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STD:- FYBSC (CBZ)

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TOPIC:- Causes of farmer's suicides

Suggest remedial Measures,  
agrarian distress

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## INTRODUCTION .

India is an agrarian country with around 70% of its population depends directly or indirectly upon agriculture for their livelihood. The agriculture for their industry contributes more than 15% to India's GDP. All the economic development in the country is possible only if, the farmer's community is taken care of on a priority basis. Agriculture has been practised in India for ages, it is called the back bone of the Indian economy. Agriculture is the process of utilizing the land for growing different varieties of crops though farmers feed the nation. Their condition are far from satisfactory. The agrarian crisis have been one of the worst disaster to have hit our country in the last couple of decades. There are a lot of a reason as to why farmers suicides happen in our country.

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## Farmer's Suicide in India.

Farmers suicide account for 11.2% of all suicide in India. Activists and scholars. India is an agrarian. Recently farmers from various region of the country marched to Delhi to register their protest against the government. Suicide is caused by many factor and there is empirical evidence to believe that this phenomenon could be a contagion to India. Where farmers are committing copycat suicides. Rising farmer suicides on rising debt, low, crop yield, poor procurement rate of crops and successive crop. Nowadays the problem of farmer's suicides is one of the vital concern that need to be addressed by the government. Considering the paramount importance of this issue NCRB, for the first time, has collected detailed data on farmer's suicide. Considering the paramount importance of this issue. Farmers include those who own and work on field as well as those hire workers for field work/farming activities. Low and volatile growth rates under the sector and the recent escalation of an agrarian crisis in several parts of the country pose a threat not only to national food security but also the economic well being of nation as a whole.

Statement Showing number of farmer's suicides in states of Maharashtra and madhya pradesh.

Farmer's Suicides in the State of Maharashtra for 2001-2016			Farmers Suicides in the State of madhya pradesh for 2001-2016.		
S.No	Year	No of Suicides	Srno	Year	No of Suicides
1	2001	62	1	2001	1372
2	2002	122	2	2002	1340
3	2003	180	3	2003	1445
4	2004	640	4	2004	1638
5	2005	609	5	2005	1248
6	2006	2376	6	2006	1375
7	2007	2076	7	2007	1263
8	2008	1966	8	2008	1379
9	2009	1605	9	2009	1326
10	2010	1741	10	2010	1172
11	2011	1518	11	2011	1090
12	2012	1473	12	2012	826
13	2013	1296	13	2013	1290
14	2014	1981	14	2014	1982
15	2015	3228	15	2015	1375
16	2016	3052	16	2016	1237
Total-		23925	Total-		21388

(Data from 2001 to 2014 is from state crime records bureau. Data for 2015 is from NCRB and includes suicides by agricultural labourer as well, data for 2016 is from State assembly record from Feb 1, 2016 to mid February 2017).

# Causes of farmer's suicide.....

Analysis and interpretation of above data mentioned period considerably increased. According to the expert in the field of above mentioned period considerably. According to the expert in the field of agriculture farmer's suicides in India for the same period are world's highest. Analysis of above data focused on following reason of farmer's suicide.

The Causes of suicides are as follows:

1. Financial reasons: As an agrarian economy more than 48.9% population of India depends on agriculture and its allied activities. But for the successful running of agriculture and its allied activities requires capital. More than 80% of the Indian farmer's are marginal land owners and they are economically so poor. So they are facing economical problems for successful running of agricultural activities. The government always declares various packages in crores of aids, but unwillingness about farmer's problems needy farmers don't get benefits of government. The burden of these entire things turns toward suicides.
2. Issues of weather and climate: The weather in India these days has become erratic at best rainfall does not happen at the right time. Moderate rainfall, which is needed so much for proper agriculture, is now becoming a thing of the past and things have reached the extreme. The situation is especially bad in central India, which can

regarded as the agricultural heartland of India. The fact that pests, weeds and diseases are evolving has only added to the farmer's misery. Soil erosion is also a major problem faced by farmers.

3. **Quality of seed, pesticides, and fertilizers:** Farmers in India have to often make do with poor quality seeds. There are many reasons for this sorry predicament - Ignorance on part of farmers, corruption of officials, ineffective and coercive laws, and improper enforcement on part of farmers, corruption. The fertilizers and pesticides that they use are of a poor quality. All these factors often lead to complete loss of crops. Quite often it so happens that the better quality seeds are so expensive that the small and medium farmers cannot buy them. However, it has also been observed that excessive usage of these has led to the soil being infertile and affected the quality of crops.
4. **Inadequate Storage facilities:** ASSOCHAM estimates that each year 30-40% of the entire agricultural produce in India is damaged because there are not enough cold storages. In monetary terms, this translates to INR 35,000 crores. Food such as fruit and vegetables enjoy high demand round the year. However, these crops are destroyed due to abnormal rainfall. Farmers who do not have cold storage have to sell their produce as early as possible so that they do not rot. This means they are sold at a loss since supply exceeds demand by some distance. It is very costly and thus impossible, for a small farmer to own and operate a cold storage.

5. Unsatisfactory Realisation of prices: One of the most crucial problems faced by farmers in India regarding marketing. The law in India are outdated and most often a farmer has no option but to sell his produce in regulated markets, where the middlemen are the ones making the maximum gains. At times, they can make up to 75% profits. If the middleman can be eliminated then the farmers could have sold their products at better rates. In some situation the farmers also need to give away their produce for free to the moneylenders. Distress selling in small villages is a pretty common phenomenon as well. The rural credit survey has correctly stated that nothing is favorable for the farmers in terms of time, place or condition of sale.

6. Lack of farm labour: These days farm labour is regarded as demeaning especially casual labour. Sectors such as construction and industries are already employing people, who would otherwise be engaged in agriculture. This is also one reason urban migration has increased so much in the last few decades. These days the children of the farmers are more interested in getting institutional education and joining other jobs. The government has also started the system of minimum support prices, which has resulted in inflation and increased the wages. This means that the smaller landholders do not get much leeway in terms of hiring sufficient agricultural labour.

### 7. Scales of operation.

Real estate prices have gone up to such a level that people are finding it hard to buy a home as it is. In such circumstances it is unrealistic for the average people think of owning farms for cultivation. Majority of people we have their own land to till have got it from their ancestors. Since more often not, after the death of a farmer his land is divided among his sons, it leaves precious little for a farmer. This is the reason that the scale of operations here is so small. At the most, it is just a couple of acres. This in turn leads to small income that does not permit processes like mechanization and automation that are needed to stay relevant. This is why the small cultivation have no option but to rely on human labour, which in this day and age is woefully inadequate.

### 8. Crop failure

Crop failure is one of the most direct ways disasters affect agriculture is through lower than expected production. This causes direct economic loss. It tends to affect farmers' income, decrease the amount of food available for consumption and it will negatively affect the economy of a country. The crop failure is the reason by which it gives a large economic loss and also affects the farmers thus farmers turn to suicide.



### 9. Agricultural Loans:-

The loans taken to do agriculture, financing 90% farmers suicides in India during 2014-18. These states farmer loans worth 293,612 crore. That is 59 percent of the total agricultural loan in India during this period. 41% suicide took place in Maharashtra which has waived 736,914 crore. Interestingly, loan waiver is among the popular schemes even in states that have been fewer farmer suicides compared to the top five states that reported the highest number.

Many farmers have extremely small holding and hence cannot approach the formal lending system. According to the ministry of Agriculture. There are around 21.6 crore small and marginal farmers. The SME are the most affected during times of floods, drought and other natural calamities and prone to commit suicide due to pressure from money lenders.

### 10. Political reasons:-

Politics in India is another reason for farmers suicide in India. For the success of any business & profession, in addition to favorable economical and weather condition. Political environment also plays important role. The Indian politicians who plays important role in policy making and decision making are totally shy and neglected agriculture sector.

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they are failing to take effective measures for soundness of agriculture - The politician has totally neglected agriculture sector and always give preference to Industrial and service sector. While deciding MRPs of agricultural produces they don't consider the cost incurred for the production of same. They frequently declare various relief packages for farmers but failing to take effective implementation of the same. So the needy farmers don't get the benefit of such packages. The government also frequently bans export of agricultural product as per terms & condition of WTO & CRATs. This is harmful for exportable agricultural products and even today politics is the monopoly of self declared superiors. This is resulted in biases in distribution of financial help and subsidies.

# Remedies to avoid farmer's Suicides.

What then needs to be done to prevent this sad state affairs? There cannot be one single solution to end the woes of farmers. Giving monetary relief is not an effective solution. The solution should aim at the entire structure of agriculture. Here are some solutions that could help in improving the state of the farmers.

- 1- The dependency of agriculture on nature should be reduced.

This calls for effective management of water during seasons of good monsoons, prevention of crop failure should be the primary aim of the Government. In most cases, it is not the lack of water but the lack of proper management on the Government's part that causes water shortage. In spite of the availability of ample water for a second crop - the Government decided against permitting the second crop, in view of proposed repairs and upgradation to the reservoirs. The proposal would result in draining of precious water into the sea which could be used to the benefit of the farmers.

It was only after several agitation by the farmers organization that the government relented and allowed the second crop. Water management should be made more effective through interstate co-operation on water resources, Sulphur water from perennial rivers can be diverted to those region facing drought, as it is always seen in India, where in State there is severe drought, another State has to face worst floods, such regional imbalances can be managed by effective utilization of water resources through out the countrys.

2. Making institutional finance available to every farmer is another way / solution to save farmers from debt traps of money lenders. Where institutional finance is available, it should be made easily accessible to the poorest farmers. This calls for removing of elaborate formalities and procedures for obtaining the loans. A poor farmer would be unable to understand the complexities of procedures, he needs a simple solution for his financial needs. Effective monitoring of the disbursed funds is also required because in many country / cases, the poor farmers use it as a front-end and while in fact the benefit of the loan is availed by a bigger land owner. In addition, monitoring is also needed to ensure that the farmers are using the fund for the right purposes.

3. Farmers need to be advised and guided on economical methods of cultivation which would save finances for them. The technological advancement in agriculture should be passed down to the small farmers. Where the existing crop would not do well under current drought and weather conditions, the farmers could be helped to shift to the cultivation of crops that would be professionally and not as a traditional occupation.

4. The Government could also explore the possibilities of pooling of the lands of small farmers and making a bigger chunk of economically cultivate land. Through ~~which~~ pooling of lands, the small farmers can avail the economies of cultivating on a larger scale.

5. Small farmers should be encouraged to develop alternative source of income; and the government should take up the responsibility of providing training to the farmers to acquire new government skills. In drought affected areas, the Government could start alternative employment generation programmes to reduce the dependency on agriculture as the sole source of income.

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6. Provision of relief facilities alone is not sufficient as it has been observed in the case of Andhra Pradesh where farmers committed suicides just to avail the benefits of relief packages. Relief packages should be given as a benefits to farmers to enable them to sustain their livelihood rather than as a relief to families of farmers who commit suicides.

As has been mentioned earlier, these cannot be reversed through active participation of the Government in addressing the real issues of the farmer's that are driving them to suicides. Social responsibility also goes a long way to struggling farmers, in most cases, they grab the benefits which are otherwise meant for the poor farmers. General public, NGOs, corporate and other organization too can play a part in helping farmers by adopting drought affected villages and families and helping them to Rehabilitate

## Professor M.S Swaminathan National Commission on farmers:-

The National Commission on farmers (NCF) was constituted on November 18, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Professor M.S Swaminathan. The Terms of Reference reflected the priorities listed in the Common minimum programme. The NCF submitted four report in December 2004.

The NCF has underlined the need to address the farmer suicide problems on a priority basis. Some measure suggested and included

- Provide affordable health insurance and revitalize primary healthcare center.
- Set up state level farmers' commission with representation of farmers for ensuring dynamic government response to farmers problems.
- Provides for a social security net with provision for old ages support and health insurance.
- Restructure microfinance policies to serve as livelihood finance i.e credit coupled with support services in the areas of technology, management and markets.



## CONCLUSION:-

An analysis and interpretation of the above data shows that, the GOI and concern state government have totally neglected agricultural sector and its allied activities. It also fails to take effective measures and its effective implementation, which is resulted in farmers suicides, which are continuously increased in last 15 years and rate of farmers suicides is considerably increased. Hence, it can be concluded that, unless all these causes are simultaneously dealt with solution it cannot improve.

"Crive a man a fish, he will eat for a bud teach him how to fish", he will eat for the rest of his life", so goes the popular saying, the case of our indian farmers is similar to this what they need is a means to sustain throughout their lives without having the face description that adversity drives them to. If India has to Shine, it is these farmers that need to be empowered.

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