



OUTREACH PROGRAMME – MASAIPET VILLAGE REPORT

As a part of outreach programmes initiated by the Telangana intellectuals association (TIA), Hyderabad, an interaction meeting with the farmers was organized at panchayat office Masaipet village, Yeldurthy Mandal, Medak district on 17.08.2023 at 10 AM. This is the first farmers' interaction meeting organized by the TIA after incorporation of the association. The main objective of the meeting is to ascertain the feedback from the farmers regarding farming practices adopted by the farmers, problems faced by them at ground level and also to create awareness among the farmers to adopt modern hi-tech agriculture farming methods or practices to improve the income of the farmers. Sri Madhusudan Reddy, Sarpanch of the village along with 25 progressive farmers of the village attended the meeting. Sri G.Rajender Reddy, General Secretary, Sri G.Koti reddy, Joint Secretary, Sri. Bhavani and sri G. Narendrababu executive committee members of TIA have attended the meeting and interacted with the farmers to get the feedback on the problems faced by the farming community in the village and also to get suggestion to improve the farmers income in the field of agriculture and allied activities. The programme is covered in local sakshi paper on 18.08.2013. The feedback and suggestions received are summarized here below.

FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS

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1	MAJOR CROPS GROWN IN THE COMMAND AREA Major crops grown in the command area is only paddy. Other crops are grown in lesser extent. Due to implementation of kaleshawaram project, the availability of irrigation water from kondapochampally reservoir increased considerably. Further due to water logging conditions, other crops are grown in lesser extent. The farmers have informed that due to monkey menace, they are not in a position to grow vegetable crops and other irrigated dry crops like maize, pulses etc. At present the state government is not providing subsidy for construction of poly houses and green houses. Farmers have requested for reintroduction of subsidy scheme for construction of poly houses/ Green houses so that they are in better position to cultivate vegetable crops in controlled conditions.
2	PADDY PROCUREMENT Presently state government is procuring the paddy from the farmers. There are no alternative marketing arrangements in the mandal. There is undue delay in realization of money from the government and which sometimes go beyond a month.

	There are no facilities available for cleaning, drying and winnowing etc. State government is not procuring farm produce other than paddy from the farmers. Due to this farmers are facing problems in marketing of farm produce other than paddy as they have to go faraway places. It was suggested that state government to create market yards in the command area for marketing of farm produce of other crops.
3	UNTIMELY RAINS DURING HARVEST SEASON
	Untimely rains during the harvest season resulting loss of farm produce and farmers are not adequately compensated by the government nor covered under crop insurance scheme.
4	OIL PALM CULTIVATION
	Cultivation of oil palm trees to be encouraged by the state government by providing subsidy to the farmers. Special zones or clusters to be identified for growing the palm oil crops in a big way
5	PROCUREMENT OF GOOD QUALITY SEEDS
	<p>Farmers have complained that they are not getting quality seed from the dealers and the germination percentage and crop yield are not up to the expected level. It was suggested that the government should ensure supply of good quality seeds and also formulate stringent laws to prevent mal practices by the seed producing companies / dealers.</p> <p>Good quality of short duration and long duration high yielding paddy seed to be made available by the agriculture departments or agriculture research stations to the farmers. Distribution of quality seed by the seed producing companies/ dealers should be given utmost priority by the state government.</p>
6	ORGANIC FARMING
	<p>With the increasing awareness of the importance of healthy and chemical-free food, organic produce farming has gained immense popularity. Organic farmers avoid synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, focusing on natural methods to enhance soil fertility and pest control. The demand for organic fruits, vegetables, and grains continues to rise, presenting an excellent opportunity for farmers to cater to health-conscious consumers.</p> <p>Many farmers suggested that government to formulate a scheme for procuring organic waste convertor with subsidy component so that the available waste on the farms can be converted into organic manure which will help them to grow crops without pesticides and inorganic fertilizers.</p>
7	FORMATION OF FARM CLUSTERS OR ZONES
	A suggestion came from the farmers that the government to notify special clusters for growing paddy, maize, cotton, pulses, oil seeds etc and special packages of practices to be adopted to increase the production and productivity and also explore possibilities of exporting the value

	added products to increase the income of the farmers.
8	PROVIDING CUSTOM HIRING FACILITIES
	Small and marginal farmers are not in a position to get loans from the banks for purchase of tractors, harvesters and other agriculture implements due to land criteria stipulated by the banks. Farmers have suggested that the land criteria may be relaxed to 4 or 5 acres for purchase of tractors. Alternatively, government should formulate subsidy oriented bank loan schemes to encourage rural youth to establish custom hiring centers in mandal or district head quarter so that the farmers can avail the hiring facilities.
9	OPENING OF MILK COLLECTION CENTRES
	<p>Dairy farming has been a significant part of agriculture for centuries. Dairy products are staples in people's diets worldwide, from milk production to cheese, yoghurt, and butter. Starting a dairy farm requires careful livestock management and ensuring proper animal nutrition and healthcare. With the right approach, dairy farming can be profitable with multiple revenue streams.</p> <p>Many farmers have suggested that the government to create proper and adequate infrastructure for establishment of milk chilling centers in mandal head quarters and expanding the milk routes to cover more villages for collection of milk so that the milk produced in the villages can be marketed timely. They suggested that the price per litre of milk is to be fixed so that adequate and assured income can be generated.</p> <p>Further it was suggested that subsidy scheme for establishment of mini dairies with 10/20/50/100 animal units to be encouraged.</p>
10	GENERAL INSURANCE FACILITY TO ALL TYPES OF LOANS
	General insurance cover is available to the borrowers in event of sudden and untimely death of borrowers by paying single one time premium and in the event of death; the insurance cover is available to the extent of outstanding loan liability so that there is no burden to the legal heirs. A suggestion came from the farmers that similar scheme covering agriculture loans also made available to agriculture borrowers.
11	FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT
	Government should provide free medical facility in all government hospitals. Corporate hospitals are charging huge amount for treatment. Hence the government should review and fix reasonable charges for various treatments.
12	FREE EDUCATION/ SUBSIDISED FEE IN PRIVATE COLLEGES.
	It was suggested that instead of giving freebies during election time, the government should provide free education up to 12th standard in all government and aided schools and colleges. The private schools and colleges are charging exorbitant fees which the general public is unable to pay.

	Strong suggestion came from the farmers that the government should bring a legislation to fix the applicable fee for various types of courses and enforce strict control for adherence to the guidelines by all private schools and colleges.
13	SMS MESSAGES TO AGRICULTURE BORROWERS FOR EMI/ LOAN DUE DATES
	All banks are sending SMS messages to retail borrowers reminding due date of EMI payments. But such messages are not being sent to agricultures borrowers. It was suggested that such messages to be sent to all agriculture borrowers.
14	RYTHU BANDHU ONLY FOR SMALL FARMERS
	Presently Rythu Bandhu scheme is applicable to all farmers owning the land irrespective of whether they are cultivating or not. A suggestion came that the Rythu Bandhu scheme should be applicable only for small and marginal farmers owning less than 5 acres of land.
15	GROWING FRUIT CROPS / DRIP IRRIGATION
	Earlier several subsidy schemes were made available to farmers for growing plantation crops under drip irrigation facility. Now the schemes have been discontinued. It was suggested that subsidy should be made available to the farmers growing fruit crops with drip irrigation facility.
16	WAREHOUSING GODOWNS/ COLD STORAGE UNITS
	There are no proper storage facilities available with the farmers for storage of farm produce. Due to this the farmers are forced to dispose of the produce at the time of harvesting of crops at farm gate prices. Farmers have suggested that a scheme for construction of warehouses/ rural godowns and cold storage units with subsidy components to be reintroduced again
17	DHARANI PORTAL ISSUES
	All issues of Dharani portal are not resolved fully. The government should look into the various issues and resolve the same in a time bound manner at the earliest.
18	CROP LOAN WAIVER SCHEME
	The crop loan waiver scheme announced by the state government is not fully implemented. Due to undue delay in receiving the payments many accounts turned into NPA and substantial interest debited to the farmers account. Government should implement scheme immediately.
19	FOOD PROCESSING CENTRES
	More focus to be given for value added agriculture and animal husbandry products. Encourage farmers to take up food processing ventures in identified clusters and also promote for exports.
20	RYTHU BIMA SCHEME

	Rythu bima scheme is available only to the farmers owing agriculture land. It is suggested that the bima cover to be made available to all farmers including tenant farmers without linking to land holdings. Further the Age criteria to be relaxed upto 70 years.
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