax.
 - d. Octroi and Entry Tax should be abolished wherever applicable. Uniform Value Added Tax (VAT) in agriculture, should be introduced, which would help the growth of the agro-processing industry in the following manner:
 - On processed products of a perishable nature – 0 per cent
 - Other processed foods (excluding tobacco & alcoholic beverages) – 4 per cent
 - e. There is also need to abolish or reduce fees, cess, taxes, duties etc. on procurement of agricultural or horticultural produce procured through any registered contract-farming programme. This would promote direct procurement, improve quality of produce and lead to reduction in the load on the State and Central procurement systems.
 - f. The Ministry of Finance should consider tax incentives like excise, sales tax exemption for bio fuels industry equipments.
 - g. Provide capital subsidies to processing industries along with subsidized interest rates for setting up bio fuel plants and provide tax/duty concession for the bio-diesel producers.
 - h. Use Market Fees to build market infrastructure, not as an additional source of revenue for the state.
2. Develop new structures like pure returns model where both the government and the private participation has equity investment and they work on commercial principles.



b. Credit

1. Increase rural credit to farm sector at affordable rates.
2. Increase coverage of farmers under institutional credit.
3. Create financial window for long-term capital flow into agriculture.
4. Establish a Credit Bureau with unique customer ID with credit history.
5. Ensure refinance from NABARD to be lent at close to 8% to farmer.
6. Hassle and collateral free agri-lending and pledge financing.
7. Bio-fuels should be given Priority sector status for granting loans, working capital and deciding on equity participation.

c. Water Conservation, Water Use Efficiency & Micro Irrigation

1. No taxes including VAT should be levied on the micro-irrigation systems
2. Efforts need to be made to make the system affordable to farmers by reducing/ abolishing taxes on the raw materials used for the manufacture of the systems.
3. The limit of getting Rs.50,000 for getting loans for micro-irrigation systems without collateral security should be increased to Rs.1 lakh or the redeemable value of the equipments
4. Lease financing for micro-irrigation by the manufacturing firms to provide credit support, like in case of car, should be promoted
5. Grant 150 per cent deduction of expenditure for all investments by the private sector in promoting dryland agriculture

d. Financial Incentives/Support

1. Phase out Mandi tax and grant compensation to the States at an average of last three years of approx. Rs 3000 crores:
 - 80 % of the full actual collection in the 1st yr - Rs 2400 crores
 - 60 % of the original collection in the 2nd yr - Rs 1800 crores
 - 30 per cent in the 3rd year - Rs 900 crores
 - No grants/ support in the 4th year



2. Profit & Loss on exchange transactions to be offset against physical market accounts.
3. Encourage Bank participation on commodity exchanges to ensure that they play the role of aggregators for farmers.
 - a. Reform commodity exchanges and futures markets
4. Focus on commodities where India has competitive advantage and import with value of surpluses generated.
5. 60 % of the rural credit which is being made by formal banking sector should be expended to take care of the day to day needs of the farmers.
6. Promote organic farming free trade zones in strategic locations.
7. Bring substantial jump in public investment and create an enabling environment for private sector to invest.
8. Investments in the entire agri value chain like creation of cold chain, new agricultural marketing infrastructure or modernization of existing markets should be eligible for agricultural loans under priority sector lending.
9. Invest about Rs 12,230 crores for the development of market infrastructure over the next five years.
10. Invest in the development of rural periodic markets or haats (about 47,000 in the country)- @ Rs 9000 per haat the total fund requirement would be about Rs.42.3 Crores.
11. Use private investment to build new markets, infrastructure in the total supply chain – warehousing, cold chain, post management facilities, collection centers, grading centers.
12. Develop Cold Chain transportation system e.g. air – conditioned cargo, coaches in railways, roadways etc. and refrigerators/insulated containers for perishables, processed products to minimize post-harvest losses at transportation stage and at retail level.
13. Develop specialized markets for fruits and vegetables Provide common facilities for grading, washing, cleaning, transport hubs etc. for perishables in main production areas.
14. Develop cold storage, freezing chambers, dehumidified temperature controlled storage.
15. Set up common processing units near the farm gates.
16. Increase public investment in irrigation.



17. Invest in rural roads.
18. Reduce the impact of VAT on poultry.
19. Exempt processed poultry from Excise Duty.
20. Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in agri-research and development as deduction of expenditure like in the case of R & D.
21. Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in agri-infrastructure chain as deduction of expenditure like in the case of R & D.
22. Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in wasteland reclamation as deduction of expenditure like in the case of R & D.

e. Protecting the Farmer: Risk Management

1. Create a system which provides a cover to a farmer for all the issues / problems he faces in terms of price, buy back insurance, liquidity and flexible returns, and gives a better return on all the crops.
2. Encourage the system of aggregators – producers’ cooperatives / banks – who can pick up the produce of small and marginal farmers, aggregate them and then hedge the produce in the futures market. Banks are considered as the best aggregators as the banks know the farmers and visa versa. More over the Banks would benefit, as they would be confident about the returns in case the Agriculture produce are hedged in the commodity exchanges.
3. Efficient systems for price dissemination are another important factor that needs urgent consideration (post offices and railway stations may be instructed to carry agri-produce prices, as they are access points for farmers).
4. Develop formal risk mitigation system in anticipation of the failure of the crop and after the occurrence.
5. Encourage the use of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme in all the States and extend it for all the crops.
6. Encourage public-private partnership in the weather management area as it would help to bring in transparency and easy availability of the data to the insurance industry.



7. For an effective implementation of Weather Insurance there is a need to:
 - a. Strengthen the weather stations, expand them.
 - b. Weather stations should be automated.
 - c. Strengthen database for weather insurance, to utilize some of the existing funds (i.e. Natural Calamity Relief Fund) for Insurance purposes and private company need to be encouraged in the area of insurance.
 - d. It would result in a much larger benefit going out to the stakeholders, probably at a lower cost to the government and it would really bring in better structuring, better pricing and more competition.
8. Allow the private sector schemes to operate at par with the other crop insurance and NAI schemes.
9. In addition to crop insurance, weather insurance, NAIS, introduce schemes like input specific insurance schemes.
10. The farmers should be helped by proper agricultural insurance scheme. The premium should be well within the reach of the small and marginal farmers of this country.
11. For an effective Commodity Exchange, there is a need for an:
 - a. Efficient Price Discovery Mechanism, which is possible only if there are large number of buyers and sellers.
 - b. Efficient Delivery mechanism.
 - c. Efficient Warehousing facilities.
 - d. Develop
 - i. Efficient system to assign Grades and Standards to certain Agricultural products.
 - ii. Scientific mechanisms, which ensure that grades and standards are of the desired levels.
12. Insurance unit should be reduced to village Panchayat for major crops.
13. Guaranteed/threshold yield should be based on average of the best five out of the preceding seven years.
14. Indemnity levels should be 90% for low risk crops and 80% for others.



15. The crop insurance should be placed on actuarial regime with appropriate premium subsidy.
16. A study should be made to design suitable insurance scheme for perennial horticultural crops.
17. Farmers should be given choice of various alternative insurance schemes and agricultural insurance scheme should be exempted from service tax.
18. Provide insurance schemes to cover:
 - a. Pre-sowing/planting risk.
 - b. Post-harvest losses on account of cyclone in coastal areas.
19. The banks should display the list of farmers covered and farmer benefited under crop insurance scheme.
20. Uniform seasonality discipline should be followed loanee and non-loanee farmers.
21. To expedite the settlement of claims, “on account” payment of claims should be made.
22. An individual assessment of loss should be made for localized risk of hailstorms, landslide and wild-animals.
23. The implementing agency should expand its network in order to provide better services to the farmers.
24. Necessary solvency margin should be provided to AICL which is the implementing agency of NAIS.
25. A pilot project on the use of remote sensing technology should be undertaken.

4. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission

a) Increase Investment in Agriculture Sector

1. The present actual investment in the agriculture sector is only 1.3 per cent of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
2. Taking into consideration the 24.03% contribution of agriculture to total GDP (2003-2004), **minimum 6.0%** of total GDP should be invested in agriculture & allied activities.
3. It is suggested that the desired investment can be increased in a phased manner i.e. 4 per cent in the first phase to 5 per cent in the second phase and finally 6 per cent in the third phase.



5. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food & PD and Consumer Affairs, Food Corporation of India & State Agricultural Departments

1. Introduce electronic linkages of markets to make transparent pricing:
 - a) Enable a transparent price discovery mechanism with electronically interlinked Mandis
 - b) Banks and International Trading Exchanges should be allowed free access
2. Encourage Decentralized Procurement and involve private sector and banks in procurement.
3. Price Support should be operative across a wide range of crops including oil seeds, pulses, maize and cotton, to encourage crop diversification.
4. Delink food security /relief linked procurement from support price operations.
5. Increase the allocation of food for work programmes, particularly where directed at building rural infrastructure.
6. Monetise BPL / PDS, cash or food stamps instead of grains.
7. Widely implement support prices on a broad basket of alternate crops.
8. Aggressive promotion of Poultry and Fisheries.

6. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Finance & Planning Commission

a) Increase Investment in Irrigation

1. Time bound completion of major projects. Completion of 388 on going major and medium irrigation projects would create a potential of 21.7 million hectares as irrigated area. Action plan for completion be drawn based on the projects, which are nearest to completion. Plans should be time bound.
2. Focus on minor irrigation, particularly projects for revival of water bodies, water harvesting, water shed management and water saving technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation.

7. Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Food Processing

1. Have an Integrated Food Law. Multiple laws, standards and enforcing agencies plague the Processed Food Sector. The myriad of rules, regulations and standards are often overlapping and contradictory. The Integrated Food Law should be finalized and enacted at the earliest.



2. Enforce Universal food law.
3. Regulatory issues for quality and safety.
4. Standards for processing machinery and equipments.
5. Prevent wastage of surplus farm produce and increase its shelf life through processing.
6. Invest in R & D and Quality Management. Ensure traceability of quality and defect.
7. Ministry of Food Processing should incentivise research organizations to develop R&D in post harvest, processing and value addition in consultation with industry.
8. A Food Safety Board be constituted jointly by Ministry of Food Processing, APEDA and Quality Council of India to monitor and regulate the food certification activities in India relating to HACCP & EUREPGAP.
9. Ministry of Food Processing Industry's grants are not available to the industry as per their published Schemes. This ministry should also ensure thrust on value added, processed meat products and enable to compete in the international markets.
10. Increasing the value-addition in dairy products and targeting exports have to be the focus of the Ministry of Food Processing. This Ministry should also adapt the food laws featuring the international codex rules. This adds confidence and protection for the consumer.
11. Strengthen the cool chain management and establish linkages with super markets.
12. Foster Public-Private Partnerships for infrastructure creation and technology up gradation. Provide initial cost subsidies towards the construction of cold storages and greenhouses.
13. There is a need to adopt Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), which prevent hazardous events in food preparation, storage and distribution.
14. Reduce airfreight charges.
15. Reduce interest rates on bank lending and waive excise duties on domestic sales.
16. Public-Private Partnership in food and agriculture requires clarity i.e. clear objectives, clarity of roles, and appropriate apportioned risks as two contrasting bodies are involved i.e. public and private partners.



8. Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Rural Development

1. There should be a consensus between Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Rural Development regarding the promotion of bio-diesel and release of wastelands towards it.
2. Reclaim non-agricultural farmland and wasteland for cultivation of Jatropha. Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture should make efforts to bring more land under Jatropha cultivation.

9. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD

1. Make delivery mechanism with a more wider coverage, easily accessible and link it to the database with farmers identity.
2. Urgently setup rural credit bureau.
3. Promote competition in rural credit system by allowing all financial institutions with free play and free access.
4. Allow PACs to partner with all scheduled commercial banks.
5. NABARD short-term refinance should be made available to all scheduled commercial banks operating in the rural areas.
6. Rural credit should include all operations in the agri value chain from sowing to reaching the actual consumers (i.e. end to end value chain).
7. Redefine priority sector lending and tracking should be on the lines similar to that of CRR and SLR i.e. on a weekly basis.
8. Ministry of Rural Development should undertake development of a National Wasteland Development policy.
9. Increase public investment in wasteland development.



10. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Petroleum & Planning Commission

a) Bio-Fuels

1. Launch National Mission on Bio-Fuels.
2. Promote Bio-fuel and grant 10 per cent tax incentives for a period of 10 years for those initiating investments for its development.
3. Government of India and Planning Commission should release a Bio-fuel policy and a Vision Statement pertaining to Bio-fuels.
4. Identify elite species, which can provide high yield, high oil and the same should be made available to the farmers. Ministry of Agriculture should make necessary arrangements to facilitate the research.
5. For promotion of large scale plantation, support farmers by offering quality planting material, minimum support price with buy back arrangements, institutional finance at lower rate of interest. Setting up of collection and oil expelling centres may be considered.
6. Develop funding mechanism and credit availability to the farmers to grow Bio-diesel crops.
7. To commercialize Bio-diesel, grant support to entrepreneur by providing single window clearance of the project proposals related to Bio-fuels.
8. Capital subsidy should be provided to Bio-diesel entrepreneur for establishing a esterification plant.
9. There is a need to have a policy for buying large quantity of Bio-diesel on continued basis which will establish a sustained supply chain to remove gaps and ad-hocism in maintaining supply chain.
10. A separate national seminar on bio fuels may be organized for greater debate on various issues relating to productivity of planting material, land usages, trans-esterification, blending marketing etc. and policy issues.
11. The Ministry of Petroleum should make it mandatory for blending bio-fuel at a percentage level, subject to the availability of bio-fuel.
12. Arrange buyback at the prefixed price so as to ensure sustained income for farmers.



11. Ministry of Water Resources

1. Implement water conservation starting from seventh order watershed.
2. Catchment treatment needs to be carried out in a holistic manner by adopting a watershed approach by integrating different implementing departments.
3. There should be contracting and sub-contracting of the distribution system in the command area.
4. Focus more piously on the participatory irrigation management system concepts
5. Standardize the methods and measures for estimating the actual area under irrigation
6. Repair and renovate water bodies through public-private partnership
7. Recharge groundwater
8. Encourage drainage line treatment

12. Ministry of Commerce

a. Favourable Trade atmosphere

1. Offshore acquisition of early stage knowledge/ Intellectual Property: Ministry of Commerce should make necessary efforts to bring renowned inventions related to agriculture developed by other countries to India and the concerned institutes should improvise on them.
2. Ministry of Commerce should intensify the ongoing efforts to reduce trade barriers for exporting Indian based milk products and ingredients within SAARC countries and beyond. Efforts to forge joint ventures with international players should continue.
3. The Ministry of Commerce should exert pressure on developed countries for reduction in subsidies as per WTO agreement.
4. Ministry of Commerce should promote FDI investments for bio fuel plants cultivation and bio fuel processing industries in wastelands.
5. Ministry of Commerce has an important role to play in two aspects. One is to promote a common trade brand for Indian seafood through a logo i.e. Indian Seafoods and the other is open a dialogue with the importing governments for framing Sanitary and phytosanitary norms and standards.



6. One time Registration for Import of planting materials from other countries.
7. Address and mitigate the issues like quota, tariff, SPS and pest risk analysis.

b. MPEDA (Marine Export Development Authority)

1. Organize self-help groups among the fish and shrimp farmers and facilitate micro credit.
2. Establish fisherman cooperative societies and suitable cold chain for the preservation of the perishable commodities like fish.
3. Strengthen R&D activities to develop eco-friendly packages for disease problem in aquaculture, development of a model farm with acceptable engineering structure, effluent treatment system etc is need of the hour.
4. Develop candidate brood stock for culture through modern genetic tools, proper prophylaxis and quarantine methods before transportation of brood stock, fish larvae, egg etc.
5. Identify and monitor sensitive eco-system i.e. mangrove areas, bays, reservoirs etc.
6. Diversify and encourage value addition in products for exports.
7. Focus on treating the farm effluents in aquaculture.
8. Promote other programmes like sea ranching of shrimps, lobster, sea bass, groupers and silver pomfrets.
9. Promote other farming practices like mussel farming and oyster farming.
10. Introduce disease resistant American white shrimp.

c. Water Conservation, Water Use Efficiency & Micro-Irrigation

Import of duty free raw material for micro-irrigation systems

d. Growth Options for Poultry

1. Remove tariff-rate quota (TRQ) and allow maize import under open general license (OGL) at zero duty during the lean season to keep prices under control through out the year.
2. Remove duties on equipments which encourage domestic processing.
3. Provide transport assistance @ 25% of freight on export of poultry meat.



13. Ministry of Petroleum & Ministry of Surface Transport

Ministry of Petroleum and Ministry of Surface Transport should support and encourage R&D for development of efficient bio-fuels and R&D for automobile engines compatible for using bio-fuels.

14. Ministry of Railways

Ministry of Railways and other concerned departments should lease land along railway tracks and other departmental lands on a nominal basis for cultivation of Jatropha to farmers or corporations.

15. Ministry of Shipping

Ministry of Shipping should take necessary action to increase the number of designated ports.



III - Issues & Recommendations (Session-Wise)

Plenary Session – I Creating Demand Driven Research Agenda: Role of Public-Private Partnership

- **The Session was Chaired by Dr R A Mashelkar**, Director General, CSIR. He also made a presentation on **CSIR Experience in Building Public-Private Partnership**
- **Presentations were also made on**
 - **ICAR: A Roadmap for Reforms** by
 - **Dr Mangala Rai**, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR
 - **Lab to Farm: Role of Private Sector** by
 - **Mr Abhiram Seth**, Executive Director, Pepsi Foods Pvt. Ltd.
 - **Government's Role in Facilitating Agri Research in Private Sector** by
 - **Mr R B Barwale**, Managing Director, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co Ltd.

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues

- No business approach with Public sector R&D institutes- Public sector institutes are not focusing on generating income out of the research
- Stringent centralized system of decision making in public sector. The decisions either administrative or financial are taken at the head quarters and this system caused delays.
- The research agenda of public institutes is not working in tandem with the farmers and there is no information with farmers to plan production of the new varieties.
- Research system with limited connect with the market and hence not able to work in demand driven mode
- R&D systems have the knowledge but lacks the delivery system and the net result is that they have low penetration of technology.



- Inefficient R&D in Post harvest, Processing and Value addition.
- R&D unable to cope with complex and changing consumer demand pattern. R&D is not focusing and orienting its research as per the consumer demand.
- Policy hassles in creating a better public-private partnership.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Actions to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology and ICAR in the following areas:

- ***Increase funds for agricultural research***
- Increase Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Research and Development with focus on identified crops and productivity yield increase in match with the best in international agriculture
- Public-Private Partnerships in identifying effective participation in agricultural research and development
- Create Regional Centres of Excellence for the above
- Set up incubation centres: R&D ideas should be supported and incubated by the government. There should be incubation centers on different aspects of agriculture and located across the country
- Allow co-sharing of facilities with industry. Public R&D institutes have huge physical assets, hence industry should be allowed to avail these assets.
- ***Ministry of Agriculture should facilitate the private sector to utilize the infrastructure available in the public sector.***
- Permit co-locating industry R&D within Public Institute as in CSIR.
- ***The Ministry of Agriculture should permit private sector to locate their R&D units within the premises of Public Research Institutes like IARI and ICAR in similar lines of CSIR.***
- Offshore acquisition of early stage knowledge/ Intellectual Property: Ministry of Commerce should make necessary efforts to bring renowned inventions related to agriculture developed by other countries to India and the concerned institutes should improvise on them.



- Professional development fund through laboratory earnings: The revenue generated through research and development by research institute/agency should be allowed to retain those for the development of their research itself instead of forwarding those revenue to the headquarters of ICAR.
- **Ministry of Agriculture should take a positive approach for this.**
- **Ministry of Agriculture should make guidelines to facilitate ease mobility of scientists to and from industry.**
- ICAR should commercialize the R&Ds developed by them. There should be demand driven approach for the research done in the institutes. Proper interface between private sector and ICAR officials should be developed on a regular basis.
- Scientists have to be placed on the Board of Directors of Private sector so as to learn the business skills and vice versa for identifying focused Research and Development in ICAR.
- Some of the strategies like establishing a marketing group in each lab and devolution of decision making, awards for marketing and business development and specialized business development-consultancy have to be adopted by ICAR to make its research institutes generate business and income.
- Studies should be conducted to identify comparative advantage of each region as far as the best crops to be developed by that region. Each region should be incentivised and developed as special production zones for each crop.
- An analysis has to done of the best variety of crops traded in the international market and India should try to bring that variety into India and promote its development in the country.
- **Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Commerce should initiate measures to enlarge the share of India's agri trade in the global market.**
- Research Institutes should adopt and develop package of farming practices, which are locally relevant, and within the resource base of the farmer. Research Institutes should be given freedom to operate research agenda as per local needs.
- The Agri research institutes should focus on optimizing water usage practices and rationalized chemical inputs to build sustainability.
- There is an urgent need for institutional mechanism for promoting PPP in agriculture



research and extension. Develop public and private partnership with input companies on the basic research agenda.

- Agriculture biotechnology needs to be focused as one of the prime areas for PPP.
- Another key area that needs focus is the seed industry. Private industry should have increased access to germplasm/breeder seeds and the technology testing cost being charged by ICAR institutions to private seed companies should be reduced.
- ***Ministry of Food Processing should incentivise research organizations to develop R&D in post harvest, processing and value addition in consultation with industry.***
- The curriculum of agricultural education should be revised thoroughly, keeping in view the global changes taking place in agrarian sector.
- Build solid partnership between the farmers, Central and State governments, agriculture universities, agri research institutes, and industry
- Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in agri research and development, as deduction of expenditure.



Plenary Session - II

Public-Private Partnership in Marketing & Infrastructure

- **The Session was Chaired by Smt Radha Singh**, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
- **Presentations were made on**
 - **New Initiatives in Public-Private Partnership in Agri Marketing & Infrastructure (Government Perspective) by**
 - **Mr P K Agarwal**, Joint Secretary & Marketing Advisor, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
 - **Agriculture Marketing Strategy for Decentralized Procurement by**
 - **Mr Shailendra Nigam**, Executive Director, FCI
 - **New Initiatives in Public-Private Partnership in Agri Marketing & Infrastructure (Private Perspective) by**
 - **Mr Hardeep Singh**, Chairman and Managing Director, Cargill India Pvt. Ltd.
 - **Marketing & Distribution: Reforms for Private Investment by**
 - **Mr Gokul Patnaik**, Chairman, Global Agri Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 - **Alternative Marketing Models by**
 - **Mr S Sivakumar**, Chief Executive, ITC Ltd.

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues

- Highly restrictive and regulated agricultural marketing system
- Monopoly of the State Governments to set up markets
 - Mandis set up by the Agriculture Marketing Boards
 - Private sector not encouraged to set up these mandis



- Mandi revenues not deployed for infrastructure development
- MSP is no longer a support price
- It is preferred price, offered selectively as buyer of first resort
- Price setting not transparent - both producers and consumers are often cheated
- Underdeveloped food processing industry
- Unhappy Processing industries and Farmers
- The processing industry cannot buy directly from the farmers, except through the notified markets
- The farmers cannot sell directly to the industry since it is mandatory for the farmers to sell through the mandis only
- Cascading effect of multiple taxes (mandi tax, purchase tax, sales tax, commissions, octroi & entry tax, tax on basic raw materials etc.) at various stages from harvesting to marketing
- Considerable variation in tax & fee structure across States
 - Purchase arbitrage opportunities for all players to the detriment of the farmer
- Stringent controls on storage & movement of several agriculture commodities
- Lack of proper retail supply chain
- Fragmented agriculture supply chain
- Too many intermediaries which have a negative impact on the economies of scale for the processors and large scale integrators
- Unorganized retailers
- No linkages between spot & future markets
- Lack of established 'Warehouse Receipt' system
- Declining Public investment in agriculture, stagnant gross capital formation, falling share of agriculture in the Total Plan outlay
- Lack of private investment in agriculture infrastructure, marketing, financing
- Distorted markets.... Dangerously continuing Supply side though process
- Distorted cropping patterns



- FCI is today absorbing more than 50 % of marketable surplus of Wheat and Rice from only six States
- Procurement operations largely confined to traditional marketable surplus areas
- Lack of mandis and other agri infrastructure
- Procurement incentives considered unattractive by State Agencies
- Farm productivity lower than the existing potential

Suggestions & Recommendations

Actions need to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission in the following areas:

- **Increase Investment in Agriculture Sector**
 - The present actual investment in the agriculture sector is only 1.3 per cent of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
 - Taking into consideration the 24.03% contribution of agriculture to total GDP (2003-2004), **minimum 6.0 %** of total GDP should be invested in agriculture & allied activities
 - It is suggested that the desired investment can be increased in a phased manner i.e. 4 per cent in the first phase to 5 per cent in the second phase and finally 6 per cent in the third phase

Actions to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Consumer Affairs, Food Corporation of India and State Agricultural Departments

- Investment in agri marketing infrastructure through out the entire value chain (priority sector lending should include the entire value chain)
- Encourage Decentralized Procurement and involve private sector and banks in procurement
- Price Support should be operative across a wide range of crops including oil seeds, pulses, maize and cotton, to encourage crop diversification
- Delink food security /relief linked procurement from support price operations
- Policy environment should allow private sector to invest resources with a long term view –



procurement, financing, storage, transportation and marketing

- Increase the allocation of food for work programmes, particularly where directed at building rural infrastructure
- Monetise BPL / PDS, cash or food stamps instead of grains
- Widely implement support prices on a broad basket of alternate crops

Actions to be taken by the Food Corporation of India

- The initiative by Food Corporation of India encouraging States to procure and distribute food grains within the State has to be permitted.
 - o It is necessary to involve States more actively in agri-marketing as they are independently managing PDS supply through their own agencies
 - o Another option for States could be to out-source procurement, handling and distribution to private sector, ensuring MSP to farmers
 - o Alternatively, States governments having potential of marketable surplus should meet their part requirement
 - o The money saved, in terms of transportation, storage, preservation, could be in turn used to strengthen the State agri-marketing infrastructure
- FCI to maintain buffer stock for specified products for each quarter

Actions to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture

- Implement the Model APMC Act, with a few critical changes, in consultation with the Industry to encourage direct marketing, to free the farmers to sell to whoever they want, enable them to get the best price for their produce, and create partnerships with banks, finance and logistics companies, for lowest cost financing and marketing. States should be incentivised through budget allocation for speedy implementation of the amendments.
- Scrap the Essential Commodities Act.
 - o When everything is freely imported, free movement of local agriculture produce, between States, should be permitted. India should have a 'single market' for agriculture



produce.

- Develop a new Act which should focus on:
 - o Direct Marketing without intermediaries
 - o Strengthening and modernizing marketing infrastructure by attracting private investment. In addition use private investment to build new markets, infrastructure in the total supply chain – warehousing, cold chain, post management facilities, collection centers, grading centers
- Transparent price setting mechanism
- Encourage competition amongst markets
- Improve management and quality of services being provided by the existing mandis
- Treat organization of markets as a service industry, and allow markets to be set up by the private sector and farmers’ cooperatives. This will attract private investment in creation of much needed marketing infrastructure, create competition and ensure better service to the farmers.
- Have an Integrated Food Law. Multiple laws, standards and enforcing agencies plague the Processed Food Sector. The myriad of rules, regulations and standards are often overlapping and contradictory. Our request is that the Integrated Food Law should be finalized, and passed by the Parliament at the earliest.
- Allow professionally managed Wholesale Markets
 - o Allow farmers’ cooperatives, producer companies and private sector to directly build, manage and operate the markets
- Create partnerships with banks, finance and logistics companies
- Allow procurement by food processors and exporters directly from farmers
- Facilitate Food Retail Supply Chain, given the growing urbanization, rising population, working spouses, increasing household disposable incomes and the projected increase in demand for food. (The private final consumption of food in India was Rs 5,000,000 million in 1999-2000)
 - o Allow super markets/retail chains (permitting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)) in urban



areas. It is well known that almost 40 per cent of goods sold by retail chains in the world, are either agriculture products or processed foods, and that these retail chains have backward linkage with farmers through contract farming mode. This provides huge market opportunity at fair prices to farmers, as middlemen have no role.

- Encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Food Retailing
- Build a strong and equitable partnership between the producers and processors which is win-win for both
- Emphasis should be on transfer of technology and know how rather than the legal documentation
- With the increasing globalization, rising trading opportunities, cost competitiveness, emphasis on value addition through standardization, changing composition of the Indian diet, there is a need to develop alternative marketing models like
 - Contract Farming without unnecessary restrictions – The role of the Government should be to facilitate contract farming & not control it
 - Private Mandis
 - Direct Marketing like ITC e-choupal
 - The NDDDB model of public-private partnership, which provides a viable alternative for small farmers should be replicated

Actions to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance

- **Rationalize Taxes**
 - Cascading effect of multiple taxes (mandi tax, purchase tax, sales tax, commissions, octroi & entry tax, tax on basic raw materials etc.) at various stages from harvesting to marketing
 - Considerable variation in tax & fee structure across States
 - Purchase arbitrage opportunities for all players to the detriment of the farmer
 - There is need for bringing uniformity in the State level tax structure in agricultural commodities for improving the market efficiencies. Taxes and fees on raw agricultural commodities should be rationalised, with a limit ceiling of 4 per cent. In principle, raw



- agricultural commodities should attract zero tax (including purchase tax, mandi tax, commission of agents, and so on, which in Punjab today accounts for about 11 per cent on wheat). This can be done by allowing grain companies/traders to buy directly from farmers without going through commission agents, and abolishing purchase/sales tax.
- o Octroi and Entry Tax should be abolished wherever applicable. Uniform Value Added Tax (VAT) in agriculture, should be introduced, which would help the growth of the agro-processing industry in the following manner:
 - On processed products of a perishable nature – 0 per cent
 - Other processed foods (excluding tobacco & alcoholic beverages) – 4 per cent
 - o There is also need to abolish or reduce fees, cess, taxes, duties etc. on procurement of agricultural or horticultural produce procured through any registered contract-farming programme. This would promote direct procurement, improve quality of produce and lead to reduction in the load on the State and Central procurement systems.
 - o Use Market Fees to build market infrastructure, not as an additional source of revenue for the State.
 - **Phase out Mandi Tax**
 - o Grant compensation to the States at an average of last three years of approx. Rs 3000 crores
 - 80 % of the full actual collection in the 1st yr - Rs 2400 crores
 - 60 % of the original collection in the 2nd yr - Rs 1800 crores
 - 30 per cent in the 3rd year - Rs 900 crores
 - No grants/ support in the 4th year
 - Profit & Loss on exchange transactions to be offset against physical market accounts
 - Permit options trading
 - Provide safety net to farmers by financial risk management
 - Introduce effective Agricultural Insurance
 - Promote development of warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities



- Reform commodity exchanges and futures markets
- Enable a transparent price discovery mechanism with electronically interlinked Mandis
- Focus on commodities where India has competitive advantage and import with value of surpluses generated

Action to be taken by the Department of Consumer Affairs

- **Promote development of a Warehousing Receipt System for agricultural commodities**
 - o Make Warehouse Receipt as Negotiable Instrument
 - o Announce standards and grades for all crops and horticulture products so that pricing is linked to the grades. Also communicate the standards widely.
 - o In order to provide a viable alternative to the village Arthiya System, an effective warehouse system needs to be introduced.
 - Permit 70 per cent of stock kept by farmers in warehouses to be paid immediately on the ruling price of the day. Agri futures markets to flash daily prices of products transparently allowing farmers to sell their entire produce in the warehouses on the price of their choice. 30 per cent of the balance payment to be paid on final price as chosen by the farmer less pre specified storage charges.
 - There is a need to encourage certified warehouses all over the country, which meet certain specifications and standards to store the produce.
 - Lay down various standards and specification for certified warehouses, as also rules and regulations for managing them including fidelity aspects
 - Set up urgently an accreditation agency for certified warehouses and warehouse receipts. Encourage private sector, cooperatives and panchayats to set up rural godowns. Specify standards and permit warehousing receipt system
 - Promote latest information system for warehouse receipt to help in identifying ownership of produce, transfer of lien, hypothecation of receipt for loan and trading of the produce in the context of spot delivery
 - Exempt various taxes and levies arising on the negotiability of the warehouse receipts



Action to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance

- 60 % of the rural credit which is being made by formal banking sector should be expended to take care of the day to day needs of the farmers
- Promote organic farming free trade zones in strategic locations
- Bring substantial jump in public investment and create an enabling environment for private sector to invest
- Investments in the entire agri value chain like creation of cold chain, new agricultural marketing infrastructure or modernization of existing markets should be eligible for agricultural loans under priority sector lending
- Invest about Rs 12,230 cr for the development of market infrastructure over the next five years
- Invest in the development of rural periodic markets or haats (about 47,000 in the country)- @ Rs 9000 per haat the total fund requirement would be about Rs.42.3 Crores
- Strengthen and modernize marketing infrastructure by attracting private investment. In addition, use private investment to build new markets, infrastructure in the total supply chain – warehousing, post management facilities, collection centers, grading centers
- Develop Cold Chain transportation system e.g. air – conditioned cargo, coaches in railways, roadways etc. and refrigerators/insulated containers for perishables, processed products to minimize post-harvest losses at transportation stage and at retail level
- Develop specialized markets for fruits and vegetables
- Provide common facilities for grading, washing, cleaning, transport hubs etc. for perishables in main production areas
- Develop cold storage, freezing chambers, dehumidified temperature controlled storage
- Set up common processing units near the farm gates
- Encourage Modernization of the existing marketing system
- Invest in rural roads
- Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in agri infrastructure chain as deduction of expenditure like in the case of R & D.



Plenary Session - III Protecting the Farmer: Risk Management

- **The Session was Chaired by Mr C S Rao**, Chairman
Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority
- **Presentations were made on**
 - **Leveraging Commodity Futures and Derivatives Trading for Price Discovery and Risk Management by**
 - **Mr Madan Sabnavis**, Chief Economist & Head - Knowledge Management
National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd.
 - **Farm Insurance: Past Experience and Alternative Models by**
 - **Mr A K Singh**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India
 - **Delivery Mechanism for Farm Insurance by**
 - **Mr Suparas Bhandari**, Chairman & Managing Director
Agriculture Insurance Company Ltd.
- **Distinguished Panel of Discussants were**
 - **Mr A Sen Sarma**, Executive Vice President, IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance
 - **Ms Smita Aggarwal**, Head – Rural & Agri Group
ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co Ltd.

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues

- Small farmers in Gujarat have not benefited from the NAIS inspite of the severe earthquakes and cyclones.
- The Government of India needs to improve and extend the coverage of insurance cover to the farm sector, which takes care of 69% of the population and also to the horticulture sector, which contributes 28% of the agricultural income and 54% of the agricultural exports.



- The Rajasthan Government through their Cooperative Bank issued the Malaja Kharif loan in the May and June to the farmers and the bank deducted the installment of the insurance schemes from the farmers but they have not got the desired malaja insurance amounts, although there has been a serious drought in the Kharif crops. The insurance company insured the cattle breeders in Saras Suraksha Kwach Scheme in Rajasthan State but has not been able to deliver the desired sum to the cattle breeders in the State
- From the farmers point of view lack of availability of Credit is one the serious concerns
 - o Even though the banks are compelled by the Reserve Bank of India to lend a certain part of their total advances for agriculture, they are still reluctant to lend, primarily because of high risk of default
- Limited use of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme
 - o Due to the non-availability of past yield data, many non-bearing periods, cyclical nature of production, NAIS covers only 11 horticulture crops. The scheme does not cover food crops and vegetables
- Issues associated with the use of Weather Insurance
 - o Lack of reliable and verified data and tamper – proof weather stations
 - o Lack of coordination between the weather variations and productivity
- 80% of the farmers are small and marginal farmers who suffer from lack of credit, lack of inputs and are not able to fully make use of the agricultural insurance scheme, crop insurance scheme

Suggestions and Recommendations

Actions to be taken by the Department of Consumer Affairs

- Define Standards & Grades for agricultural commodities and develop mechanisms for communication and dissemination of transparent pricing
- Introduce electronic linkages of markets to make transparent pricing
 - o Enable a transparent price discovery mechanism with electronically interlinked Mandis
- Banks and International Trading Exchanges should be allowed free access



- Forward Contract Regulation Act to allow Options and Weather Derivatives

Actions to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance

- Create a system which provides a cover to a farmer for all the issues / problems he faces in terms of price, buy back insurance, liquidity and flexible returns, and gives a better return on all the crops
- Encourage the system of aggregators – producers’ cooperatives / banks – who can pick up the produce of small and marginal farmers, aggregate them and then hedge the produce in the futures market. Banks are considered as the best aggregators as the banks know the farmers and visa versa. More over the Banks would benefit, as they would be confident about the returns in case the Agriculture produce are hedged in the commodity exchanges.
- There is a need to encourage certified warehouses all over the country, which meet certain specifications and standards to store the produce.
- Efficient systems for price dissemination are another important factor that needs urgent consideration (post offices and railway stations may be instructed to carry agri produce prices, as they are access points for farmers)
- Develop formal risk mitigation system in anticipation of the failure of the crop and after the occurrence.
- Encourage the use of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme in all the States and extend it for all the crops.
- Encourage public-private partnership in the weather management area as it would help to bring in transparency and easy availability of the data to the insurance industry.
- For an effective implementation of Weather Insurance there is a need to
 - o Strengthen the weather stations, expand them
 - o Weather stations should be automated
 - o Strengthen database for weather insurance, to utilize some of the existing funds (i.e. Natural Calamity Relief Fund) for Insurance purposes and private company need to be encouraged in the area of insurance.



- o It would result in a much larger benefit going out to the stakeholders, probably at a lower cost to the government and it would really bring in better structuring, better pricing and more competition.
- Allow the private sector schemes to operate at par with the other crop insurance and NAI schemes.
- In addition to crop insurance, weather insurance, NAIS, introduce schemes like input specific insurance schemes.
- The farmers should be helped by proper agricultural insurance scheme. The premium should be well within the reach of the small and marginal farmers of this country.
- For an effective Commodity Exchange, there is a need for an
 - o Efficient Price Discovery Mechanism, which is possible only if there are large number of buyers and sellers.
 - o Efficient Delivery mechanism
 - o Efficient Warehousing facilities
 - o Develop
 - i. Efficient system to assign Grades and Standards to certain Agricultural products
 - ii. Scientific mechanisms, which ensure that grades and standards are of the desired levels
- Insurance unit should be reduced to village Panchayat for major crops.
- Guaranteed/threshold yield should be based on average of the best five out of the preceding seven years.
- Indemnity levels should be 90% for low risk crops and 80% for others.
- The crop insurance should be placed on actuarial regime with appropriate premium subsidy.
- A study should be made to design suitable insurance scheme for perennial horticultural crops.
- Farmers should be given choice of various alternative insurance schemes and agricultural insurance scheme should be exempted from service tax.



- Provide insurance schemes to cover
 - o Pre-sowing/planting risk
 - o Post-harvest losses on account of cyclone in coastal areas
- The banks should display the list of farmers covered and farmer benefited under crop insurance scheme
- Uniform seasonality discipline should be followed loanee and non-loanee farmers.
- To expedite the settlement of claims, “on account” payment of claims should be made.
- An individual assessment of loss should be made for localized risk of hailstorms, landslide and wild-animals.
- The implementing agency should expand its network in order to provide better services to the farmers.
- Necessary solvency margin should be provided to AIC which is the implementing agency of NAIS.
- A pilot project on the use of remote sensing technology should be undertaken.



Parallel Session - 1.A A New Framework for Bio Fuels

- **The Session was Chaired by Shri S C Tripathi**, Secretary
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India
- **Presentations were made on**
 - **Current Status of Bio Diesel and Bio Fuel and its Prospects in India by**
 - **Dr Parkash Kumar**, *Executive Director*
National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board
 - **Bio Fuels: Gaps, Policy, Solutions by**
 - **Smt Leena Mehandale**, *Executive Director*
Petroleum Conservation Research Association
 - **Strategies for Commercializing Bio Diesel and Bio Fuel by**
 - **Mr Sarju Singh**, *Indian Representative, D I Oils Ltd. (U. K.)*
 - **Potential of Jatropha as Alternate Fuel by**
 - **Mr B M Bansal**, *Director (R & D), Indian Oil Corporation*
- **Distinguished Panel of Discussants were**
 - **Mr Vinayak Patil**, *Chairman – Agro Forestry Foundation*
 - **Mr Somnath Bhattacharjee**, *Vice President, Winrock International India*

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues

- Uncertainty of yield; the farmers are confused with the uncertainty in the expected yield from growing bio-diesel crops and the motivation levels among the farmers is low.
- No systematic efforts made for identification of superior planting material. Farmers are not having access to the planting materials.



- No buy back arrangements of the produce. As on date there are no buy back arrangements from any company to procure the bio diesel crops. Since these crops do not have any other market value, the farmers are in fix.
- Minimum Support Price is not available for the bio diesel crops.
- Identification of high yielding hybrids/varieties suited to various agro-climatic zones of the country. Little or no research is conducted on the bio diesel crop varieties in the country.
- Agronomical and Integrated Pest Management practices are not standardized for the bio diesel crops.
- No trainings or workshops to create awareness among farmers and alcohol industry about the alternate substrates and their economic importance.
- Non-availability/release of wastelands for cultivation of Jatropha and other bio-diesel crops

Suggestions and Recommendations

Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Petroleum and Ministry of Finance

- Transparency in allotment of wasteland and promote bio fuel in these wasteland
- Promote Bio fuel and grant 10 per cent tax incentives for a period of 10 years for those initiating investments for its development
- Government of India and Planning Commission should release a bio fuel policy and a Vision Statement pertaining to bio fuels.
- Identify elite species, which can provide high yield, high oil and the same should be made available to the farmers. Ministry of Agriculture should make necessary arrangements to facilitate the research.
- For promotion of large scale plantation, support farmers by offering quality planting material, minimum support price with buy back arrangements, institutional finance at lower rate of interest. Setting up of collection and oil expelling centres may be considered.
- Develop funding mechanism and credit availability to the farmers to grow bio diesel crops.



- ***The Ministry of Agriculture should***
 - Extend technical support through professionals to farmers.
 - Provide R & D support to find out new applications of Glycerin
 - Arrange extensive training to farmers.
- ***Ministry of Petroleum should make it mandatory for blending bio fuel at a percentage level, subject to the availability of bio fuel***
- ***Ministry of Petroleum and Ministry of Surface Transport should support and encourage R&D for development of efficient bio fuels and R&D for automobile engines compatible for using bio fuels***
- Arrange buyback at the prefixed price so as to ensure sustained income for farmers.
- There should be a consensus between Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Rural Development regarding the promotion of bio-diesel and release of wastelands towards it.
- ***Ministry of Rural Development should undertake development of a National Wasteland Development policy.***
- Increase public investment in wasteland development
- Reclaim non-agricultural farmland and wasteland for cultivation of Jatropha. Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture should make efforts to bring more land under Jatropha cultivation.
- ***Ministry of Railways and other concerned departments should lease land along railway tracks and other departmental lands on a nominal basis for cultivation of Jatropha to farmers or corporations***
- ***Ministry of Finance should consider tax incentives like excise, sales tax exemption for biofuels industry equipments.***
- Provide capital subsidies to processing industries along with subsidized interest rates for setting up bio fuel plants and provide tax/duty concession for the bio-diesel producers.
- ***Ministry of Commerce should promote FDI investments for bio fuel plants cultivation and bio fuel processing industries in wastelands.***
- Launch National Mission on Bio-Fuels and develop a National Policy for Bio Fuels.



- Bio-fuels should be given Priority sector status for granting loans, working capital and deciding on equity participation.
- To commercialize bio diesel, support to entrepreneur by providing single window clearance of the project proposals related to Bio-fuels.
- Capital subsidy should be provided to bio-diesel entrepreneur for establishing a esterification plant.
- There is a need to have a policy for buying large quantity of bio diesel on continues basis which will establish a sustain supply chain to remove gaps and adhocism in maintaining supply chain.
- A separate national seminar on bio fuels may be organized for greater debate on various issues relating to productivity of planting material, land usages, trans-esterification, blending marketing etc. and policy issues
- Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in wasteland reclamation as deduction of expenditure like in the case of R & D.



Parallel Session - 1.B Water Conservation, Water Use Efficiency and Micro Irrigation

- **The Session was Chaired by Dr Kirit S Parikh**, Member Planning Commission, Government of India
- **Presentations were made on**
 - Water Conservation and Water Use **Efficiency by**
 - **Mr J Hari Narayan**, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India
 - **Water Conservation for Dry land Farming**
 - **Dr C D Mayee**, Chairman, ASRB, Government of India
 - **Incentivising Farmer to Promote Water Use Efficiency**
 - **Mr Prasanta Misra**, Joint Secretary, National Committee on Plastic Culture Application in Horticulture
- **Distinguished Panel of Discussants were**
 - **Mr A Jain**, Managing Director, Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd.
 - **Mr Zvi Feler**, Managing Director, Netafim Irrigation India Pvt. Ltd.

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues

- Some of the major issues in the water conservation are
 - Frequent droughts due to low and erratic rainfall
 - Degraded soils
 - Low retention of water in the soil due to decreasing carbon content
 - Over exploitation of ground water
 - Very high canal losses and low surface irrigation efficiencies



- o Limited knowledge about irrigation scheduling
- o Water Pollution
- o Siltation of Reservoirs
- The rate of bringing area under irrigation is slow due to high cost of investment i.e. Rs. 1.0 Lakh/ha in major projects.
- Departmental management of water resources rather than a holistic approach is causing administrative delays and hampering the efficiency of the work.
- Inadequate and untimely availability of assistance and rigid credit framework of financial institutions towards micro irrigation is not encouraging farmers to opt for micro irrigation.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission

- **Increase Investment in Irrigation**
 - o Time bound completion of major projects. Completion of 388 on going major and medium irrigation projects would create a potential of 21.7 million hectares as irrigated area. Action plan for completion be drawn based on the projects, which are nearest to completion. Plans should be time bound.
 - o Focus on minor irrigation, particularly projects for revival of water bodies, water harvesting, water shed management and water saving technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation.

Ministry of Water Resources has to look into the following aspects:

- Implement water conservation starting from seventh order watershed.
- Catchment treatment needs to be carried out in a holistic manner by adopting a watershed approach by integrating different implementing departments.
- There should be contracting and sub-contracting of the distribution system in the command area.
- Focus more piously on the participatory irrigation management system concepts



- Standardize the methods and measures for estimating the actual area under irrigation
- Repair and renovate water bodies through public-private partnership
- Recharge groundwater
- Encourage Drainage line treatment

Ministry of Agriculture should take care of the following suggestions

- More priority should be given for in-situ moisture conservation like compartment bunding, ridges & furrow, tied ridges, double cropping, strip cropping, mulching and vegetative barriers
- There is a scope to create Water User Associations (Participatory Irrigation Management) for operation and maintenance of water distribution and application systems.
- Individual farmers should also adopt water conservation and water management practices like water harvesting, micro-irrigation on Farm Reservoir Technology etc.
- Bring awareness among the farmers for natural resource conservation using On Farm Reservoir (OFR) technology/ farm ponds. The Success of Chattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand on drought management, farm ponds during Kharif, using this technology should be widely replicated in other places also.
- Use of Farm Yard Manure, Vermi-compost, green manuring, recycling of crop residues and bio mulching.

National Committee on Plastic Culture in Horticulture under Ministry of Agriculture should take the following necessary actions pertaining to some of the policy recommendations in propagating micro irrigation:

- Micro Irrigation technology enables irrigation at high levels of efficiency of 80-90 percent as compared to 30-40 percent under conventional irrigation systems. Hence this technology needs to be promoted extensively.
- The irrigation system needs to be modernized to enable delivery of water on demand basis to farmers through pipes based on the crop water requirement.
- Drip and Sprinkler irrigation being cost intensive at the initial level, need to be supported for enabling farmers to adopt the technology. Assistance at the rate of 50% cost of the system is considered optimum.



- The coverage of area under micro irrigation so far is only 2.2 million hectares against the potential of 62.5 Mha. Hence efforts need to be made to increase the coverage of area under this system at an accelerated pace, which is possible with effective Public-Private Partnership.
- Conveyance of water from source to field as well as creation of water harvesting facility needs inclusion in the micro irrigation (MI) assistance package.
- Facilitate loan: Drip technology need be given a special status so that farmers can avail of loan irrespective of default. Reduce the interest rates for the loans availed on purchase of equipments
- Adequate training should be imparted to the farmers on the technological aspects of the micro irrigations before they are given assistance for installing micro irrigation systems. This would enable proper post installation maintenance and care of the system.
- The system manufacturers need to ensure proper post installation maintenance of the micro irrigation system. The dealers should be well trained and should keep sufficient stock of the spares.

Ministry of Finance should incentivise the farmers and industry towards the following components of Micro Irrigation

- Import of duty free raw material for micro irrigation systems
- No taxes including VAT should be levied on the micro irrigation systems
- Efforts need to be made to make the system affordable to farmers by reducing/ abolishing taxes on the raw materials used for the manufacture of the systems.
- The limit of getting Rs.50,000 for getting loans for micro irrigation systems without collateral security should be increased to Rs.1 lakh or the redeemable value of the equipments
- Lease financing for micro-irrigation by the manufacturing firms to provide credit support, like in case of car, should be promoted
- Grant 150 per cent deduction of expenditure for all investments by the private sector in promoting dry land agriculture



Parallel Session - 1.C Extension and Support for Quality Inputs

- The Session was Chaired by **Prof Abhijit Sen**, Member Planning Commission, Government of India
- **Presentations were made on**
 - **Extension Mechanism for Ensuring Technology Adoption and Quality of Inputs by**
 - **Mr A K Agarwal**, Joint Secretary & Extension Commissioner, Deptt of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
 - **Public-Private Partnership in Extension Services by**
 - **Lt. Gen. (Retd) H Lal**, Director General, FICCI Quality Forum
 - **Mr Vijay Sardana**, Executive Director
Centre for International Trade in Agriculture
- **Distinguished Panel of Discussants were**
 - **Mr Kapil Mehan**, Chief Operating Officer (Fertiliser), Tata Chemicals Ltd.
 - **Mr Salil Singhal**, Managing Director, P I Industries
 - **Mr Jaideep Singh**, General Manager, Chambal Fertilisers & Chemicals Ltd.
 - **Mr Rajesh Gupta**, Vice President, DCM Shriram Consolidated Ltd.
 - **Dr N Anand**, Director – R & D, Namdhari Seeds Pvt. Ltd.

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues

- Biggest constraint as far as extension is concerned is providing knowledge inputs to the farmer
- Low share in total global exports of fruits and vegetables inspite being the second largest producer
 - Low quality, safety and poor agricultural practices are the three key factors that restrict the exports



- Serious concern about the incompetent suppliers and bad product manufacturers
- The present HACCP certification process in the country is based on the guidelines prepared by Codex Alimentarius Commission is fast deteriorating in its effectiveness in ensuring safety of foods for internal consumption as well as for exports due to intense competition amongst the certification bodies.
- The certification system based on EUREPGAP standards has just begun in the country and has also started showing its ineffectiveness again due to many organizations coming forward to offer certification.
- The problems relating to pesticide residues are intense and are very important. Inadequate testing facilities, lacking sophisticated instrumentation needed for accuracy in estimating pesticides residues in some states of the country.
- Adhoc system of drawal of representative samples for the estimation of pesticides residues as well.

Suggestions & Recommendations

Actions to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture

- Encourage public-private partnership, in extension services, based on Sangrur Model
- For supplying quality inputs emphasize on 3 parameters
 - Availability
 - Quality
 - Price
- There is a need to empower farmers through information, capacity building and organizing
- India should promote International standards on agri practices like EUREP GAP Standards
- Promote Extension Services
- Government should encourage and introduce quality guidelines for nursery, seed, feed and agro chemicals
- Corporate bench marking certificates for inputs manufacturers should be introduced
- Urgent need for overall upgradation in input quality



- Establish mobile quality testing laboratories
- Establish Toll Free numbers for farmers to register complaints against poor quality of inputs, adulteration etc.
- Appoint Agriculture Graduates as Agri Finance Agents
- Develop and introduce India GAP to become a reliable global player in agriculture
- Introduce proper certification of consultants operation in agriculture
- Issue operating licenses to ensure quality and health of inputs
- Promote market access, credit, knowledge and information to increase farm income and develop efficient delivery mechanism through integrated approach
- Government should bring out clear strategic documentation for pesticides use in the country
- Shift in focus from pesticide usage per se to proper, safe and judicious usage of pesticides
- Encourage good manufacturing practices and testing facilities
- Establish facilities for testing pesticides residues
- Pesticide Act Section 19 (4) needs to be amended
- Need for dealer training and formulation of context - driven policies
- Train the educated unemployed youth in the villages
- Introduce greater number of Agri Clinics and Agri Business centers to provide agriculture extension through agriculture graduates on self-employment mode
- Encourage private sector participation in mass media pertaining to agriculture
- Replicate models like Hariyali Kisan Bazaar Model, where farmers can access variety of agriculture inputs, finance, extension and marketing facilities
- Encourage interaction between the allied bodies of government like ICAR, IARI, and agricultural universities
- Encourage contract farming in seed production
- Efforts must be made in making the farmers aware of the various new opportunities and the dangers associated with them.
- There is a need for greater interaction of the government with the industry



- Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in agri research and development as deduction of expenditure like in the case of R & D
- A Food Safety Board be constituted jointly by Ministry of Food Processing, APEDA and Quality Council of India to monitor and regulate the food certification activities in India relating to HACCP & EUREPGAP.
- It is recommended that State Governments should evaluate its laboratories concerned with pesticide residues analysis for its competence in testing and also for the availability of necessary infrastructure including pesticide instrumentation for testing pesticides residues. In case of deficiencies, concerned State government should take steps to impart training to its analytical staff and also provide funds and upgrade the quality of testing facilities to the level acceptable internationally.
- The State Government should also form a strong team of young horticulturists to be trained in EUREPGAP standards and inspection and be made responsible for taking the concept to the farming community of the state to promote implementation of EUREPGAP Standards.
- An effective mechanism should be developed for drawal of samples of fruits/vegetables from export-oriented farms for sending them to approved test laboratories, for compliance of EUREPGAP Standards.



Parallel Session - 2.A Growth Options for Fisheries & Meat

- **The Session was Chaired by Shri P M A Hakeem**, Secretary Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
- **Presentations were made on**
 - **Current Scenario and Growth Prospects for Fishery and Raising India's Share in Global Markets by**
 - **Dr J Bojan**, Director, The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)
 - **Current Scenario and Growth Prospects for Meat and Raising India's Share in Global Markets**
 - **Mr Irfan Allana**, Chairman, Allana Sons
- **Distinguished Panel of Discussants were**
 - **Dr M Sakthivel**, President, Aquaculture Foundation of India
 - **Ms Shashi Sareen**, Director, Export Inspection Council

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues in Fisheries

- One of the lowest productivity levels in the world.
- Aquaculture is faced with constant threat due to high disease incidence
- Lack of proper infrastructure facilities like cold storages, landing sites, harbors etc
- Lack of proper market channels
- No micro credit facilities to encourage small and marginal farmers in this sector
- No appropriate farmer friendly insurance scheme to protect small fish and shrimp farmers
- Unjust and arbitrary Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures introduced by some countries, anti-dumping duty



- Low value addition
- Rejection of export products by importing countries, which are not scientifically justified

Suggestions and Recommendations for Fisheries Sector

- Most of the suggestions in this session fall under the purview of **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Ministry of Agriculture:**
 - o Pass the Aquaculture Authority Bill
 - o Facilitate import of selected exotic species having good export market
 - o Make India a processing hub by importing fishery products for re-export
 - o Clear ambiguities in sanitary import permits.
 - o Amend the MPEDA Act 1972
 - o Diversify aquaculture to new exportable varieties of fish and shellfish
 - o Induction/standardization of technology for breeding and culture of candidate species

MPEDA (Marine Export Development Authority) has important role to play and bringing the necessary changes in the following aspects:

- Organize self-help groups among the fish and shrimp farmers and facilitate micro credit
- Establish fisherman cooperative societies and suitable cold chain for the preservation of the perishable commodities like fish
- Strengthen R&D activities to develop eco-friendly packages for disease problem in aquaculture, development of a model farm with acceptable engineering structure, effluent treatment system etc is need of the hour
- Develop candidate brood stock for culture through modern genetic tools, proper prophylaxis and quarantine methods before transportation of brood stock, fish larvae, egg etc
- Identify and monitor sensitive eco-system i.e. mangrove areas, bays, reservoirs etc
- Diversify and value addition of products for exports



- Focus on treating the farm effluents in aquaculture
- Promote other programmes like sea ranching of shrimps, lobster, sea bass, groupers and silver pomfrets
- Promote other farming practices like mussel farming and oyster farming
- Introduce disease resistant American white shrimp
- **Ministry of Agriculture should take into consideration farmer friendly insurance cover to small-scale fish and shrimp farmers.**
- **Ministry of Commerce has an important role to play in two aspects. One is to promote a common trade brand for Indian seafood through a logo i.e. Indian Seafoods and the other is open a dialogue with the importing governments for framing Sanitary and phytosanitary norms and standards.**
- **Ministry of Inland Transport should take necessary action to increase the number of designated ports.**

Issues in Meat Industry

- Low productivity in the world
- Very Poor genetic quality of the animals
- Lack of healthcare
- Inadequate feed
- Price competition in the international markets
- Unable to conform to international standards of quality and safety

Suggestions and Recommendations for Meat Industry

Most of the suggestions in this session fall under the purview of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Ministry of Agriculture:

- Include meat as an eligible item in the “Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana” (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme)



- Restore APEDA Financial Assistance for upgradation of export oriented abattoirs / processing plants as was applicable during 1997-2002
- Include Buffalo meat under APEDA's Transport Assistance Scheme for new markets in Africa / CIS where freight cost from India for reefer containers is much higher than from competing countries
- Restore Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for frozen Buffalo meat
- Exempt Service Tax on transportation of meat products processed for exports. This is presently applicable only for fruits, vegetables, eggs or milk even for domestic consumption
- Premium priced Buffalo calf meat for niche markets
- With improved livestock health, access to upper end markets like the EU could be possible
- **Ministry of Food Processing Industry's grants are not available to the industry as per their published Schemes. This Ministry should also ensure thrust on value added, processed meat products and enable to compete in the international markets.**



Parallel Session- 2.B Growth Options for Dairy & Poultry

- **The Session was Chaired by Dr (Mrs.) C T Misra**, Additional Secretary
Deptt of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
- **Presentations were made on**
 - **Current Scenario and Growth Prospects for Dairy and Raising India's Share in Global Markets by**
 - **Mr A K Khanna**, Managing Director, Mother Dairy Foods Processing Ltd.
 - **Mr P S Mukherjee**, Director, Glaxo Smithkline Beecham
 - **Mr Beda Rust**, Executive Vice President – Technical, Nestle India Pvt. Ltd.
 - **Current Scenario and Growth Prospects for Poultry and Raising India's Share in Global Markets by**
 - **Mr S K Singh**, Managing Director, Venkateshwara Hatcheries
 - **Mr C K Vaidya**, Managing Director, Godrej Agrovvet

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues in Dairy Sector

- Low penetration of technology due to lack of awareness among farmers
- Milk yield is low as very limited farm management techniques are being used.
- Poor rural infrastructure facilities like processing plants, refrigerated vans etc
- Lack of proper marketing support for their produce
- Improper export orientation: Little or no efforts to make better value addition and target exports.
- Non-availability of timely inputs for breeding, feeding and health care of animals
- Lack of suitable education/training for skill development for new viable and sustainable technology



- International standards, like phyto-sanitary standards of Codex, if applied without suitable modifications may detrimentally impact exports.
- Cold chain is poorly defined leading to high wastages and poor quality of milk.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Most of the suggestions in this session fall under the purview of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Ministry of Agriculture and this department has to take action in regard to the following points:

- Understand and respond to the farmer's needs for high quality services, technology and credit systems at his doorstep.
- Improve the overall efficiency of Bull breeding farms, semen stations, and Artificial Insemination (A.I.) service including delivery of semen and liquid nitrogen
- Establish fodder banks at strategic locations for providing fodder during emergencies and periods of fodder scarcity.
- Improve the State veterinary services particularly with respect to adequate vaccination cover and disease diagnostic services
- Introduce livestock health insurance schemes for dairy animals
- Improve the working efficiency of village level dairy cooperatives and milk unions with a view to improve their sustainability and financial viability
- Banks should ensure that all backward and forward linkages are available and prepare a scheme in a compact manner so that inputs and services including marketing of milk are available
- Liaison local agencies, foreign institutions and donors for business and manpower training and development programmes
- Increasing the value-addition in dairy products and targeting exports have to be the focus of the Ministry of Food Processing. This Ministry should also adapt the food laws featuring the international codex rules. This adds confidence and protection for the consumer.



- **Ministry of Commerce** should intensify the ongoing efforts to reduce trade barriers for exporting Indian based milk products and ingredients within SAARC countries and beyond. Efforts to forge joint ventures with international players should continue.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Minister of Agriculture have to take action with respect to some of the suggestions like

- Integrated crop-centric livestock development approach in dry land farming areas
- Improve infrastructure in the rural areas
- Expand the co-operative model and adopt cluster approach
- Empower women in dairying
- Disseminate the information on breeding, feeding and processing
- Replicate the successful technologies developed by Punjab and Haryana in low milk producing states
- Encourage corporate participation in the dairy sector by incentivising on some of the core areas of investment
 - o Rationalize regulatory requirements and their implementation
- Increase value addition in dairy products
- Establish full-fledged cold chains with a proper network across the country

Issues in Poultry Sector

- Non-availability of raw materials for feed production i.e. domestic production of maize is currently the lowest in the world at 1.4 tonnes (as compared with a world average of 4.2 tonnes).
- Lack of basic infrastructure facilities (stoppage and transportation, including cold chain), access to credit, dissemination of information and the marketing system.
- The Indian poultry sector, classified neither as an agricultural sector nor an industrial sector, receives far less support than its potential contribution might indicate.
- Lack of poultry feed quality standards
- Foreign investment in activities as breeding, medicines, feed, and equipment, as well as integration and processing is permitted but is constrained by market and policy uncertainty



and poor infrastructure.

- Sales tax on animal feeds, counter veiling duty on Amino acids and import duty on feed additives are some bottlenecks for feed production.
- Policies lack export orientation

Suggestions and Recommendations

- **Ministry of Agriculture should accord the status of agriculture for poultry farming and incentivise the farmers with similar benefits bestowed upon agriculture farmers in the country.**
- **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Ministry of Agriculture should take into consideration the following recommendations of the Summit:**
 - Focus on increasing yield of maize and soya bean and also increase the acreage under these two crops. This will be needed to meet the feed requirement of the growing poultry and dairy business
 - Have quarantine measures for imported products
 - Include eggs in the Mid Day Meal program
 - Credit facility to poultry farmers as per agriculture norms
 - Induct minimum support price system to protect small farmer.
- **Recommendations for the consideration of the Ministry of Finance are as follows:**
 - Reduce the impact of VAT on poultry
 - Exempt processed poultry from Excise Duty
 - Remove tariff-rate quota (TRQ) and allow maize import under open general license (OGL) at zero duty during the lean season to keep prices under control through out the year. Remove duties on equipments which encourage domestic processing
 - Provide transport assistance @ 25% of freight on export of poultry meat
- **The Ministry of Commerce should exert pressure on developed countries to reduce subsidies as per WTO agreement**



Parallel Session - 2.C

Value Addition in Agriculture and Horticulture Products

- **The Session was Chaired by Shri D P Singh**, Secretary
Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India
- **The Presentations were made on**
 - **Growers and Processors: Creating Partnership for Progress** by
 - **Dr M L Choudhary**, Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture,
Government of India
 - **Processed Food: Market Opportunities at Home and Abroad** by
 - **Mr K S Money**, Chairman, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export
Development Authority (APEDA)
 - **Discussions on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures that Hamper the Competitive Advantage** by
 - **Mr Feroze N Masani**, Director, National Horticulture Board &
Owner - Masani Farms
 - **Distinguished Panel of Discussants were**
 - **Mr Gurnam Arora**, Joint Managing Director, Satnam Overseas Ltd
 - **Mr R C Upadhyay**, Director, National Research Centre of Orchids
 - **Mr P Bhattacharya**, Director, National Centre for Organic Farming

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues

- Post harvest losses mount to nearly 30%. This percentage has to be brought down if we are expecting to make higher growth rates in agriculture and horticulture
- Lowest productivity levels compared to other countries in the world
- We have the approach of sustenance farming rather than market driven farming.



- Lack of awareness about the primary and minimal processing among the farmers
- Tendency of the industry to procure from *Mandi* where there is no control over the grades and quality reduces the processing efficiency. Both the industry and the farmers are at loss due to industry procuring the produce from Mandis.
- Inappropriate Infrastructure – Most storage capacity created is not suitable for the products requiring storage
- Administrative delays in import of flower and fruit planting materials
- High inspection fees for quarantine inspection.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Ministry of Agriculture should take into consideration the following suggestions and recommendations:

- Reform Phytosanitary Regulations & make it more user friendly
- Awareness for value added products has to be created among the farmers. Forward and backward linkages with the markets to promote the growth of value added industry.
- Ensure regular supply of raw material for the processor
- Strengthen linkages and interaction between growers and industries.
- Identify a productive zone and try to cluster the area specific production
- Infuse technology in the processing industry to make it more vibrant and dynamic. Promote the industry to evolve a strong brand name.
- Public-private partnership for better extension/ inputs
- Map the requirements of the Industry and then accordingly plan the production.
- Promote growers cooperatives in food park region where in growers will produce for the industry
- Focus on emerging niche markets i.e. Organic and Functional health foods which have higher potential to raise the farm income
- Concentrate on aggressive marketing campaigns to generate awareness among the farmers.



- Invest in export market intelligence collection and dissemination.
- Invest in quality promotion through development of quality standards , certification and brand promotion.
- Incentivise creation of facilities for collection, sorting, grading and transportation of agri produce to Processors/Markets.
- Implement Seed & the Quarantine Act. The Inspection Fee as prescribed in schedule III of the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order 1989 makes the imported planting material expensive. The schedule of Fee, therefore, needs a relook.

Ministry of Food Processing and Ministry of Agriculture should take into consideration the following valid recommendations from the Summit:

- Enforce Universal food law
- Regulatory issues for quality and safety
- Standards for processing machinery and equipments
- Prevent wastage of surplus farm produce and increase its shelf life through processing.
- Invest in R & D and Quality Management
- Ensure traceability of quality and defect
- Strengthen the cool chain management and establish linkages with super markets
- Foster Public-Private Partnerships for infrastructure creation and technology up gradation. Provide initial cost subsidies towards the construction of cold storages and greenhouses
- There is a need to adopt Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), which prevent hazardous events in food preparation, storage and distribution.
- Reduce airfreight charges
- Reducing interest rates on bank lending and waive excise duties on domestic sales

Some of the suggestions and recommendations that are gravely affecting the floriculture industry and need to be urgently addressed are as follows:

- One time Registration for Import of planting materials from other countries



Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India



- One time certification of Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ)
- Import permits application to be simplified.
- Reduce high inspection fees for quarantine inspection.
- Address and mitigate the issues like quota, tariff, SPS and pest risk analysis



Plenary Session - IV

Financing Public-Private Partnerships in Agriculture

- **The Session was Chaired by Dr Shankar N Acharya**, Honorary Professor & Member, Board of Governors, ICRIER
- **Presentations were made on**
 - **New Initiatives in Agri Value Chain and Lending Opportunities for Banks and Financial Institutions by**
 - **Dr Nachiket Mor**, Executive Director, ICICI Bank Ltd. & Co-Chairman – Agriculture Committee, FICCI
 - **How to Enhance Credit Flows through Revitalisation of Cooperatives and Expansion of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by**
 - **Smt Ranjana Kumar**, Chairperson, NABARD
 - **Global Experience in Financing Public-Private Partnership in Agriculture by**
 - **Mr Sanjeev Bhasin**, Chief Executive Officer, Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd.
 - **Translating Large Scale Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership Project Approaches to Micro/Medium Agri Business Projects**
 - **Mr Munish Dayal**, National Head and President - Business Banking Yes Bank

The Issues discussed and the Recommendations made during the Session are as follows:

Issues

- Lack of Integrated Perspective on the Food Value Chain
- Farmer linkages to Demand Side of the Food Value Chain is weak
- Government Support and Subsidy Schemes are inequitable in distribution and have progressively distorted the market
- The Management Revolution of India (in IT/BT/Services) has largely eluded the Agriculture Sector



- No diversification in business; not much scope for cross subsidization.
- High cost of resources and high intermediation costs due to 2/3-tier system.

Some of the issues with the cooperatives are as follows:

- Century old cooperative credit societies suffer with deficiencies like huge accumulated losses, deposit erosion, loan losses and because of problem of recovery of credit they appear non – sustainable. They also suffer with problem of lack of diversification in business duality of control and non-professional staff
- No elections for long periods in certain States cooperatives
- Boards superseded in a number of SCBs/DCCBs
- State Governments combine the role of Dominant Shareholder, Management Supervisor and Auditor
- Financial disclosures not transparent in most of the cooperatives
- RBI's ability to enforce its regulatory powers constrained.
- Accumulated losses, asset and deposit erosion have assumed alarming proportions.
- High NPAs; high risk premium in lending
- Loan appraisal systems, monitoring very poor
- Poor internal checks and controls
- Financial disclosures not transparent
- Poor HR practices; non-professional banking staff
- PACS very weak; nearly half of them incurring losses; need for reorganization and modern business development models

Suggestions and Recommendations

Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD

- Make delivery mechanism with a more wider coverage, easily accessible and link it to the database with farmers identity



- Urgently setup rural credit bureau
- Promote competition in rural credit system by allowing all financial institutions with free play and free access
- Allow PACs to partner with all scheduled commercial banks
- NABARD short-term refinance should be made available to all scheduled commercial banks operating in the rural areas
- Rural credit should include all operations in the agri value chain from sowing to reaching the actual consumers (i.e. end to end value chain)
- Redefine priority sector lending and tracking should be on the lines similar to that of CRR and SLR i.e. on a weekly basis

Ministry of Agriculture should look into the following aspects:

- Urgent need to revitalize the cooperative sector
- Increase rural credit to farm sector at affordable rates
- Increase coverage of farmers under institutional credit
- Strengthen Credit delivery by revitalizing cooperatives
- Create financial window for long term capital flow into agriculture
- Hassle and collateral free agri-lending and pledge financing
- Establish a Credit Bureau with unique customer ID with credit history
- Rural credit to be doubled in next three years
- Ensure refinance from NABARD to be lent at close to 8% to farmer

Some of the aspects related to infrastructure development which require the immediate attention of Ministry of Agriculture are as given under:

- Develop basic Infrastructure using Public-Private Partnerships
- Provide seed capital for agricultural infrastructure and leverage with private participation
- Value Chain Approach in Agri-investments in an integrated and planned manner



- Permit to open private markets and purchases outside mandi
- Support storage infrastructure including ports and temperature-controlled storage
- Create multi-channel strategy like credit bureau for the farmers to bear the problems of financial risks
 - o Develop new structures like pure returns model where both the government and the private participation has equity investment and they work on commercial principles
 - o Promote micro-enterprises amongst matured SHGs, support marketing strategies and capacity building of SHGs
 - o Public-Private Partnership in food and agriculture requires clarity i.e. clear objectives, clarity of roles, and appropriate apportioned risks as two contrasting bodies are involved i.e. public and private partners.



IV - Action Plan

Preamble

The Agriculture Summit 2005 – Reforms for Raising Farm Income, jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and FICCI has clearly advocated the need for agri reforms and policy changes vital for increasing the farm income, productivity and making Indian Agriculture globally competitive.

A look at India's broad areas of core competencies reveals, that our nation is one of the world's largest producers of farm commodities. The country possesses the highest arable land size ratio. About 24 million hectares of land is categorized as culturable wasteland and permanent fallows, which can be developed and brought into cultivation to augment production while generating employment and incomes in the rural sector. Due to its different agro climatic regions it is geographically well suited to produce different varieties of fruits and vegetables and is conducive for a variety of crops almost around the year.

We enjoy competitive advantage at the international level because our farmers are the most cost effective producers. With the WTO stipulations of phasing out subsidies, we can be truly competitive. Global trade in agri products is expected to be US \$ 640 billion in 2012. Currently India has less than 1.5 per cent of the world trade. In spite of the huge potential Indian Agriculture is constrained with several issues. We are glad that the Hon'ble Prime Minister supports our belief that the Indian Agriculture has not yet achieved the kind of attention it deserves. Agri policy reforms should be based on the statements made by Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Agriculture Minister quoted in the Action Plan Paper.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Inaugural speech has rightly underscored the fact that "If we want to step up the rate of growth of the economy to 7 to 8%, we have to accelerate the rate of growth in agriculture. Unfortunately, there has, in fact, been a deceleration in the past decade. While the Tenth Plan assumed that agricultural production would grow at the rate of 4.0%, the reality is that in the first three years of the Plan we have not been able to ensure



even 1.5% rate of growth. It is to reverse this neglect that our Government stated at the very outset that our priority would be to give a “New Deal To Rural India”.

This “New Deal” requires reversing the declining trend in investment in agriculture; stepping up credit flow to farmers; increasing public investment in irrigation and wasteland development; increasing funds for agricultural research and extension; creating a ‘single market’ for agricultural produce; investing in rural healthcare and education; investing in rural electrification; investing in rural roads; setting up commodities futures markets; and, insuring against risks which are inevitable in an increasingly commercialized agrarian economy”.

Action Points

1. Increase Investment in Agriculture Sector (Annexure 1.A)

- The present actual investment in the agriculture sector is only 1.3 per cent of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Taking into consideration the 24.03% contribution of agriculture to total GDP (2003-2004), **minimum 6.0 %** of total GDP should be invested in agriculture & allied activities
 - It is suggested that the desired investment can be increased in a phased manner i.e. 4 per cent in the first phase to 5 per cent in the second phase and finally 6 per cent in the third phase

(Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission)

• Increase Investment in Irrigation (Annexure 1.B)

- o Time bound completion of major projects. Completion of 388 on going major and medium irrigation projects would create a potential of 21.7 million hectares as irrigated area. Action plan for completion be drawn up based on the projects, which are nearest to completion. Plans should be time bound.
- o Focus on minor irrigation, particularly projects for revival of water bodies, water harvesting, water shed management and water saving technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation.



(Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission)

2. Legislations and Policy Amendments

- i. Implement the Model APMC Act with a few critical changes in consultation with the Industry (annexure 2.1)
- ii. Scrap the Essential Commodities Act
 - When everything is freely imported, free movement of local agriculture produce, between States, should be permitted. India should have a 'single market' for agriculture produce.
- iii. Have an Integrated Food Law and should be passed in the Parliament at the earliest
 - Multiple laws, standards and enforcing agencies plague the Processed Food Sector. The myriad of rules, regulations and standards are often overlapping and contradictory.
- iv. Encourage FDI in Food Retail (annexure 2.2)
- v. Reform Phytosanitary Regulations & make it more user friendly
- vi. Rationalize taxes (annexure 2.3)
- vii. Phase out Mandi Tax (annexure 2.4)
- viii. Implement Seed & the Quarantine Act. The Inspection Fee as prescribed in schedule III of the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order 1989 makes the imported planting material expensive. The schedule of Fee, therefore, needs a relook
- ix. Make Warehouse Receipt as Negotiable Instrument (annexure 2.5)
- x. Forward Contract Regulation Act to allow Options and Weather Derivatives
- xi. Encourage bank participation on commodity exchanges to ensure that they play the role of aggregators for farmers
- xii. Support the initiative of Food Corporation of India to encourage States to procure and distribute food grains within the State (annexure 2.6)



**(Action to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Consumer Affairs,
Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Food Processing & FCI)**

3. Public-Private Partnerships

FICCI fully supports Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture's statement *"India needs a Second Green Revolution with an end-to-end approach where production and productivity patterns are tied up with markets and end users. This according to me is India's biggest challenge – and must be faced by both the public and the private sector."*

I Research and Development (Annexure 3.I)

- Increase Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Research and Development with focus on identified crops and productivity yield increase in match with the best in international agriculture
- Public-Private Partnerships in identifying effective participation in agricultural research and development
- Create Regional Centres of Excellence for the above

(Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology and ICAR)

II Marketing

- Investment in agri marketing infrastructure through out the entire value chain (priority sector lending should include the entire value chain) (Annexure 3.II.A)
- Define Standards & Grades for agricultural commodities and develop mechanisms for communication and dissemination of transparent pricing (post offices and railway stations may be instructed to carry agri produce prices, as they are access points for farmers)
- Invest in export market intelligence collection and dissemination.
- Invest in quality promotion through development of quality standards , certification and brand promotion.
- Incentivise creation of facilities for collection, sorting, grading and transportation of agri produce to Processors/Markets.
- Introduce electronic linkages of markets to make transparent pricing
 - Enable a transparent price discovery mechanism with electronically interlinked Mandis



- Banks and International Trading Exchanges should be allowed free access
- Promote Contract Farming without unnecessary restrictions - The role of the Government should be to facilitate contract farming & not control it
- Encourage Decentralized Procurement and involve private sector and banks in procurement
- Aggressive promotion of Poultry and Fisheries (Annexure 3.II.B)

(Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Consumer Affairs, Food Corporation of India and State Agricultural Departments)

III Wasteland Development (Annexure 3.III)

- Transparency in allotment of wasteland and promote bio fuel in these wasteland
- A policy of bio-fuel should be announced
- Promote Bio fuel and grant 10 per cent tax incentives for a period of 10 years for those initiating investments for its development

(Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Finance and Department of Food)

IV Finance (Annexure 3.IV)

- Make delivery mechanism with a more wider coverage, easily accessible and linked it to the database with farmers identity
- Urgently setup rural credit bureau
- Promote competition in rural credit system by allowing all financial institutions with free play and free access
- Allow PACs to partner with all scheduled commercial banks
- NABARD short-term refinance should be made available to all scheduled commercial banks operating in the rural areas
- Rural credit should include all operations in the agri value chain from sowing to reaching the actual consumers (i.e. end to end value chain)
- Redefine priority sector lending and tracking should be on the lines similar to that of CRR



Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India

FICCI

and SLR i.e. on a weekly basis

(Action to be taken by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD)

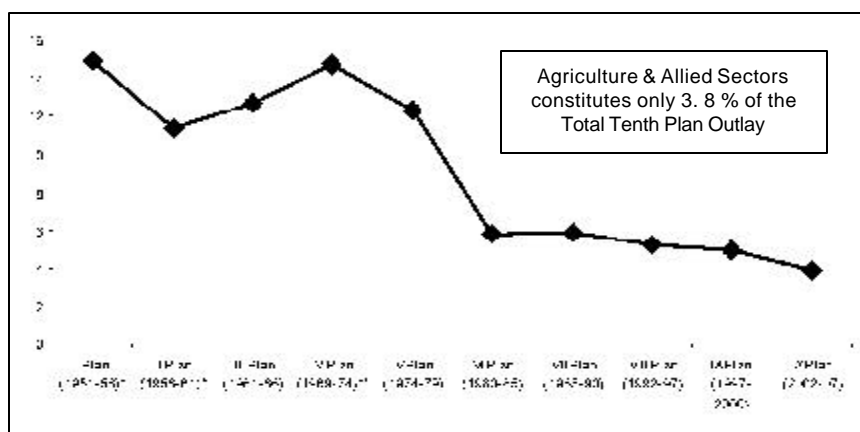


Annexure

(Annexure 1.A)

Investment

- Declining Public investment in agriculture, stagnant gross capital formation, falling share of agriculture in the Total Plan outlay



Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture at 1993-94 prices

(Rs Crore)

Year	Total	Percentage Share of		Investment in Agriculture as % age of GDP
		Public	Private	
1994-95	14,969	33.0	67.0	1.6
1997-98	15,942	25.0	75.0	1.4
2000-01	16906	23.2	76.8	1.3
2002-03*	18657	24.3	75.7	1.3

* Quick Estimates

Source: Economic Survey of India (2002-2003), Central Statistical Organization

- Lack of private investment in agriculture infrastructure, marketing, financing
- Bring substantial jump in public investment and create an enabling environment for private sector to invest



(Annexure 1.B)

Water Conservation, Water Use Efficiency and Micro Irrigation

Issues

- The rate of bringing area under irrigation is slow due to high cost of investment i.e. Rs. 1.0 Lakh/ha in major projects.
- Departmental management of water resources rather than a holistic approach is causing administrative delays and hampering the efficiency of the work.
- Inadequate and untimely availability of assistance and rigid credit framework of financial institutions towards micro irrigation is not encouraging farmers to opt for micro irrigation.

Suggestions

- Ministry of Water Resources should consider the following aspects:
 - o Increase public investment in irrigation
 - o Implement water conservation starting from seventh order watershed.
 - o Catchment treatment needs to be carried out in a holistic manner by adopting a watershed approach by integrating different implementing departments.
 - o There should be contracting and sub-contracting of the distribution system in the command area.
 - o Focus more piously on the participatory irrigation management system concepts
 - o Standardize the methods and measures for estimating the actual area under irrigation
 - o Repair and renovate water bodies through public-private partnership
 - o Recharge groundwater
 - o Encourage Drainage line treatment



- Ministry of Agriculture should consider the following suggestions
 - More priority should be given for in-situ moisture conservation like compartment bunding, ridges & furrow, tied ridges, double cropping, strip cropping, mulching and vegetative barriers
 - There is a scope to create Water User Associations (Participatory Irrigation Management) for operation and maintenance of water distribution and application systems.
 - Individual farmers should also adopt water conservation and water management practices like water harvesting, micro-irrigation on Farm Reservoir Technology etc.
 - Bring awareness among the farmers for natural resource conservation using On Farm Reservoir (OFR) technology/ farm ponds. The Success of Chattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand on drought management, farm ponds during Kharif, using this technology should be widely replicated in other places also.
 - Use of Farm Yard Manure, Vermi-compost, green manuring, recycling of crop residues and bio mulching.
- National Committee on Plastic Culture in Horticulture under Ministry of Agriculture should take necessary action pertaining to some of the policy recommendations in propagating micro irrigation as under:
 - Micro Irrigation technology enables irrigation at high levels of efficiency of 80-90 percent as compared to 30-40 percent under conventional irrigation systems. Hence this technology needs to be promoted extensively.
 - The irrigation system needs to be modernized to enable delivery of water on demand basis to farmers through pipes based on the crop water requirement.
 - Drip and Sprinkler irrigation being cost intensive at the initial level, need to be supported for enabling farmers to adopt the technology. Assistance at the rate of 50% cost of the system is considered optimum.
 - The coverage of area under micro irrigation so far is only 2.2 million hectares against the potential of 62.5 Mha. Hence efforts need to be made to increase the coverage of area under this system at an accelerated pace, which is possible with effective Public-Private Partnership.



- o Conveyance of water from source to field as well as creation of water harvesting facility needs inclusion in the micro irrigation (MI) assistance package.
- o Facilitate loan: Drip technology need be given a special status so that farmers can avail of loan irrespective of default. Reduce the interest rates for the loans availed on purchase of equipments
- o Adequate training should be imparted to the farmers on the technological aspects of the micro irrigations before they are given assistance for installing micro irrigation systems. This would enable proper post installation maintenance and care of the system.
- o The system manufacturers need to ensure proper post installation maintenance of the micro irrigation system. The dealers should be well trained and should keep sufficient stock of the spares.
- Ministry of Finance should incentivise the farmers and industry towards the following components of Micro Irrigation:
 - o Import of duty free raw material for micro irrigation systems
 - o No taxes including VAT should be levied on the micro irrigation systems
 - o Efforts need to be made to make the system affordable to farmers by reducing/ abolishing taxes on the raw materials used for the manufacture of the systems.
 - o The limit of getting Rs.50,000 for getting loans for micro irrigation systems without collateral security should be increased to Rs.1 lakh or the redeemable value of the equipments
 - o Lease financing for micro-irrigation by the manufacturing firms to provide credit support, like in case of car, should be promoted
 - o Grant 150 per cent deduction of expenditure for all investments by the private sector in promoting dry land agriculture



(Annexure 2.1)

- **Implement the Model Agricultural Produce and Marketing Act** to encourage direct marketing, to free the farmers to sell to whoever they want, enable them to get the best price for their produce, and create partnerships with banks, finance and logistics companies, for lowest cost financing and marketing. States should be incentivised through budget allocation for speedy implementation of the amendments.

(Annexure 2.2)

- **Facilitate Food Retail Supply Chain**, given the growing urbanization, rising population, working spouses, increasing household disposable incomes and the projected increase in demand for food. (The private final consumption of food in India was Rs 5,000,000 million in 1999-2000)
 - o Allow super markets/retail chains (permitting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)) in urban areas. It is well known that almost 40 per cent of goods sold by retail chains in the world, are either agriculture products or processed foods, and that these retail chains have backward linkage with farmers through contract farming mode. This provides huge market opportunity at fair prices to farmers, as middlemen have no role.

(Annexure 2.3)

Rationalize Taxes

- Cascading effect of multiple taxes (mandi tax, purchase tax, sales tax, commissions, octroi & entry tax, tax on basic raw materials etc.) at various stages from harvesting to marketing
- Considerable variation in tax & fee structure across States
 - o Purchase arbitrage opportunities for all players to the detriment of the farmer
- There is need for bringing uniformity in the state level tax structure in agricultural commodities for improving the market efficiencies. Taxes and fees on raw agricultural commodities should be rationalised, with a limit ceiling of 4 per cent. In principle, raw agricultural commodities should attract zero tax (including purchase tax, mandi tax, commission of agents, and so on, which in Punjab today accounts for about 11 per cent on



wheat). This can be done by allowing grain companies/traders to buy directly from farmers without going through commission agents, and abolishing purchase/sales tax.

- Octroi and Entry Tax should be abolished wherever applicable. Uniform Value Added Tax (VAT) in agriculture, should be introduced, which would help the growth of the agro-processing industry in the following manner:
 - o On processed products of a perishable nature – 0 per cent
 - o Other processed foods (excluding tobacco & alcoholic beverages) – 4 per cent
- There is also need to abolish or reduce fees, cess, taxes, duties etc. on procurement of agricultural or horticultural produce procured through any registered contract-farming programme. This would promote direct procurement, improve quality of produce and lead to reduction in the load on the State and Central procurement systems.
- Use Market Fees to build market infrastructure, not as an additional source of revenue for the State.

(Annexure 2.4)

- **Phase out Mandi Tax**
 - o Grant compensation to the States at an average of last three years of approx. Rs 3000 crores
 - 80 % of the full actual collection in the 1st yr - Rs 2400 crores
 - 60 % of the original collection in the 2nd yr - Rs 1800 crores
 - 30 per cent in the 3rd year - Rs 900 crores
 - No grants/ support in the 4th year

(Annexure 2.5)

- **Promote development of a Warehousing Receipt System for agricultural commodities**
- Announce standards and grades for all crops and horticulture products so that pricing is linked to the grades. Also communicate the standards widely.
- In order to provide a viable alternative to the village Arthiya System, an effective warehouse system needs to be introduced.



- o Permit 70 per cent of stock kept by farmers in warehouses to be paid immediately on the ruling price of the day. Agri futures markets to flash daily prices of products transparently allowing farmers to sell their entire produce in the warehouses on the price of their choice. 30 per cent of the balance payment to be paid on final price as chosen by the farmer less pre specified storage charges.
- o There is a need to encourage certified warehouses all over the country, which meet certain specifications and standards to store the produce.
- o Lay down various standards and specification for certified warehouses, as also rules and regulations for managing them including fidelity aspects
- o Set up urgently an accreditation agency for certified warehouses and warehouse receipts. Encourage private sector, cooperatives and panchayats to set up rural godowns. Specify standards and permit warehousing receipt system
- o Promote latest information system for warehouse receipt to help in identifying ownership of produce, transfer of lien, hypothecation of receipt for loan and trading of the produce in the context of spot delivery
- o Exempt various taxes and levies arising on the negotiability of the warehouse receipts

(Annexure 2.6)

- The initiative by Food Corporation of India encouraging States to procure and distribute food grains within the State has to be permitted.
 - o It is necessary to involve States more actively in agri-marketing as they are independently managing PDS supply through their own agencies
 - o Another option for States could be to out-source procurement, handling and distribution to private sector, ensuring MSP to farmers
 - o Alternatively, States governments having potential of marketable surplus should meet their part requirement
 - o The money saved, in terms of transportation, storage, preservation, could be in turn used to strengthen the State agri-marketing infrastructure
- FCI to maintain buffer stock for specified products for each quarter



(Annexure 3.I)

Research & Development

- **Increase funds for agricultural research**
- Set up incubation centres: R&D ideas should be supported and incubated by the government. There should be incubation centers on different aspects of agriculture and located across the country
- Allow co-sharing of facilities with industry. Public R&D institutes have huge physical assets, hence industry should be allowed to avail these assets.
- **Ministry of Agriculture should facilitate the private sector to utilize the infrastructure available in the public sector.**
- Permit co-locating industry R&D within Public Institute as in CSIR.
- **The Ministry of Agriculture should permit private sector to locate their R&D units within the premises of Public Research Institutes like IARI and ICAR in similar lines of CSIR.**
- Offshore acquisition of early stage knowledge/ Intellectual Property: Ministry of Commerce should make necessary efforts to bring renowned inventions related to agriculture developed by other countries to India and the concerned institutes should improvise on them.
- Professional development fund through laboratory earnings: The revenue generated through research and development by research institute/agency should be allowed to retain those for the development of their research itself instead of forwarding those revenue to the headquarters of ICAR.
- **Ministry of Agriculture should take a positive approach for this.**
- **Ministry of Agriculture should make guidelines to facilitate ease mobility of scientists to and from industry.**
- ICAR should commercialize the R&Ds developed by them. There should be demand driven approach for the research done in the institutes. Proper interface between private sector and ICAR officials should be developed on a regular basis. Scientists have to be placed on the Board of Directors of Private sector so as to learn the business skills and vice versa for identifying focused Research and Development in ICAR.



- Some of the strategies like establishing a marketing group in each lab and devolution of decision making, awards for marketing and business development and specialized business development-consultancy have to be adopted by ICAR to make its research institutes generate business and income.
- Studies should be conducted to identify comparative advantage of each region as far as the best crops to be developed by that region. Each region should be incentivised and developed as special production zones for each crop.
- An analysis has to be done of the best variety of crops traded in the international market and India should try to bring that variety into India and promote its development in the country.
- **Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Commerce should initiate measures to enlarge the share of India's agri trade in the global market.**
- Research Institutes should adopt and develop package of farming practices, which are locally relevant, and within the resource base of the farmer. Research Institutes should be given freedom to operate research agenda as per local needs.
- The Agri research institutes should focus on optimizing water usage practices and rationalized chemical inputs to build sustainability.
- There is an urgent need for institutional mechanism for promoting PPP in agriculture research and extension. Develop public and private partnership with input companies on the basic research agenda.
- Agriculture biotechnology needs to be focused as one of the prime areas for PPP.
- Another key area that needs focus is the seed industry. Private industry should have increased access to germplasm/breeder seeds and the technology testing cost being charged by ICAR institutions to private seed companies should be reduced.
- **Ministry of Food Processing should incentivise research organizations to develop R&D in post harvest, processing and value addition in consultation with industry.**
- The curriculum of agricultural education should be revised thoroughly, keeping in view the global changes taking place in agrarian sector.
- Build solid partnership between the farmers, Central and State governments, agriculture universities, agri research institutes, and industry



- Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in agri research and development, as deduction of expenditure.

(Annexure 3.II.A)

- Investments in the entire agri value chain like creation of cold chain, new agricultural marketing infrastructure or modernization of existing markets should be eligible for agricultural loans under priority sector lending
- Invest about Rs 12,230 cr for the development of market infrastructure over the next five years
- Invest in the development of rural periodic markets or haats (about 47,000 in the country) - @ Rs 9000 per haat the total fund requirement would be about Rs.42.3 Crores
- Strengthen and modernize marketing infrastructure by attracting private investment. In addition, use private investment to build new markets, infrastructure in the total supply chain – warehousing, post management facilities, collection centers, grading centers
- Develop Cold Chain transportation system e.g. air – conditioned cargo, coaches in railways, roadways etc. and refrigerators/insulated containers for perishables, processed products to minimize post-harvest losses at transportation stage and at retail level
- Invest in Rural Roads
- Treat organization of markets as a service industry, and allow markets to be set up by the private sector and farmers’ cooperatives. This will attract private investment in creation of much needed marketing infrastructure, create competition and ensure better service to the farmers.
- Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in agri infrastructure chain as deduction of expenditure like in the case of R & D
- With the increasing globalization, rising trading opportunities, cost competitiveness, emphasis on value addition through standardization, changing composition of the Indian diet, there is a need to develop alternative marketing models like
 - o Contract Farming – The role of the Government should be to facilitate contract farming & not control it



- o Private Mandis
- o Direct Marketing like ITC eChoupal
- o The NDDDB model of public-private partnership, which provides a viable alternative for small farmers should be replicated

(Annexure 3.II.B)

- Ministry of Agriculture should accord the status of agriculture for poultry farming and incentivise the farmers with similar benefits bestowed upon agriculture farmers in the country.
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Ministry of Agriculture should take into consideration the following recommendations of the Summit:
 - o Focus on increasing yield of maize and soya bean and also increase the acreage under these two crops. This will be needed to meet the feed requirement of the growing poultry and dairy business
 - o Have quarantine measures for imported products
 - o Include eggs in the Mid Day Meal program
 - o Credit facility to poultry farmers as per agriculture norms
 - o Induct minimum support price system to protect small farmer
- Recommendations for the consideration of the Ministry of Finance are as follows:
 - o Reduce the impact of VAT on poultry
 - o Exempt processed poultry from Excise Duty
 - o Remove tariff-rate quota (TRQ) and allow maize import under open general license (OGL) at zero duty during the lean season to keep prices under control through out the year.
 - o Remove duties on equipments which encourage domestic processing
 - o Provide transport assistance @ 25% of freight on export of poultry meat
- ***The Ministry of Commerce should exert pressure on developed countries for reduction in subsidies as per WTO agreement***



(Annexure 3.III)

Promote Bio-Fuel

- **Government of India and Planning Commission should release a biofuel policy and a Vision Statement pertaining to bio fuels.**
- Identify elite species, which can provide high yield, high oil and the same have to be made available to the farmers. **Ministry of Agriculture should make necessary arrangements to facilitate the research.**
- For promotion of large scale plantation, support farmers by offering quality planting material, minimum support price with buy back arrangements, institutional finance at lower rate of interest. Setting up of collection and oil expelling centres may be considered.
- Develop funding mechanism and credit availability to the farmers to grow bio diesel crops.
- The Ministry of Agriculture should
 - o Extend technical support through professionals to farmers.
 - o Provide R & D support to find out new applications of Glycerin
 - o Arrange extensive training to farmers.
- **Ministry of Petroleum should make it mandatory for blending bio fuel at a percentage level, subject to the availability of bio fuel**
- **Ministry of Petroleum and Ministry of Surface Transport should support and encourage R&D for development of efficient bio fuels and R&D for automobile engines compatible for using bio fuels**
- Arrange buyback at the prefixed price so as to ensure sustained income for farmers.
- There should be a consensus between Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Rural Development regarding the promotion of bio-diesel and release of wastelands towards it.
- **Ministry of Rural Development should undertake development of a National Wasteland Development policy.**



- Increase public investment in wasteland development.
- Reclaim non-agricultural farmland and wasteland for cultivation of Jatropha. Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture should make efforts to bring more land under Jatropha cultivation.
- **Ministry of Railways and other concerned departments should lease land along railway tracks and other departmental lands on a nominal basis for cultivation of Jatropha to farmers or corporations**
- **Ministry of Finance should consider tax incentives like excise, sales tax exemption for bio fuels industry equipments.**
- Provide capital subsidies to processing industries along with subsidized interest rates for setting up bio fuel plants and provide tax/duty concession for the bio-diesel producers.
- **Ministry of Commerce should promote FDI investments for bio fuel plants cultivation and bio fuel processing industries in wastelands**
- Launch National Mission on Bio-Fuels and develop a National Policy for Bio Fuels.
- Bio-fuels should be given Priority sector status for granting loans, working capital and deciding on equity participation.
- To commercialize the bio diesel, support to entrepreneur by providing single window clearance of the project proposals related to Bio-fuels.
- Capital subsidy should be provided to bio-diesel entrepreneur for establishing esterification plant.
- There is a need to have a policy for buying large quantity of bio diesel on continuous basis which will establish a sustain supply chain to remove gaps and adhocism in maintaining supply chain.
- A separate national seminar on bio fuels may be organized for greater debate on various issues relating to productivity of planting material, land usages, trans-esterification, blending marketing etc. and policy issues.
- Treat 150 per cent of investment by private sector in wasteland reclamation as deduction of expenditure like in the case of R & D.



(Annexure 3.IV)

- Ministry of Agriculture should look into the following aspects:
 - o Urgent need to revitalize the cooperative sector
 - o Increase rural credit to farm sector at affordable rates
 - o Increase coverage of farmers under institutional credit
 - o Strengthen Credit delivery by revitalizing cooperatives
 - o Create financial window for long term capital flow into agriculture
 - o Hassle and collateral free agri-lending and pledge financing
 - o Establish a Credit Bureau with unique customer ID with credit history
 - o Rural credit to be doubled in next three years
 - o Ensure refinance from NABARD to be lent at close to 8% to farmer
- Some of the aspects related to infrastructure development which require the immediate attention of Ministry of Agriculture are as given under:
 - o Develop basic Infrastructure using Public-Private Partnerships
 - o Provide seed capital for agricultural infrastructure and leverage with private participation
 - o Value Chain Approach in Agri-investments in an integrated and planned manner
 - o Permit to open private markets and purchases outside mandi
 - o Support storage infrastructure including ports and temperature-controlled storage
 - o Create multi-channel strategy like credit bureau for the farmers to bear the problems of financial risks
- Develop new structures like pure returns model where both the government and the private participation has equity investment and they work on commercial principles
- Promote micro-enterprises amongst matured SHGs, support marketing strategies and capacity building of SHGs
- Public-Private Partnership in food and agriculture requires clarity i.e. clear objectives, clarity of roles, and appropriate apportioned risks as two contrasting bodies are involved i.e. public and private partners.



Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India

FICCI

List of Participants **(Speakers, FICCI & Government Officials and** **Registered Participants from the Government** **& Private Sector)**

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Plenary Session I: Creating Demand Driven Research Agenda: Role of Public-Private Partnership

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Plenary Session II: Public-Private Partnership in Marketing and Infrastructure

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***Plenary Session III: Protecting the
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***Parallel Session I.A: – A New
Framework for Bio Fuels***

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Parallel Session I.C: Extension and Support for Quality Inputs

Parallel Session I.B: Water Conservation, Water Use Efficiency and Micro Irrigation

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***Parallel Session 2.B: Growth Options
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***Parallel Session 2.A: Growth Options
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***Parallel Session 2.C: Value Addition in
Agriculture and Horticulture Products***

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***Plenary Session IV: Financing Public-
Private Partnerships in Agriculture***

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Ministry of Agriculture
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Valedictory Session

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Haryana Dairy Development Coop
Federation Ltd
Chandigarh

Mr A K Kak
Manager (Procurement)
Haryana Dairy Development Coop
Federation Ltd
Chandigarh



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FICCI

Mr Vinay Kumar
Managing Director
National Federation of Co-operative Sugar
Factories Ltd
New Delhi

Dr J P Singh
Chief Cane Adviser
National Federation of Co-operative Sugar
Factories Ltd
New Delhi

Shri Jagdish Chandra
Chairman & Managing Director
Rajasthan Co-Operative Dairy
Federation Ltd
Jaipur

Dr Anandi Lal Mathur
General Manager (FO & AH)
Rajasthan Co-Operative Dairy
Federation Ltd
Jaipur

Shri K D Vora
Chairman
The Maharashtra Urban Co-Op Bank's
Federation Ltd
Mumbai

Shri A G Deshpande
Chief Executive Officer & Secretary
The Maharashtra Urban Co-Op Bank's
Federation Ltd
Mumbai

Mr Rajendra Kumar Mishra
Marketing Development Officer
U P State Horticulture Co-op Marketing
Federation
Lucknow

Foundation

Mr K M Alwas
President
Tea India Foundation
Kotagiri

Corporations

Mr H Maraicar
Chief Executive Officer
BMF Exports Corporation
Chennai

Mr B A Channappa Gowda
Addl Director of Hort & Managing Director
KAPPEC
Bangalore

Mr Uday Borawake
Chairman - Agriculture & Agribusiness Sub-
Committee
MCCIA
Pune

Mr Sanjay Kumar, IAS
Chairman & Managing Director
MSW Corporation
Pune

Prof M M Mehta
Managing Director
Maharishi Tech Corpn Ltd
New Delhi

Shri B B Pattanaik
Managing Director
National Seeds Corporation Ltd
New Delhi



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FICCI

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Shri V K Chauhan
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National Seeds Corporation Ltd
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Prof E Balagurusamy
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Anna University
Chennai

Mr B Kamath
Sr Manager
Distributed Generation
National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd
Noida

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Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya
West Bengal

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Dr Sunita Shailajan
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Mr Manoj C Dalal
Director
Vector Corporation
Mumbai

Mr M K Miglani
Professor & Head
Chaudhary Charan Singh Hararyana
Agricultural University
Hisar

Mr R K Jha
Manager
Vector Corporation
Mumbai

Dr P G Chengappa
Director of Instructions
College of Agriculture
University of Agriculture Science
Bangalore

**Agricultural Universities, Academic
Institutes/Foundations, Management
Institutes**

Agriculture Universities

Dr A Padma Raju
Director of Research
Acharya N G Ranga Agril University
Hyderabad

Dr Ram Krishna
Professor & Director
Directorate of Placement
C S Azad University of Agri & Tech
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FICCI

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Dr K K Jindal
Director - Research
Directorate of Research
Dr Y S Parmar Univ of Horticulture &
Forestry
Solani (HP)

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Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture &
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G B Pant University of Agri and Technology
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Technology of Kashmir
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Sciences & Technology of Jammu
Jammu

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Institute of Rural Management
Anand

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Dr (Mrs) Uma Kapila
Senior Editor
Academic Foundation
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Agriculture Inputs Compaiaies

Seed Companies

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Advanta India Ltd
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Mr Binu Mullick
Marketing Consultant
Advanta India Ltd
Bangalore

Mr Ansar Ali Mandal
Proprietor
Bhumishree Seed Farm
Dist Murshidabad, WB

Dr M Parthasarathy
Managing Partner
Exim Seeds
Bangalore

Dr G Harinarayan
Director - Research
Ganga Kaveri Seeds (P) Ltd
Hyderabad

Mr Harish Reddy
Executive Director
Ganga Kaveri Seeds (P) Ltd
Hyderabad

Dr S R Chaudhary
Managing Director
Gujarat State Seeds Corpn Ltd
Gandhinagar

Mr Narinder Kumar Chugh
Managing Director
Heritage Seeds Pvt Ltd
New Delhi

Mr Pawan Kansal
Managing Director
Kohinoor Seed Field India Ltd
New Delhi

Mr Vijay Kumar Garg (MIHS)
L R Brothers Seedsmen & Nurserymen
Saharanpur (UP)



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FICCI

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AGM (PR and CO)
Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company
Limited
New Delhi

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Managing Director
Malav Seeds Pvt Ltd
Ratlam

Mr Vikas Goyal
Director
Motilal Bio Agri-Tech Limited
New Delhi

Mr Sachin M Bhalinge
Joint Managing Director
Namdeo Umaji Agritech (India) Pvt Ltd
Pune

Mr Nandkishor Kagliwal
Chairman
Nath Biogene (I) Ltd
Aurangabad

Mr Bharat Bhushan Garg
Dist Sirsa
Nirankari Seeds Company
Mandi Dabwali

Mr Satish Kumar
Director Research
Nujivedu Seeds Ltd

Mr M Prabhakar Rao
Managing Director
Nujivedu Seeds Ltd
Secunderabad

Mr Raman Pal Uppal
Managing Director
Rajendra Hybrid Semences P Ltd
Delhi

Mr Sambit Satapathy
Marketing Manager - West Asia
Seminis Vegetable Seeds (I) Ltd
Pune

Dr Jai Singh
Managing Director
Tokita Seed India (P) Ltd
Gurgaon

Dr R K Yadav
Tokita Seed India (P) Ltd
Gurgaon

Mr R R Shah
Managing Director
Vardhaman Fertilizers & Seeds Pvt Ltd
Pune

Chemicals, Fertilisers, Insecticides

Shri S C Bhartia
Executive Director
Basant Agro Tech (I) Ltd
Mumbai

Mr S Kumarasamy
Chief Executive - Crop Protection
BASF India Ltd
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Manager - Regulatory Affairs
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FICCI

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Chairman & Managing Director
Biostadt India Ltd
Mumbai

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Director - Works
Dhanuka Group
New Delhi

Mr Amit Y Ghaisas
Director
Biosys Laboratories
Pirangoot

Mr Rajendra Deshmukh
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Biosys Laboratories
Pirangoot

Mr S K Jerath
Managing Director
Ekta Agro Industries Ltd
New Delhi

Mr J Rama Rao
Managing Director
Chelmi Cotton & Chemical Co (P) Ltd
Guntur

Mr S K Sethi
Director
Ekta Agro Industries Ltd
New Delhi

Mr K V Nayak
Chief General Manager
Marketing - Fertilisers
Deepak Fertilisers & Petrochemicals
Corporation Ltd
Pune

Mr Kul Bhushan
Director
Ekta Agro Industries Ltd
New Delhi

Mr R G Agarwal
Group Chairman
Dhanuka Group
New Delhi

Mr V V Khandekar
President
Finolex Industries Ltd
Pune

Dr O P Singh
Vice President - R&D
Dhanuka Group
New Delhi

Shri M B Joshi
Chief Executive Officer
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd
Gujarat

Mr Rahul Dhanuka
Director - Marketing
Dhanuka Group
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Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd
Gujarat



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Management Trainee
Jubliant Organsys Ltd
Noida

Mr G S Singhvi
Managing Director
Hindustan Fibres Ltd
New Delhi

Mr Pradeep Tiwari
Management Trainee
Jubliant Organsys Ltd
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Dr T Basu
Product Development Officer
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Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd
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Mr Harikumar
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Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd
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Maharashtra Insecticides Ltd
Mumbai

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Indian Potash Ltd
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Jubliant Organsys Ltd
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PI Industries Ltd
Gurgaon



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FICCI

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Shree Datt Plastic Industry
Beed

Mr Santosh Upre
Director
Shree Datt Plastic Industry
Beed

Mr Sandeep Upre
Director
Shree Datt Plastic Industry
Beed

Mr Harish Mehta
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Agri Inputs - Mktg
Shriram Fertilisers & Chemicals
New Delhi

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Sudarshan Chemical Industries Agro
Chemical Division
Pune

Mr Bhupen Dubey
Vice President Sales & Marketing
United Phosphorus Ltd
Mumbai

Mr Naveen Kapoor
Vice President - Commercial
Zuari Industries Ltd
Zuarinagar (Goa)

Banks, Financial Institutes

Banks

Mr Kulwant Singh Purba
Vice President
Bank of Punjab Ltd
Ludhiana

Mr H R Issarani
Chairman
Gurgaon Gramin Bank
Gurgaon

Mr Jitin Khera
Relationship Manager
Corporate Banking
HDFC Bank Ltd
Chandigarh

Mr Prabhat Kumar
General Manager
Planning & Development
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
Jaipur

Mr Ramesh Baldua
Deputy General Manager
RRB & Development Bkg
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
Jaipur

Mr Sachin Kamble
Asst. Manager
NABARD
Chennai

Mr B Subrahmanyam
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National Federation of State Cooperative
Banks Ltd
Navi Mumbai



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The Hindu Co-operative Bank Ltd
Pathankot

Mr C J George
Managing Director
Geojit Financial Services Ltd
Cochin

Shri S K Gupta
Managing Director
The Hindu Co-operative Bank Ltd
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IAG India
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Apollo Sindhoori Capital Investments Ltd
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Mr S R Agarwal
Director
Chanakya Securities Pvt Ltd
Kolkata

Mr Rakesh Bajaj
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Insurance Regulatory & Development
Authority
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D R Securities
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Vice President - Commodities
Karvy Ltd

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Mr Anjan Mandal
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National Collateral Management
Services Ltd
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Ministry of Agriculture
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FICCI

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Gangashahr (Bikaner)

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Mr Amol B Thorat
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Surana Corp Ltd
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Mr Gopal K Agarwal
Managing Director
Vogue Commercial Co Ltd
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Co-operatives

Shri Ramchand Choudhary
President
Ajmer District Milk Producer's
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Ajmer

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Raniwara (Raj)

Mr Govind Santaram Muley
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Terna Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana
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Ex-Chairman/Director
The Malegaon Sahakari
Sakhar Karkhana Ltd
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Consultants

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FICCI

Distillers

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Ministry of Agriculture
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International Organisations

Embassy

HE Mr Abdelkrim Belarbi
Ambassador
Embassy of Algeria
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New Delhi

HE Mrs Ana Maria Carreira
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New Delhi

HE Mr Dragovest Goranov
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Embassy of Bulgaria
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FICCI

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Embassy of Royal Netherlands
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Political & Economic Section
Australian High Commission
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First Secretary
Embassy of Japan

Mr Valery D Khromchenkov
First Secretary - Agriculture
Embassy of Russian Federation
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HE Mr Aziz Ahmad Khan
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Embassy of Pakistan
New Delhi

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High Commission for Pakistan
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U S Embassy
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The World Bank

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Pvt Sector Development
The World Bank
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World Wide Fund for Nature (India)

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Prog
World Wide Fund for Nature (India)
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UNICEF
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Ms Lizette Burgers
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Ministry of Agriculture
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FICCI

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Water Programme
FAO of United Nations Office of the
Representative in India & Bhutan
New Delhi

UNDP

Dr Neera Burra
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Other International Agencies

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Research, Training Organizations / Institutes

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Mr Gopal Sane
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Vill. Sunder Pur
P.O. Kharakram
Jind.

Mr Shyam Khemka
Chairman
Food & Healthcare Specialties
Faridabad

Shri Karan Singh Dalal
M.L.A., Ex-Agriculture Minister
Palwal
Faridabad

Mr Krishna Kumar Singh
Globally Managed Services
Mumbai



Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India

FICCI

Ms Neolia Barquero
Director
Kalve Ltd

Mr Simon M Holland
Director
Kamyab Ltd

Mr Rajendrasingh B Chauhan
Director
Krafto Glass
Mumbai

Mr Ashok Kumar Aggarwal
Director
Marck Group of Companies
New Delhi

Mr Navin Maheshwari
Director
Marck Group of Companies
New Delhi

Mr S S Prasad
Manager (Marketing)
MIL
Akola

Dr S S Chhabra
General Manager -Technical
North Star India Pvt Ltd
NOIDA

Mr Manoj Chaudhari
Panchayat Samiti (Bara)
Dist Bara (Raj)

Mr Amit Sachdev
Consultant
Paultec Services
Gurgaon

Mr Mohendro Rapsang
Managing Director
RGI
Shillong

Mr Rakesh Banga
Director
Resources Intl Pvt Ltd
New Delhi

Mr Anupam Dev
Managing Director
Resources Intl Pvt Ltd
New Delhi

Mr S K Nanda
Executive Director
Sales Development Services Pvt Ltd
New Delhi

Mr Shailendra Pratap Singh
Secretary/Nodal Officer Agri-Clinics & Agri
-Business
Shree Maa Guru Gramudyog Sansthan
Varanasi

Mr Sandeepan Reddy
SNS Agrotech
Thane (W)

Mr D S Subramaniam
Director
Solvex Marketing Pvt Ltd
Hyderabad

Mr M Jayasin
Chief Workshop Manager
Southern Railway Loco Workshop
Chennai



Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India

FICCI

Mr J J Shah
Director
True Value Ent
Ahmedabad

Mr Mehar Singh
Managing Director
An Insight Into Nature
New Delhi

Mr S Bhansali
Sr Vice President
True Value Ent.
Ahmedabad

Mr R N Prasad
Chairman
R S Products Pvt Limited
New Delhi

Mr P E Greenberg
Managing Director
Tuccmara P/L
New Delhi

Mr Rajesh Prasad
Managing Director
R S Products Pvt Limited
New Delhi

Mr B C Gupta
Director
Unitrade Gesellschaft (I) Pvt Ltd
New Delhi

Mr K Chandran
Coonoor

Mr L S Kapur
New Delhi

Mr B K Mhaske
Director
M Agro
Pune

Mr A D Mohile
Ex - Chairman Central Water Commission
New Delhi

Mr R B Mhaske
M Agro
Pune

Mr Jagdish Nehra
Ex-Minister (Haryana) Agriculturist
Sirsa (Haryana)

Dr Virender Dhingra
Director - International Affairs
Agribiz International
New Delhi

Mrs Josephing Gaita
Senior Counsellor (Political)
New Delhi

Mr Uday N Borawake
Chairman
Agriculture & Agri Business Committee
Pune
