

**FARMER'S SUICIDE IN  
INDIA**
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**Farmer's Suicide in India**
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Agriculture is the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock. It includes the preparation of plant and animal products for people to use and their distribution to markets. Agriculture, in its widest sense can be defined as the cultivation or production of crop plants or livestock products. The field-based or field-dependent production of food, fodder, and organic resources for industrial use is synonymous with farming.

It is a backbone of our country being motherland for all agriculture-based sectors. It plays an important role to meet the demand of mankind like food, fibre, fuel etc. by optimum use of terrestrial resources.

Six decades ago, Mahatma Gandhi said "Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian Economy". Even today, the situation is still the same, with almost the entire economy being sustained by agriculture, which is the mainstay of the villages. It contributes 16% of the overall GDP and accounts for employment of approximately

52% of the Indian population. Rapid growth in agriculture is essential not only for self-reliance but also to earn valuable foreign exchange

Agriculture, with its allied sectors, is the largest source of livelihoods in India. 70 percent of its rural households still depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihood, with 82 percent of farmers being small and marginal. Farmers are the backbone of our society. They are the ones who provide us all the food that we eat. As a result, the entire population of the country depends upon farmers. Be it the smallest or the largest country. Because of them only we are able to live on the planet. Thus, Farmers are the most important people in the world. Though farmers have so much importance still they do not have proper living.

A peculiar feature of Indian farmers is that they are the price-takers both from the input and from the output market side. Because of this reason, the farmers are pushed to such a state that, the input costs &

the cost of credit are so high, while the output prices are very low, as result there is a decline in profitability and returns from cultivation. As a known fact, agriculture in India is referred to as “gamble of the monsoon”, which means it’s too much dependent on nature i.e the irrigation facilities are under developed.

**Farmer’s Suicide in 2020**

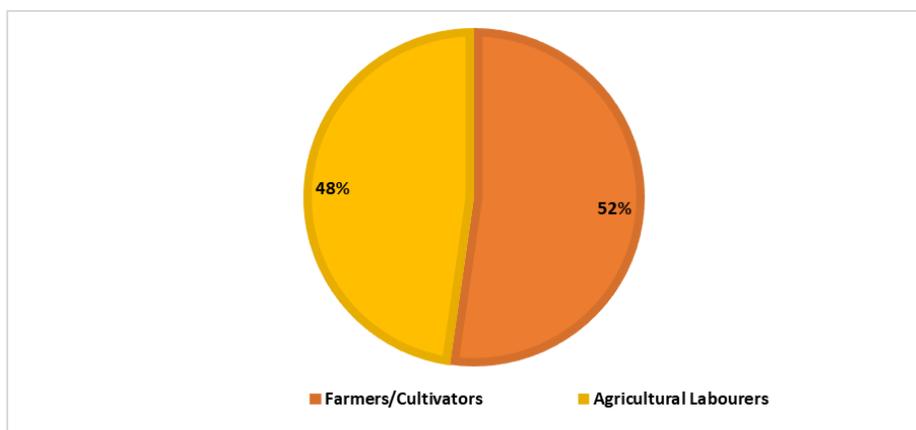
According to the report of “Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2020” released by the National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB). Total of 10,677 persons involved in farming sector

(consisting of 5,579 farmers/cultivators and 5,098 agricultural labourers) have committed suicides during 2020, accounting for 7.0% of total suicides victims (1,53,052) in the country. Out of total number of farmer suicides, only farmers/ cultivars cover 48% persons and agricultural labourers cover 52% persons during 2020. Out of 5,579 farmer/cultivator suicides, a total of 5,335 were male and 244 were female. Out of 5,098 suicides committed by agricultural labourers during 2020, 4,621 were male and 477 were female.

**Table 1. Profession-wise Farmer Suicides during 2020 (All India)**

S. No.	Profession	Male	Female	Transgender	Total
<b>1</b>	Persons Engaged in Farming Sector	9956	721	0	10677
<b>1.1</b>	Farmers/Cultivators	5335	244	0	5579
<b>1.1.1</b>	who cultivate their own land with or without assistance of agricultural labourers	4737	203	0	4940
<b>1.1.2</b>	who cultivate on leased land/work on lease/on other’s land (known by different nomenclature) with or without assistance of agricultural labourers	598	41	0	639
<b>1.2</b>	Agricultural Labourers	4621	477	0	5098

Source: National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB), 2022



**Fig. 1. Profession-wise farmer Suicides during 2020 (All India)**

### State specific farmer suicide in India

Among the Indian states, the wave of farmer suicides has taken place mostly in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh, these were the most affected states during 2020, even the other states were affected but at not this much. This trend was seen from many years.

Certain States/UTs namely, Bihar, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Chandigarh (UT), Delhi (UT), Ladakh (UT) Lakshadweep (UT) and Puducherry (UT) reported zero suicides of Farmers/Cultivators as well as Agricultural Labourers in the year 2020.

**Table 2. State Specific Farmer Suicide in India during 2020**

S. No.	States/ Union Territories	Total	S. No.	States/ Union Territories	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	889	19.	Punjab	257
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	20.	Odisha	7
3.	Assam	117	21.	Rajasthan	101
4.	Bihar	0	22.	Sikkim	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	537	23.	Tamil Nadu	477
6.	Goa	1	24.	Telangana	471
7.	Gujarat	126	25.	Tripura	0
8.	Haryana	280	26.	Uttar Pradesh	172
9.	Himachal Pradesh	24	27.	Uttarakhand	0
10.	Jharkhand	17	28.	West Bengal	0
11.	Karnataka	2016	29.	A & N Islands (UT)	6
12.	Kerala	398	30.	Chandigarh (UT)	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	735	31.	D & N Haveli And (UT)	6
14.	Maharashtra	4006	32.	Delhi (UT)	0
15.	Manipur	1	33.	Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	1
16.	Meghalaya	5	34.	Ladakh (UT)	0
17.	Mizoram	4	35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	0
18.	Nagaland	0	36.	Puducherry (UT)	0
<b>Total (States/Union Territories)</b>			<b>10677</b>		

*Source: National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB), 2022*

**Farmer Suicide in India (2010-2020):**

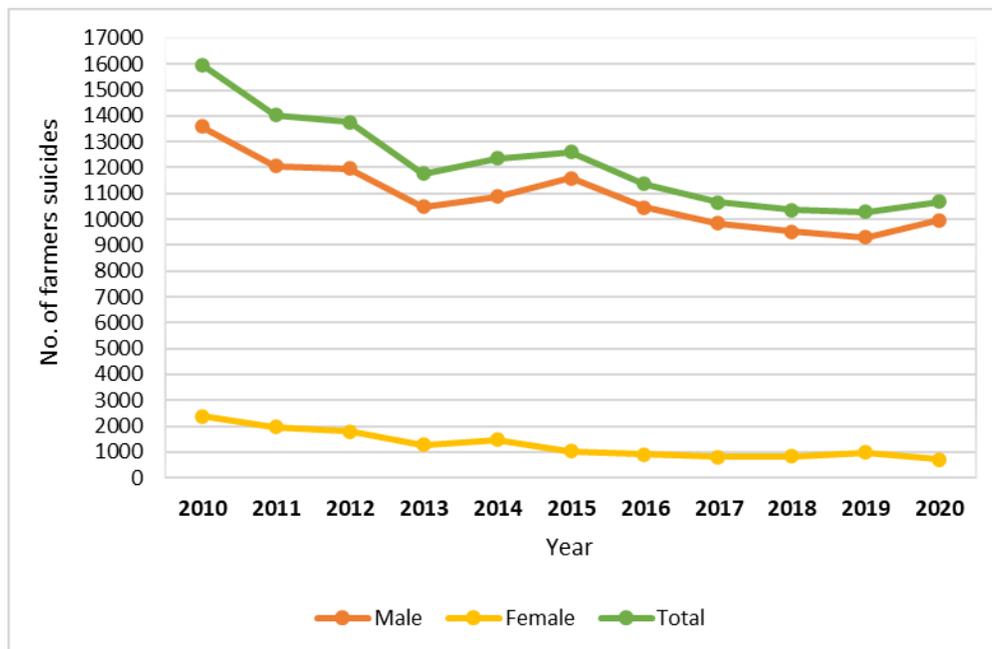
From the table 3, we can say that number of farmer suicides are declining over the year which was 15,964 (11.9%) in 2010 and 10677 in 2020. The rate also has been

declined from 11.9 % to 7%. Although it is also observed that number of suicide persons were higher in 2020 than, 1017,2018 and 2019. The increasing number of suicides in 2020 comparatively previous three years may be due to Pandemic.

**Table. Farmer Suicide in India (2010-2020)**

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage Share
2010	13592	2372	15964	11.9
2011	12071	1956	14027	10.3
2012	11951	1803	13754	11.4
2013	10489	1283	11772	8.7
2014	10889	1471	12360	9.4
2015	11584	1018	12602	9.4
2016	10471	908	11379	8.7
2017	9852	802	10655	8.2
2018	9528	821	10349	7.7
2019	9312	969	10281	7.4
2020	9956	721	10677	7

Source: National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB), 2022



**Fig. 2. Farmer Suicide in India (2010-2020)**

There is many hinderance which are responsible for farmer suicide. Broadly the

problems in Indian agriculture can be scaled down to the following reasons:

### 1) Dependency on climate

It is the most important reason of farmer suicides because agriculture is totally depending on climate and crop failure is the common hinderance to increase production and return of the farmer. The main reason of crop failures are flood, drought, rainfall, temperature, insect and pest attack etc. leads to decline in the quality and quantity of commodity.

### 2) Consolidation of land holding

The average size of land holding in India is declining over the year because of the inheritance law and on the other hand the number of holdings is increasing. The consistent decline in the size of holding and an increasing preponderance of marginal holdings along with poor returns from cultivation indicates that income of farmer is very low.

### 3) Fluctuation in price

The prices of agricultural commodities fluctuate not only from year to year; but day to day even on same day. The changes in price may be upward or downward. Fall in price cause a loss to farming community. Sometimes the risks are so great that they may result in a total failure of the business, and person who owed from others become bankrupt. Loss of production, especially in the context of the risks or burdens of debts, means that it becomes a deeply personalized loss of self.

### 4) Green Revolution

It had a greater focus on rice and wheat under irrigated condition bypassing crops and regions under rained or dry land conditions There has been a failure to capitalize on the vast network of institutes to provide and regulate new technology (including the usage of biotechnology), and a virtual absence of extension service.

### 5) Other Social reasons

Some other reasons i.e. family expenditure, marriage of daughter, illness, customs, religious factors, and ill habits such alcohol addiction, gambling etc. increase the burden of debts on farmers which leads to suicide of them self.

### Suggestions

Given the problem's intricacy and multifaceted nature, the union and state governments must pay close attention if they are to tackle it head-on. For cheap credit to be available with adequate private credit regulation, the rural credit market needs to be revitalised.

The best course of action would be to look at the problem from a historical perspective rather than relying on short-term fixes like board loan exemptions or aid packages for the families of suicide victims. Improved water accessibility should go hand in hand with policies that expand non-farm employment options in rural regions, facilitating crop diversification. Of course, changing the current procurement structure, which is based on the MSP, in favour of new crops is necessary for diversification to succeed. Priority in public health measures should be given to treating poisoning victims and expanding access to psychosocial therapy.

A law with a guaranteed MSP is necessary now that the government has decided to remove farm laws. Institutional structures for lending, extension, and marketing need to be revived. Long-term agriculture sector revitalization calls for significant expenditures in rural infrastructure, research, and technology.