



5th INTERNATIONAL BTC SEMINAR

Agriculture as a motor of pro-poor growth

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**ROLE OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS IN PRO-POOR
POLICY PROCESSES**

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INDIA



Indian Agriculture - Statistics

- Land 172 MH
 - Population: 540 million (110 M families)
 - Production:
 - Rice – Wheat: 179 MT
 - Fruits – Vegetables: 189 MT
 - Milk: 100 MT
 - Cotton: 30 M bales
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Indian Agriculture - Advantages

- Cheap labour - 365 days sun shine
 - Diverse agro regions
 - Crop cultivation, animal husbandry & fisheries
 - Low investment – Competitive agriculture
 - Native crops – mango – natural fiber – medicinal - organic
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Indian Agriculture - Disadvantages

- **Government controlled & centralized:**
restrictions - trade - prices - procurement -
processing - storage - exports
 - **Indian agriculture stagnated:**
400 million malnutrition – children – women – 30,000
farmers commit suicides - rural unemployment and
social unrest
 - **Institutional failures:**
Manipulated policies – suppressed prices
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Indian Agriculture - Opportunities

- Increasing production: land - water utilisation
 - Investment in agriculture: financial - technologies - markets - consumers
 - Diversification: bio diesel - natural fibres - aqua - meat
 - Awareness: importance and welfare farmers
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Needs Small Farm Sustainability

- Policies and planning: agriculture centred & farmers based
 - Empowerment and involvement in agriculture planning, implementation and management
 - Access to information
science – technologies – markets – policies – consumer choice – global trends – quality parameters for improving productivity, quality and global competitiveness
 - Removal of controls – licenses – restrictions – monopolies for free markets
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Needs Small Farm Sustainability

- Increased public & private investments → provide economic equity and achieve food security
 - Institutionalization & legalization of farmer organizations → studies, analysis, lobbying and curtailing exploitation
 - Partnering with private sector: marketing, technology access and global opportunities
 - Join international farmers organizations
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Need for Small Farmers Organizations

- Pro-farmer policies opposed by organised sectors
 - Farmers empowerment not allowed by the political / vested interest
 - Politicians and administrators oppose decentralized agriculture planning
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Need for Small Farmers Organizations & CIGs

- Efficiently plan and manage resources: improve productivity, quality and establish own processing and marketing arrangements
 - Networking: evolve favourable policies, accountable institutions, curtail exploitation and lobby
 - Partnerships with Industry / Research / Govts
 - NGOs:
 - Cannot network small farmers
 - non-democratic
 - personalized agenda
 - limited capacities
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CIFA Activity in India – Supported by Agriterra

- CIFA –Networking Small Farmers:
 - Umbrella Organization at national level (Non Political FOs)
 - Strengthening and activities for CIGs
 - Prepared Status Papers - Productivity - Policies – Technologies – Markets - Partnerships.
 - Sensitizing on technologies IT- BT – Organic – Mechanization – Water Conservation
- CIFA –Programs / Lobby Activities (www.indianfarmers.org)
 - Lobbying through Parliament Members Farmers Forum.
 - Organized 6 National Farmers Conventions
 - Working with Government of India – Union Budget allocations - Favourable Policies.
 - 2010 yearly program for FOs & CIGs.
 - Awareness – Seminars - Studies – Documentaries – Magazine – Website

CIFA Activity in India – Supported by Agriterra

- CIFA - Partnership Programs
 - Industry - CII - Processing – Retail – Exporters.
 - Commodity Trading – MCX / NCDX
 - Research institutions
 - Governments – BARC – Remote Sensing - ATMA.
 - Media for creating awareness
 - Working on cultural and social issues
- CIFA – International programs:
 - Partnership with Agriterra.
 - World Bank, USAID discussions

Strategies for Donors

- Strengthen existing and proposed FOs & CIGs
 - Establishment of administrative and training facilities
 - Establishing info-centres, data collection and studies
 - TV station
 - To prepare each developing country farm specific analysis – policies – investments – controls – technology utilization – value additions - involvement of FOs.
 - Use world bank (WDR) world development report 2008 for guidance
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Strategies for Donors (2)

- Conditionality: FO involvement in project / program preparation, implementation and management
 - Fact finding of farm sector issues
 - Academic Studies
 - Media / TV Coverage
 - MP delegation visits
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Neglect of Small Farmers in India

- Investment reduction: 30% (1980) - 10% (2007)
 - Inadequate infrastructure
 - 25% small farmers: government credit (7% interest)
 - 75% small farmers: private credit (48-60% interest)
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Neglect of Small Farmers in India (2)

- India's Crop losses - 22 billion dollars due to pests and diseases

PESTICIDE USAGE	India	167 MHa	1.2 billion US \$
	Usa	172 MHa	7 billion US \$
	Europe	110 MHa	13 billion US \$