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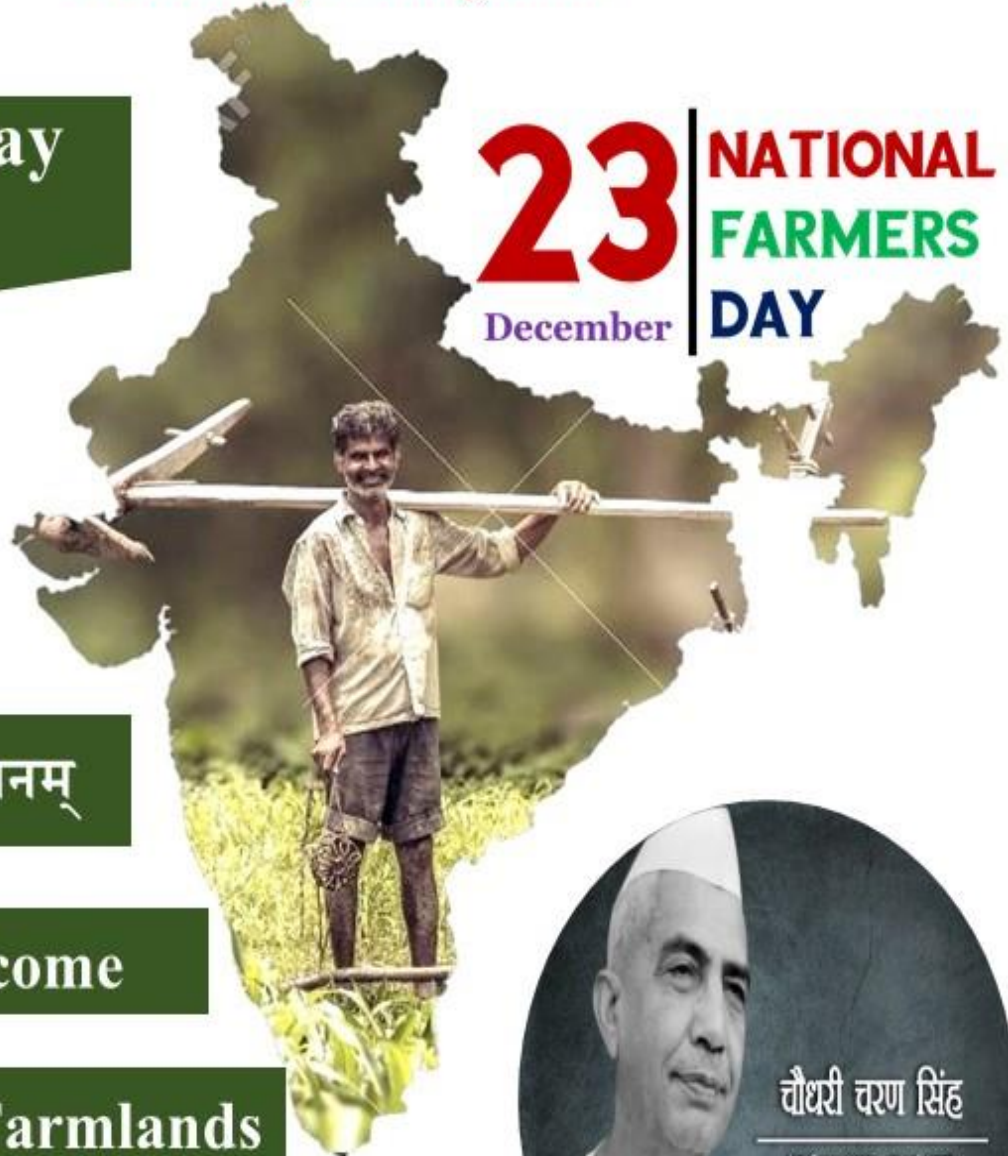
Farmers Day
Special

23 NATIONAL
FARMERS
DAY
December

कृषि: मूलस्य: जीवनम्

Farmer's Income

Death In The Farmlands



चौधरी चरण सिंह

(23 Dec 1902 – 29 Nov 1987)

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From the Editor`s Desk

*It is a matter of great pleasure for all readers of **Times of Agriculture** that a **Farmers' Day Special Issue** is being presented to you all this month by the magazine, through which various information related to agricultural innovation and continuous development of agriculture.*

*We are happy to share with you all the proper, accurate and innovative agricultural knowledge to all of you intellectual readers. We are happy to inform you that every issue is being presented in a very interesting way with the help of all the colleagues of the **Times of Agriculture e-magazine**. It is the benefit of all you dear readers.*

Once again heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to all the respected members for the publication of this special issue.

“अन्नं हि जीवनाम् जेष्ठम्”

(Devaraj Singh)
Editor-In-Chief





NATIONAL FARMERS' DAY

Kisan Diwas or **National Farmers' Day** is observed on **December 23**, the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, the 5th Prime minister of India. Born into a farmer's family, Chaudhary Charan Singh was known for his farmer-friendly policies. He was the prime minister between July 1979 and January 1980. During his short time as prime minister, Chaudhary Charan Singh worked hard for the welfare of Indian farmers. He had introduced several welfare schemes for the farmers. The government, in **2001**, decided to mark Charan Singh's birth anniversary as **Kisan Diwas**.

Kisan Diwas is a day to remember the role of Indian farmers in the economy. Chaudhary Charan Singh played a key role in bringing the issues of small and marginal farmers to the forefront. He always fought and stood for farmers' rights.

Carrying forward Sir Chhotu Ram's legacy, he founded the Kisan Trust on December 23, 1978, to spread awareness about farmers' issues in the country. Just like Chotu Ram, Charan Singh championed the interest of oppressed communities and small farmers.





कृषि: मूलस्य: जीवनम्

Introduction

कृषि: मूलस्य: जीवनम् means agriculture or farming is the basis of life. Success of human life can not be imagined successful without agriculture. Supply of all living animals pervading the world is impossible without agriculture. The importance of agriculture is also found in the world's oldest book Rigveda, which are- does not gamble, do agriculture and earn money with honors. The importance of agriculture is also written by the famous weather poet 'Ghagh'





"Farming is the best work, business is the moderate work, jobs are prohibited and begging is the worst act to do".

The origin of farming

India has been a country of sage and agricultural tradition since time immemorial, many techniques of farming have been developed by sages. And has been associated with farmers for centuries, since the time of the Indus Valley Civilization, since the excavation of Mohanjodaro has been going on continuously since the Neolithic period. The origin of the word agriculture is considered to be "Krish" metal it means "cultivation of crops on the land is called Agriculture".



Contribution to agriculture

Before the independence of the country, the landlord system was prevalent in the country since the Mughal period, due to which the farmers were being exploited as well as the farmers had no right to own the land. It was only after the independence of the country that **Chaudhary Charan Singh** took the initiative to abolish that oppressive practice. It was only in 1949 that states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Madras, Assam and Mumbai brought abolition of zamindari bill. These states used the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition Committee report as the initial model. Whose president was G.B. Pant but the landlords took refuge in the court and said that their fundamental rights have been violated. When the constitution of the country was passed in 1950, then the right to property was covered under Fundamental Rights under Articles 19 and 31, but under the first amendment to the Constitution, in 1951, the government removed property from the list under Fundamental Rights, in which the government's land reform laws benefited. Under the leadership of Chaudhary Charan Singh ji in the country, **in 1950-51 Uttar Pradesh passed the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform Act**, which ended the Zamindari system and gave the farmers freedom from the exploitation of the landlords and the farmers became land owner.



After independence, India was not fully self-sufficient in food production. Indian agriculture was highly influenced by socio-economic conditions. As a result, this era was a



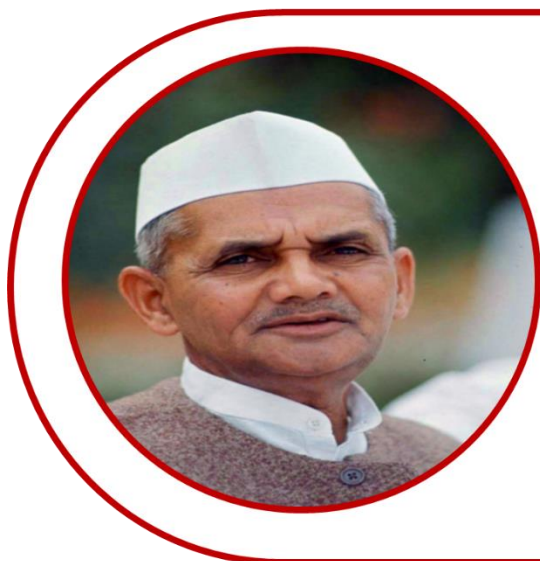
traditional form of agriculture and agriculture was a subsistence type. A country can stand up with its self-respect and honor only if it is self-sufficient in food production.

After the independence of the country, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP of the country was **54% during 1950-51**, in those days the conditions of poverty, hunger, economic crisis were full. At that time the population of the country was around 36 crores. But there was not enough food production to meet the growing population of the country. At this time there was supply of food grains around 50 million tonnes in the country. In 1960 AD, to save and survive the population of the country, an agreement (PL-4800) was done between the **Government of India and the US Government for the supply of food grains for 4 years**. As a result of this agreement, food grains (wheat) from America reached the Indian shores via sea route, at that time there was such a huge problem of food grains within our country that whenever grains were When a ship full of water reached the Indian shores by sea routes, the grain loaded in it was immediately sent to different parts of country at that time the situation had become similar to **"Ship to Mouth"** (by taking the ship off the goods directly to the consumer).

At the time of India's war with Pakistan in 1964-65, America said that if you end the war, then we will stop the supply of food grains. The ships laden with their food were recalled.

Golden period of the Indian Agriculture

The success of the **Green Revolution** changed everything. During 1960-61, there was no food grains in the country. On the other hand, **America warned to stop the food supply** in 1963-64, then the Prime Minister of the country Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri said that - ***we will live with dignity, it is better to starve than eat a dish of dishonor***. He called the people to **fast for 1 day in a week** and gave the slogan of ***"Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan"*** in the country.



Jai Jawan
Jai Kisan

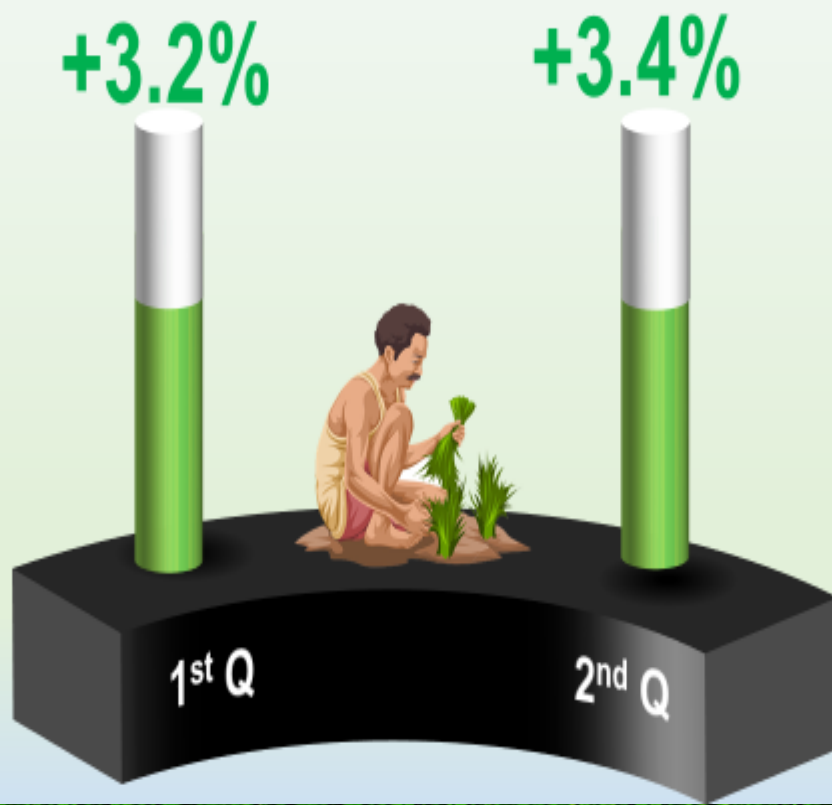




In the Union Cabinet of 1963-64, the species was imported and developed by the coordinated efforts of the then Union Agriculture Minister of the Government of India, Shri Subramaniam Swamy, the immediate secretary Shiv Raman and the famous agricultural scientist Dr. Ramdhani Singh and Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. As a result of advanced member mechanism technology, the country's food production increased from 120 million tons to 170 million with an increase of 5000000 tons in 1967-68. The production of this miracle food produced self-sufficiency in food production in the country.

The concept of minimum support price came into the country for the **first time in 1964** and for the first time the **MSP for wheat** in the country was fixed at Rs. **54 per quintal**. While food production in the country was increasing during the period of 1966-67, the population of the country was also increasing rapidly. In 1966-67. At the same time, the **Mandi Act** was also established inside the country. In the 1970s, the wheat support price was around Rs.70 quintals, while the primary school teacher's salary was Rs.70 per month.

GDP Contribution in Q1, Q2 **(Financial Year 2020-21)**





The scenario of Indian Agriculture in the current environment

The situation of Indian agriculture in the current environment is not satisfactory but worrying, India is a country in the country. Gandhi ji said that the ***soul of india resides in the village***. Indian agriculture is surrounded by rural environment. Even today **59 %** population of the country is directly or indirectly associated with agriculture. Today, 64 percent of the country's rural population is agricultural labor, 36 percent of the workers are moving away from farming to another system. About 44 percent of the people in the country depend on agriculture for employment and agriculture's contribution to the country's GDP is only **16- 17 percent**, this suggests that all activities will slow down due to the slowing down of agricultural activities. In a country with a population of 130 crores India's economic growth is not possible without development of agriculture. Despite this, the plight of the farmers is not hidden from anyone in the country. If we look at the data, then in the 1950s-51s, the population of the country was around 36 crores, the same food production was around 50 million tons. According to the latest figures released by the Agricultural Cooperatives and Farmers Welfare Department, Government of India, the record production of total food grains has been **295.67 tonnes in the year 2019-20**, while at present the population of the country is around 134 crores.



Thus we see that on one hand, where the population of the country has increased almost 4 times in 70 years, on the other hand, the increase in food production by almost **6 times** indicates that the coordinated efforts of our Annadata Kisan, agricultural scientists and governments. At the same time, in 1950-51, the paddy source was around 20 million tonnes within the country, which has increased to a record increase of 59 percent to 117.94 million tonnes in 2019. At the same time, the production of wheat has been achieved at present. In this way, the production of paddy and wheat has increased by 17 and 15 times respectively as compared to the last 70 years. If we look at the productivity, then in 1950 the productivity in 1 hectare of paddy 668 kg, which has increased to 2667 kg per hectare in 2020. These figures give a clear indication that along with population growth, the self-sufficiency of food grains in the country also increased in the same proportion. But the biggest question is whether the farmer who makes himself self-sufficient in food grains has become self-sufficient or not. It is the biggest question today that you can clearly see this plight.



If 70% of the cost of the farmer is added to it, then the fortunate farmer of the country, who is feeding everyone, is in a loss in this way, where the yield of farmers increased by only 19 to 20 times in these 70 years. On the other hand, the pay scale of employees has been increased from 300 times to 1000 times in the pay scale of college and university teacher. While education fees have increased by 350 times and house rent has increased by 300 to 350 times, it is clear that a farmer called the Annadata of the country could not become self-sufficient even though he had the ability to feed everyone.

Apply from **Swaminathan Commission Report** by increasing the yield of crops by manifold, farmers filled the godowns of the country with money and at the same time increased the self-sufficiency of food grains as well as exports, but even today the farmer is not getting





his produce real value due to getting mill and in discharging social obligations, he is constantly becoming indebted. He has no other option but to commit suicide, every time the government keeps on praising the prosperity of the farmers, but till date their condition has not been satisfactory. In 2004, with the aim of changing the situation of farmers, the government formed the National Commission for Farmers. He prepared a roadmap to deal with the problem of farmers across the country and submitted his photo to the government in 2006, since then it has been speculated that now the problem of farmers can be solved. But till date their recommendations could not be finalized. Dr. Swaminathan had suggested to the government to announce minimum support price by **adding 50% of the value of the yield of farmers to C1 and C2 cost**. It was suggested to declare the minimum support price by adding a percentage of the cost (in which the estimated rent of the land owned by the farmer is added to the loan interest plus the rent of their labor force).

If the government applies the recommendations of the Dr. Swaminathan Commission properly, the support price of wheat for the upcoming season has been fixed at Rs.1975 per quintal, **which will be around 2500 - 3000 Rs. per quintal for C2**. The support price of paddy which is Rs.1868 per quintal will increase to Rs.2728. In this manner even today the farmer is in deficit and farming is becoming a loss deal. Due to which there is a continuous increase in farmer indebtedness.

In this way, the government's claim of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022 is not being fulfilled, from the year 2013 till now there has been a decrease of 25 to 30 percent in the income of the farmers.



Why the support price remained in the whole country?

The concept of minimum support price was first introduced in the country in **1964** when the minimum support price for wheat was set at **₹54 per quintal**. The minimum support price declared by the government is the price in which the government farmers Guarantees that it will buy your (farmer) produce at a fixed and declared price. Even today 55 years after the minimum support price is implemented, only **5 to 6%** of the purchase in the country is done through the minimum support price (Report-2015, Shanta Kumar Committee).

Amidst the controversy over the minimum support price of the Modi government's new **Krishi bill** in the country, there is a need to know which state is making government procurement of their produce from farmers and how much the farmers benefit from it. According to a report by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the major Rabi crop wheat has been purchased from only 43.3 lakh farmers across the country at MSP, which is highest in the last 5 years. The rest of the farmers are still dependent on private sector.

Now farmers are confused that the MSP will be abolished in the future, we may fall prey to the private sector, but this question is bound to be true. But on the one hand, while adopting the mono-cropping system of paddy-wheat, which is exploiting the natural resources including soil, on the other hand, problems like global warming are also arising, along with agricultural innovation. We are not able to produce high value crops like pulses, oilseeds, while their price is 2 times more than that of paddy-wheat. If noted, we will see that there are still **524.5 lakh metric tons** of food grains in India's warehouses as buffer stock, which includes **289.5 lakh metric tons of rice** and **235 lakh metric tons of wheat** as well as **235 lakh metric tons of paddy** (Central Food and Logistics Department, Government of India), which is sufficient to deal with any crisis in the next two-three years, on the one hand the grain godowns in the country are full of paddy-wheat products.



The government is not able to think about agriculture as well as the government is incurring an additional burden of 150 crores rupees every year in the distribution of grains through the public distribution system in the country, because of cheap prices from farmers for years. He has to sell it to the poor at cheap prices. In the midst of this difficult situation, the government and farmers have made such a coordinated effort to see the way to the upcoming prosperity. Promotion should be made and their support should be announced and the appropriate price should be purchased, instead of the faulty system prevailing in the country.

Suggestions:

1. Farmers will be encouraged to cultivate new technical farming, vegetables, etc.
2. Loans should be provided at 3 to 4% minimum interest rate
3. Establishment of cold storage for saving fruits and vegetables in the country.
4. A nation-wide market process should be properly implemented in the country.
5. The nature and importance of sustainable farming in the country should be brought to the farmers' fields.



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Farmer`s Monthly Income

Farmers Income

In 2016, NSSO published a report which gives annual income of farmers in India between July 2012 and June 2013. According to the report, an average agricultural household earned **Rs. 6,426 per month**, or **Rs 77,112 per year**, in India. Agricultural households in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh have an average monthly income of less than Rs 5,000. Hence, the income generated by a farmer in these states is Rs 166 per day to survive an entire household. The income of agricultural households in the country is estimated by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) through the ‘Situation Assessment Survey’.

Average farmer’s income in **Bihar** was recorded the **lowest** at just **Rs 3,558 per month** per agricultural household, followed by West Bengal at Rs 3,980. The monthly average income per agricultural household remained Rs 4,701 in Uttarakhand, Rs 4,721 in Jharkhand, Rs 4,923 in Uttar Pradesh and Rs 4,976 in Odisha. **Haryana** recorded the **highest farmer’s monthly average income of Rs 14,434**, according to the data provided in Rajya Sabha by Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.





For instance, the **average monthly income of Rs. 13,311 of farmers in Punjab** was almost 3 times higher than in Uttar Pradesh. Farmers in Kerala and Haryana were also relatively better off with their household monthly average income being Rs. 11,008 and Rs. 10,637 respectively. Of course farmers in some other states were worse off than those in Uttar Pradesh. These include farmers in Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. While the monthly average income of a farmer household in Jharkhand was only Rs. 4,688 that in Bihar was Rs. 5,485 and that in West Bengal was only Rs. 5,888.

However, it is not just the low incomes that affect the Uttar Pradesh farmers. More debilitating is the income expenditure gap. While their average income of the Uttar Pradesh farmer was Rs. 4,923 his monthly average expenditure was Rs. 6,230 which caused a huge gap of Rs. 1307 between income and expenditure. The gap between income and consumption expenditure was in fact more than a quarter of his monthly income.

But **Uttar Pradesh** was not the only state where the farmer's income was lower than his consumption expenditure. There were at least four other states in this category. They are West Bengal where the farmer's income 47.9% lower than his consumption expenditure and Bihar where the income expenditure differential was high as 54.2%. In case of Rajasthan too the expenditure of the farmer was 2.3% more than his monthly income. There were, however, other states where the farmers fared comparatively well.



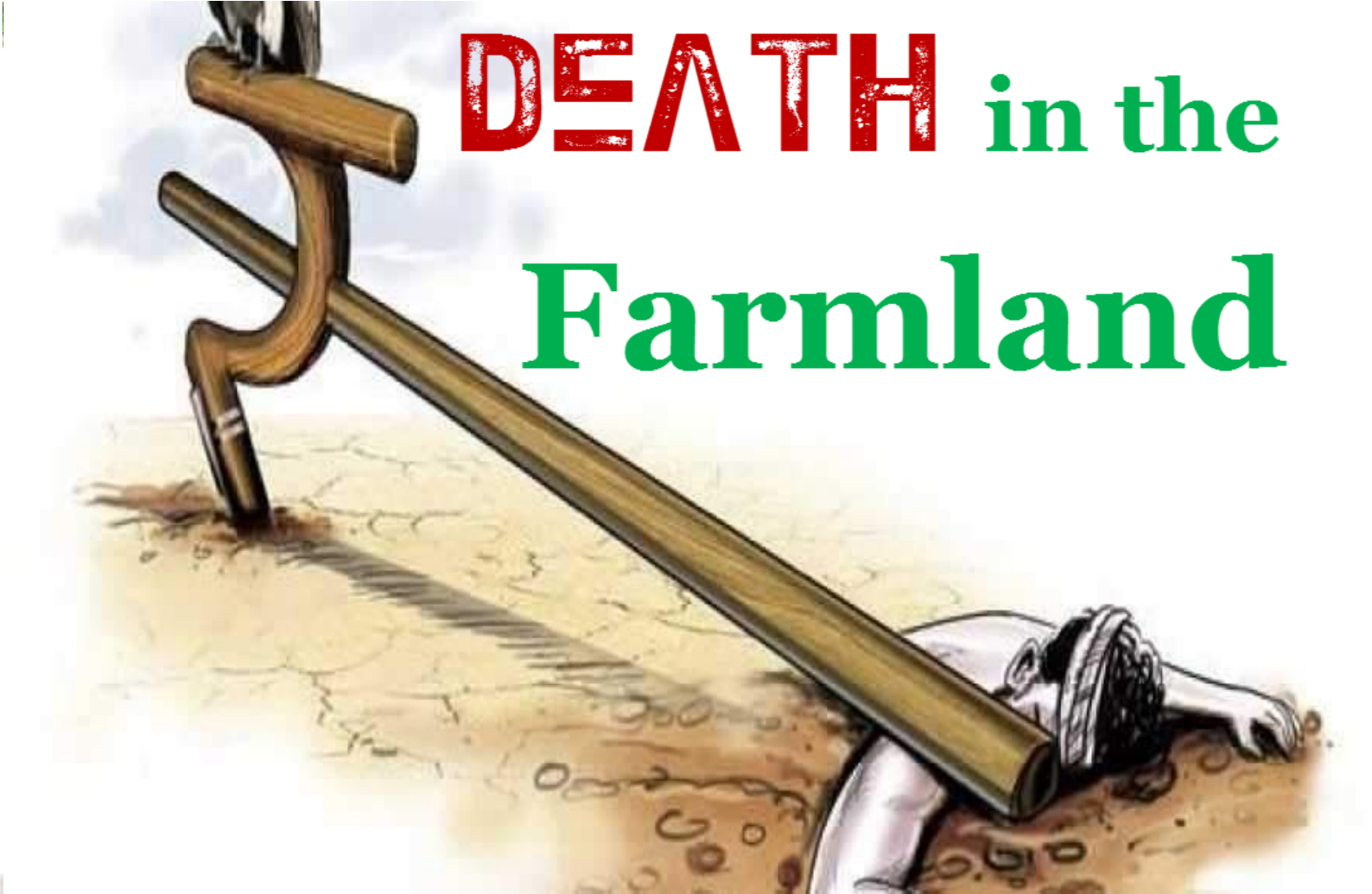
At the national level the average monthly income of the farmer was Rs. 6,436 which was 3.2% more than his consumption expenditure. In some other states, the farmers fared much better. At the top is Karnataka where the average farmer income was 33.3% more than his consumption expenditure. Next came Haryana and Punjab where the average farmer household income were 26.3% more than his expenditure. In Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu also the farmer's monthly income was 22%, 19.8% and 16.9% higher than their consumption expenditures.

All these only show that the farmers in Uttar Pradesh are worse off than in most other states in the country and deserves a break. But the moot question is whether it should be done by a loan write off that would wipe out the only dependable source of cheap credit for the farmers for many years or through other means which would improve their productivity and lower costs is a decision for the political leadership.





DEATH in the Farmland





Death In The Farmlands

At least **10,281** persons involved in the farm sector ended their lives in 2019, accounting for **7.4 %** of the total number of suicides in India which was 139,516, suggests the *Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report 2019* by the National Crime Records Bureau.

The 2019 figure is marginally lower to 2018 when **10,348** people took their lives. The story, however, changes when one looks at suicides committed by farmers / cultivators, which is 5,957 as against 5,763 in 2018 — a **3 %** increase between 2019 and 2018.

The top six states : **Maharashtra (3,927 suicides)**, Karnataka (1,992), Andhra Pradesh (1,029), Madhya Pradesh (541), Chhattisgarh (499) and Telangana (499) these states account for **83 per cent** of the deaths committed by persons involved in farm sector.



Among cities, the **suicide rate (13.9) was higher than the national rate (10.4)**, with Kollam in Kerala and Asansol in West Bengal reporting the highest suicides rate of 41.2 and 37.8 respectively. “Out of the mega cities, the four metropolitan cities – Chennai (2,461), Delhi (2,423), Bengaluru (2,081) and Mumbai (1,229) have reported higher numbers of suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 36.6 per cent of the total suicides reported from 53 mega cities,”

The number of suicides by farm laborers, defined as those whose primary source of income is through farm (agriculture / horticulture) labour activities, has gone down to 4,324 in 2019, from 4,586 a year before.

The numbers highlight another worrying trend. In 17 states, more farm labourers have committed suicides than farmers, while the reverse is true for seven states. Yet, only 58 per cent of the total suicides committed by people employed in the sector are farmers.





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