

National Commission on Farmers
Serving Farmers And Saving Farming
From Crisis to Confidence
SECOND REPORT

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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FARMERS

- ❖ Work out a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security over time.
- ❖ Propose methods of enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems of the country based on an agro-ecological and agro-climatic approach and the harnessing of frontier technologies.
- ❖ Bring about synergy between technology and public policy and recommend measures for enhancing income and employment potential in rural areas through diversification, application of appropriate technology including IT for information on market, weather, credit facilities and e-commerce, training and market reforms.
- ❖ Suggest measures to attract and retain educated youth in farming and recommend for this purpose; methods of technological upgrading of crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries (inland and marine), agro-forestry and agro-processing and associated marketing infrastructure.
- ❖ Suggest comprehensive policy reforms designed to enhance investment in agri-research, substantially increase flow of rural credit to farmers including small and marginal, triggering agricultural growth led economic progress, which can lead to opportunities for a healthy and productive life to rural families.
- ❖ Formulate special programmes for dryland farming for farmers in the arid and semi-arid regions, as well as for farmers in hilly and coastal areas in order to link the livelihood security of the farming communities living in such areas with the ecological security of such regions. Review in this context, all ongoing Technology Missions like those relating to pulses, oilseeds, maize, cotton, watershed etc. and recommend methods of promoting horizontal integration of vertically structured programmes. Also suggest credit-linked insurance schemes which can protect resource poor farm families from unbearable risks. Further, suggest methods of strengthening and streamlining the National Horticulture Development Board.
- ❖ Suggest measures for enhancing the quality and cost competitiveness of farm commodities so as to make them globally competitive through providing necessary facilities and application of frontier science and promote quality literacy for codex alimentarius standard, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures among farmers through reorienting and retooling extension machinery. Also suggest methods of providing adequate protection to farmers from imports when international prices fall sharply.
- ❖ Recommend measures for the credit, knowledge, skill, technological and marketing empowerment of women, taking into consideration the increasing feminization of agriculture and the proposed conferment of right to land ownership.
- ❖ Suggest methods of empowering male and female members of elected local bodies to discharge effectively their role in conserving and improving the ecological foundations for sustainable agriculture like land, water, agro-biodiversity and the atmosphere with priority attention to irrigation water.
- ❖ Consider any other issue, which is relevant to the above or is specially referred to the Commission by Government.

The Commission is to submit a medium term policy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security over time within the next three months and to submit its recommendations on other Terms of Reference as soon as practicable and in any case on or before 13th October, 2006. The Commission, however is permitted to submit interim reports on any of the Terms of Reference it deemed fit or expected of it.

[Ministry of Agriculture Resolution No.8-2/2003-Policy(ES) dated 18th November, 2004]

COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FARMERS

The composition of the reconstituted National Commission on Farmers is as under:-

Chairman

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan

Full-time Members

Dr. Ram Badan Singh

Shri Y.C. Nanda

Part-time Members

Dr. R.L. Pitale

Shri Jagadish Pradhan

Ms. Chanda Nimbkar (Yet to join)

Shri Atul Kumar Anjan

Member Secretary

Shri Atul Sinha

[Ministry of Agriculture Resolution No.8-2/2003-Policy (ES) dated 18th November, 2004]