



Essay on Farmer Suicide in India

Key Points

1. Introduction

- 1) We live in a country where over half the population is dependent on farming, agriculture has been consistently ignored at a steep cost to farmers' lives.
- 2) Farmer suicides have been taking place across India for years now, and studies of rural distress reveal the deeply-rooted, tenacious causes, such as lack of irrigation, fragmentation of land, unsuitability of seeds and inadequate sources of credit.

2. Body

- 1) Present situation –
 - Agricultural income increased by less than **8%** over last four years.
 - Demand for loan waiver and increasing MSP.
 - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna, Fasal Bima Yojna, national e-market, soil card health.
 - 300,000 Indian farmers have committed suicide since 1995.
 - Over 12,000 suicides were reported in the agricultural sector every year since 2013.
- 2) Causes –
 - Below average rainfall/monsoon, climate change- cyclone, drought etc.
 - Negligence of farmers by government, burden of loan.
 - Govt announced loan waivers but again, implementation has been tardy.
 - Nearly 70% of India's 90 million agricultural households spend more than they earn on average each month.
- 3) What to be done –

- Double the MSP, better irrigation facilities for farmers, treated seeds and better fertilizers. Use of technology in farming.
- Encouraging mixed farming, middlemen should be eliminated.

3. Conclusion

- 1) Farmers must necessarily be educated about modern farming techniques and practices.
- 2) With a 17% share in the national gross domestic product and with 22% of the total population (according to the 2011 census) engaged in farming, the overall health of the agriculture sector is vitally important.
- 3) The strategies being followed for reducing farmer suicide need to be re-evaluated and implemented.

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