

# How aware are Indians about the plights farmers face in India?

*FarmX aims to raise awareness about the plights that farmers face today in India.*



Published on 01.03.2021

By Pratham Dave, Shloak Rathod, Varun Shah and Sana Metha

<https://farmx.org.in>

MLA-8 Citation:

Pratham Dave, Shloak Rathod, Varun Shah and Sana Mehta. "How aware are people about the plights farmers face in India?" Farm X, Farm X, Mar. 2021.

<https://farmx.org.in/Photos/Report.pdf>

# Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
METHODOLOGY	2
RESULTS: Question and Analysis	3
CONCLUSION	3
SURVEY	4
REFERENCES	4

## INTRODUCTION

This report aims to gauge an understanding of the knowledge people possess regarding the plights of farmers in India and if there is a need to spread awareness about the plight farmers face in India.

## METHODOLOGY

We received 413 random responses over 6 continents with 275 Asians(257 Indians) and 138 from other continents. The survey was conducted through 14/01/2021 to 10/02/2021 using Google Surveys.

This report used Python data analysis using the Pandas Library to enhance inferences and find correlation between our data. We choose to find correlation between Asians and the results as 67% of our respondents were Asians.



```
jupyter Data Analysis Last Checkpoint: 26 minutes ago (unsaved changes)
File Edit View Insert Cell Kernel Help Trusted Python 3
In [104]: import pandas as pd
In [103]: df = pd.read_csv('/Users/shloak/Desktop/relation/Survey -3.csv')
In [108]: index = df.index
          number_tot= len(index)
In [113]: dfa = df[(df[z]== cont)]
In [111]: index = dfa.index
          number_asian= len(index)
In [93]: q = 'On average how many people who are dependent on farming die by suicide in India each day '
In [94]: ans = '24-32'
In [95]: z = 'Continent'
In [96]: cont = 'Asia'
In [97]: dfx = df[(df[z]== cont) & (df[q] == ans)]
In [100]: index = dfx.index
          number= len(index)
In [105]: print('The number of people from, ', cont, ' that choose ', ans, ' to the question:', q, 'are', number)
The number of people from, Asia that choose 24-32 to the question: On average how many people who are dependent
on farming die by suicide in India each day are 15
```

### Data Analysis on Python Pandas Library to find correlations

## RESULTS: Questions and Analysis

We asked our respondents 6 questions and analysed the results. Our questions were based on 6 topics: Environmental Issues, Policy and Politics, Lack of Technology, Lack of Technology, Farmer Illiteracy and Social Issues. We scrutinized every response and made inference based upon them.

### Questions:

#### 1. What do you think is the average monthly income of a farmer in India?

The options to this question were: "0-4000₹(54\$)", "4000₹(54\$)-8000₹(108\$)", "8000₹(108\$)-12000₹(162\$)", "12000₹(162\$)-16000₹(218\$)" and "More than 16000₹(+218\$)". The correct answer was, "8000₹(108\$)-12000₹(162\$)". 21.5% all respondents got this question correct. Therefore we believe that people are surely unaware about the economic plights of Indian farmers since the majority of them overestimated their income.

Economic issues are arguably the most important since they determine whether or not the farmers can afford healthcare, education amongst others to ameliorate their quality of life. Further analysis revealed only 24.6% of Asians got this correct hence we can conclude that the unawareness is present in our continent as well as country. This shows that even Indians themselves are unaware of the plights of those who make up the backbone of their nation.

#### 2. On average how many people who are dependent on farming die by suicide in India each day?

The options to this question were: "0-8", "8-16", "16-24", "24-32", "32-40" and "40+". The correct answer was "24-32" which was chosen by only 11.7% of all respondents. This is a very significant question since it shows the effect of the farmers issues, since their economic, social as well as other problems eventually lead to them committing suicide.

Moreover, only 10.56% of asians including Indians got this correct which is astonishing since farmer suicide is a topic which is repeatedly spoken about in india. This shows that even if the issue is widely discussed most people are unaware about the gravity of the situation hence they do not truly understand the degree of the issues faced by Indian farmers.

### **3. How much does the average indebted Indian farming household owe?**

The options to this question were: “0₹(0\$)-75000₹(1022\$)”, “7500₹(1022\$)-150000₹(2044\$)” and “More than 150000₹(2044\$)”. The correct answer to this question was “7500₹(1022\$)-150000₹(2044\$).” 44.1% of the respondents got the answer correct to this question. This being a very pressing issue and still the number of respondents that got the correct answer was less than half proving how awareness on such topics is not yet very widespread.

Economic conditions of farmers being a widely discussed topic of contention in India, only 49% of Asians got the answer correct demonstrating the people of India itself aren't well versed with the economic conditions of farmers.

### **4. What percentage of farmers want to quit farming and take up another career?**

The options to this question were: “under 25%”, “between 25% and 50%”, “between 50% and 75%”, “above 75%”. The correct answer was, above 75%. 17% of the respondents got this correct, this reveals another aspect that isn't spoken about much in India this is backed by the fact that only 12% of Asians got the answer correct.

While ruminating about various ideas such as the farm bill and the budget, it is essential to take into account the fact of the number of farmers that actually want to continue practicing. This is something that needs to be thought about since the farmers are the ones that are providing us with the food that we get, an essential part of our life.

### **5. What percentage of farmers have witnessed their crops getting destroyed due to unseasonal rains, drought, floods or pest attacks?**

The options to this question were: “under 25%”, “between 25% and 50%”, “between 50% and 75%”, “above 75%”. The correct answer was, “above 75%”. 29.5% of respondents got this correct, this reveals another aspect that isn't spoken about much in India this is backed by the fact only 22% asians got this correct most of whom were Indians

While issues like farmer suicides take the mass attention of the media, it is pivotal

to understand crop loss led to economic instability in regions that were affected by unseasonal climate and thus causing poor living standards. It is also clear to say that these unseasonal rains are due to climate change.

**6. What percentage of farmers said they get no farming related information from officials of the agricultural department?**

The options to this question were: “under 25%”, “between 25% and 50%”, “between 50% and 75%” and “above 75%”. The correct answer was, “between 50% and 75%”, 31.1% of the people got it right. If considered in India alone the government only supports farmers with 10 or more acres of land which is very rare, making 75% unhelped farmers.

It is vital to understand that more than half of the farmers face issues like no education and other major social issues. They need help from the experts and officials to make the most out of their business, but unless they cross a benchmark they aren't accounted for whatsoever. Although farming has transformed overtime, all farmers aren't familiar with technologies like remote sensing, robotics, biotechnology or other agrotechnologies, making it tough to work at full efficiency. This could only be achieved under professional guidance.

## CONCLUSION

After scrutinizing and synthesizing the data we obtained through statistical analysis to answer the question, *how aware are people about the plights farmers face?* We can safely conclude that globally as well as in Asia and India majority of people are unaware about the issues of Indian farmers. The issues farmers face are grave and result in poor living standards and suicide as an extreme end. This report was an impetus for FarmX to decide to spread awareness and aim to *raise awareness about the inefficiency and plights that farmers face today in India.*

## SURVEY

Our survey is linked below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mWO0MVYWUeap0wHYls4sE8BIH0l5I1jL/view?usp=sharing>

## REFERENCES

### Question 1

Bureau, ET. “Agri Households' Average Earnings Grew to over Rs 1 Lakh in FY16.” *The Economic Times*, Economic Times, 18 Aug. 2018, [economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/agri-households-average-earnings-grew-to-over-rs-1-lakh-in-fy16/articleshow/65448083.cms?from=mdr](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/agri-households-average-earnings-grew-to-over-rs-1-lakh-in-fy16/articleshow/65448083.cms?from=mdr).

### Question 2

Sengupta, Rajit, . “Every Day, 28 People Dependent on Farming Die by Suicide in India.” *Down To Earth*, 2020, [www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/every-day-28-people-dependent-on-farming-die-by-suicide-in-india-73194](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/every-day-28-people-dependent-on-farming-die-by-suicide-in-india-73194).

### Question 3

Purohit, Kunal. “As Debt Grows, More Indian Women Farmers Taking Their Lives.” *Agriculture News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 5 Nov. 2019, [www.aljazeera.com/features/2019/11/5/as-debt-grows-more-indian-women-farmers-taking-their-lives](http://www.aljazeera.com/features/2019/11/5/as-debt-grows-more-indian-women-farmers-taking-their-lives).

### Question 4

Sood, Jyotika. “India's Deepening Farm Crisis: 76% Farmers Want to Give up Farming, Shows Study.” *Down To Earth*, 2014, [www.downtoearth.org.in/news/indias-deepening-farm-crisis-76-farmers-want-to-give-up-farming-shows-study-43728](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/indias-deepening-farm-crisis-76-farmers-want-to-give-up-farming-shows-study-43728).

### Question 5

Sood, Jyotika. “India's Deepening Farm Crisis: 76% Farmers Want to Give up Farming, Shows Study.” *Down To Earth*, 2014, [www.downtoearth.org.in/news/indias-deepening-farm-crisis-76-farmers-want-to-give-up-farming-shows-study-43728](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/indias-deepening-farm-crisis-76-farmers-want-to-give-up-farming-shows-study-43728).

Kumar, Narayana. "Link between Unseasonal Rains, Disasters & Climate Change: Is India Playing the Ostrich?" The Economic Times, 2015, [economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/environment/global-warming/link-between-unseasonal-rains-disasters-climate-change-is-india-playing-the-ostrich/articleshow/47311175.cms](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/environment/global-warming/link-between-unseasonal-rains-disasters-climate-change-is-india-playing-the-ostrich/articleshow/47311175.cms).

#### Question 6

Sood, Jyotika. "India's Deepening Farm Crisis: 76% Farmers Want to Give up Farming, Shows Study." Down To Earth, 2014, [www.downtoearth.org.in/news/indias-deepening-farm-crisis-76-farmers-want-to-give-up-farming-shows-study-43728](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/indias-deepening-farm-crisis-76-farmers-want-to-give-up-farming-shows-study-43728).

Schnyder, Hans, et al. "Farmers Need Independent and Holistic Advice." Nature News, Nature Publishing Group, 16 July 2019, [www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02165-8](http://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02165-8).