

# Farmers' Suicides

India is an agrarian country with around 70% of its people depending directly or indirectly upon agriculture. But farmers' suicides in India is worrying.

As per the Central Government despite a multi-pronged approach to improving income and social security of farmers, over 12,000 suicides were reported in the agricultural sector every year since 2013. Farmer suicides account for approximately 10% of all suicides in India.

There is no denying that the menace of farmer's suicides exists and runs counter to the aspirations of reaping benefits of our demographic dividend. In this article, we are analysing the farmers' suicides in India and its related data, the reasons and the way forward.

## ***Farmers' Suicides – What do the facts say.***

1. The list includes farmers-cultivators and agricultural labourers.
2. Seven states account for 87.5% of total suicides in the farming sector in the country. The states are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
3. Both marginal farmers and small farmers are committing suicide.
4. Maharashtra is the worst affected state.
5. Ironically, Punjab, which benefited most from the Green Revolution, also presents a depressing picture of farmer's suicides in India. Between 1995-2015, 4687 farmers' suicides have been reported from the state of Punjab of which 1334 from one Mansa district alone.

## ***What are the reasons behind farmers' suicides in India.***

Scholars have given various reasons such as monsoon failure, climate change, high debt burdens, government policies, mental health, personal issues and family problems among the reasons of farmers' suicides in India.

1. The surge in input costs
2. Cost of chemicals and seeds
3. Costs of Agricultural equipment
4. Labour costs
5. Lack of direct integration with the market
6. Lack of awareness

Tanisha Bhatnagar  
ET  
II year