

## FARMERS SUICIDES -ISSUES AND MEASURES

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### ABSTRACT

Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy and it is considered to the backbone for Indian economy. India ranks second worldwide in farm output. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry, logging and fishing accounted for 17% of the GDP and employed 49% of the total workforce in 2014. Harbours about 50% of the workforce, Agriculture is the broadest economic sector and plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic fabric of the country. Indian agriculture has witnessed various changes over a period of time. After the liberalization, economic reforms opened Indian farmers to global competition.

The average size of land holdings is very small (less than 2 hectares). 15 years of economic reforms have given farmers access to newer ways and expensive and promising options for enhance production and price for the produce. However, equal focused was not laid towards equitable access to resources, irrigation and institutional support and manage the risks effectively.

Since the past two decades, the farming community is subjected to multiple sets of challenges, sometimes leading the farmer to the verge of committing suicide. In many cases of farmers suicide cases, mostly preceded by prior history of difficulties and, in most cases, high input costs, a sort of mental state that pushes the person vulnerable to suicidal behaviour.

More than 100,000 farmers have taken their lives since 1997. Farmer suicides account for 11.2% of all suicides in India. Activists and scholars have offered a number of conflicting reasons for farmer suicides, such as monsoon failure, high debt burdens, genetically modified crops, government policies, public mental health, personal issues and family problems. It is also believed that in effective and in coherent bindings and social relationship is playing an important role in farmer's suicides. Lack of productivity and inadequate rain fall

Although India has attained self-sufficiency in food staples, the productivity of its farms is below than that of Brazil, the United States, France and china other nations. The need of the hour is to increase farm productivity at par with other countries and fortifying the lives of the producers.

**KEYWORDS:** Agriculture, crops, GDP, farm productivity, monsoon failure, farmers