

# Farmers' Manifesto

What farmers want from the governments?

Andhra Pradesh is passing through a serious agrarian crisis in spite of the several initiatives taken by state and central governments in the last five years. This calls for a paradigm shift in the policy support to farming. Especially, there should be an unequivocal commitment to make small and marginal farmers viable, and a clear focus on enhancing real incomes.

## **1. Provide Income Guarantee to farmers that ensures a fair living standard. Establish Income Commission for Farmers to assess farmer incomes every year and implement income guarantee through a combination of the following mechanisms**

- Fair and Remunerative Prices:
  - MSP determination should be transparent and linked to rising inflation
  - Implement Swaminathan commission recommendation of (C2+minimum50%)
  - MSP should be announced before the crop season begins
  - Price Stabilization Fund to enable market intervention in all crops
- Labor wage support to farmers
  - Higher wages and shortage of labor have impacted farmers. Government should offer input subsidy in the form of labor wages for agricultural operations.
  - This could be done by extending NREGS for another 100 days for farm labor, or through a separate scheme. AP govt has used NREGS for CLDP and horticulture
- Improve Rural Employment Opportunities
  - Post-harvest operations and value addition at the village level can create more income generating opportunities at the village level and increase the farmers' net income
- Livelihood Security payments to small/marginal farmers:
  - Input subsidies & price mechanisms alone fall short of providing living income
  - The shortfall should be assessed every year by the Income Commission and made up in the form of direct cash payment
  - Should be a fixed amount per cultivator family including tenant farmers
  - About one crore families would be eligible in AP and if Rs. 10000 per annum is given it would cost Rs. 10,000 crore per year
  - The extra money going into the rural economy through this program will have positive economic consequences by increasing the purchasing capacity, and by enabling investments by farmers.

## **2. Promote Self-Reliant and Sustainable Agriculture**

- Government should promote sustainable agriculture to maximise the local resource use and provide support to the farmers
- Farmers adopting organic/ecological farming should receive financial support for purchasing or producing their own organic inputs, at an equal level as subsidies for chemical fertilizers and seeds
- Special package should be announced for dry-land/rain-fed agriculture to encourage and sustain appropriate cropping patterns and cultivation methods
- Implement restrictions on Genetically Modified Crops and chemical pesticides

### 3. Create appropriate support systems

- Increase the access to cheaper credit and easy insurance
  - Extend and continue cheaper interest loan (Pavala Vaddi) to farmers. Strengthening PACS, using SHG Federations, creating new Farmers' Organisations should be explored.
  - Government should stand guarantee for the crop loans to farmers and all farmers (including tenant farmers) should have access to required credit.
  - Government should establish Credit Guarantee and Insurance Corporation with 100 crore corpus which manages the risks of non repayments and extend insurance to farmers.
- Create Marketing facilities at the village level
  - Create value addition, processing infrastructure at the village level
  - Support/Remunerative prices (currently MSP) to be extended to all the crops
  - announced before the season and
  - organise procurement at the village level
- Organize farmers into Federated groups like Women SHGs
  - planning and managing their resources and livelihoods
  - Capacity building, sharing knowledge etc
  - For delivering financial support instruments like subsidies, loans etc
  - Marketing operations and increasing collective bargaining power
- Provide institutional support to organic farming
  - 50 % of the research investments in agriculture institutions should be earmarked to organic farming
  - 50 % of the demonstrations by department of agriculture should be on organic farming
  - public institutions like APSSDC should be revived and decentralised with transparent functioning and accountable to farming community
  - Farmers training centres should be equipped to run courses on organic farming and experienced farmers should be used as the resource persons

For further details and information please contact

Dr. G. V. Ramanjaneyulu, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture  
[ramoo.csa@gmail.com](mailto:ramoo.csa@gmail.com), 09000699702

Sri. Kiran Vissa, AID India, [kiranvissa@gmail.com](mailto:kiranvissa@gmail.com), 09701705703