

Ministry of Agriculture
(Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, The 10th February, 2004

F. No.8-2/2003-Policy/(ES).– The question of setting up of a High Level Commission of examine various issues confronting Indian Farmers and to suggest appropriate interventions for improving the economic viability and sustainability of diversified agriculture including horticulture, livestock, dairy and fisheries and for doubling the farmers income, has been engaging the attention of the Government of India in recent years. Accordingly, in order to recommend policies, programmes and measures for accelerated, diversified agricultural development that would alleviate rural poverty and raise standards of living of the farming community in the new millennium, the Government of India have decided to set up a National Commission on Farmers (NCF) with the Following Terms of Reference: -

- To review the status of Indian agriculture and assess the conditions of the different categories of farmers in various regions and identify factors responsible for imbalances and disparities and suggest measures for achieving sustainable and equitable agricultural development in the country.
- To recommend appropriate policies and programme for enhancing the productivity and output of agriculture and allied sectors including thought High Value Agriculture which, besides optimizing the role and contribution of agriculture to growth and development of Indian economy, also alleviate poverty and impart viability and attractiveness to farming as a remunerative and rewarding profession.
- To evaluate generation and dissemination of agricultural technology and input delivery mechanism and to suggest a farmer friendly framework for extension of frontier technologies such as agri-biotechnology and climate forecast applications using remote sensing technology, information technology and communication technology as well as to recommend improved delivery systems for agricultural services, promoting participation of private sector and non-governmental organizations.

- To analyze the effectiveness of existing price and marketing policies and legal regimes for improving the incomes and welfare of the farmers as well as the economic environment and explore the potential for market led agricultural diversification and agro processing for creation of off farm and non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas and for vertical integration of the agricultural economy.
- To take note of the changes taking place in national and international economic and trade environment which have bearing on livelihood sustainability and viability of small agricultural holdings and to suggest institutional and infra-structural measures for enhancing their ability to ensure livelihood, food and nutritional security of the resource poor farming households.
- Any other issue, which is incidental to or is specifically referred to the Commission by the Government.

2.1 The Commission will consist of the following:

Chairman

(i) Shri Sompal

Full-time Members

(ii) Shri Ram Badan Singh

(iii) Shri Y.C. Nanda

Part-time Members

(iv) Dr. R.L. Pitale

(v) Shri Chilakam Ramachandra Reddy

(vi) Shri Kunverji Bhai Jadav

Member Secretary

(vii) Shri R.C.A. Jain

2.2 Shri R.C.A. Jain, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation will hold the additional charge of the post of member secretary, NCF till 29.2.04 and full-time charge w.e.f. 01.3.04 on his superannuation.

2.3 The Chairman will be of the rank of a Union Cabinet Minister. The two full time Members and the Member Secretary of the Commission will

be in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India. The part-time Members will function in an honorary capacity and will have the status of Secretary to the Government of India for the purpose of TA/DA and other similar entitlements. The term of the Chairman, Members and Member Secretary shall be for a period of two years.

3. The commission will make its recommendations as soon as practicable and in any case within a period of two years. The Commission may submit Interim Report(s) on any of the Terms of Reference that it may deem fit.

4. The Commission will be free to :-

- i) set up Sub-Committee(s) or Study team(s) for specific discipline(s) or problem(s). The Commission may also engage technical consultants on whole-time or part-time basis to study any aspect, which is covered by its Terms of Reference and which is relevant for its work. If there is any other expert body/commission going into these matters, the Commission shall be provided the facility of consultations with such expert bodies and commissions;
- ii) visit and interact with various Central and State Governments Offices, Research Institutions and other Organizations engaged in the field of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Agro-Processing;
- iii) accept memoranda and representations and convene interactions with stakeholders including farmers, development administrators, Non-Government Organizations, experts, and other stakeholders to seek public opinion in matters covered by the Terms of Reference;
- iv) access all such records of the Government as considered necessary and appropriate;
- v) take all such steps as are deemed necessary in furtherance of its Terms of Reference.

5. The Commission will have its headquarters at New Delhi but will be free to have sittings in any part of the country.

6. The Commission will devise its own procedure. It may call for such information and take evidence, as it may consider necessary. The Ministries/Department of the Government of India will furnish such information and documents and render such assistance as may be required by the Commission.

7. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation will provide administrative and budgetary support to the National Commission on Farmers as required.

8. The Government of India trusts that the State Government and Union Territories Administrations will extend to the Commission their fullest Cooperation and assistance.

SATISH CHANDER, Jt. Secy.