KISAN KI AWAAZ

(National Magazine of Farmers' Voice)





Dr. Krishan Bir Chaudhary, President, Bharatiya Krishak Samaj launching - Farmers Yatra - from Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu on 21st January 2012, along with Sh. Nallasamy, Sh.D.Gurusamy, State President, BKS and other eminent farmer leaders.





www.kisankiawaaz.org

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Government should implement the National Policy for Farmers



Dr. Krishan Bir Chaudhary

I said in my various farmers meetings and interaction with media during my Tamil Nadu farmers yatra (which starts from Kanyakumari on 21st January and completed in Chennai on 26th January 2012) that the National Policy for Farmers, formulated in 2007, should be implemented. The farmers supported me, so did the scientific community. This document defines a farmer as a person actively engaged in the economic and/or livelihood activity of growing crops and producing other primary agricultural commodities and will include all agricultural operational holders, cultivators, agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants, poultry and livestock rearers, fishers, beekeepers, gardeners, pastoralists, non-corporate planters and planting labourers, as well as persons engaged in various farming related occupations such as sericulture, vermi-culture, and agro-forestry. The term will also include tribal families / persons engaged in shifting cultivation and in the collection, use and sale of minor and non-timber forest produce.

Special categories of farmers include three: tribal, pastoralists and others like urban farmers. For the first time we see urban farmers mentioned as a special category among plantation and Island farmers. This is a step forward towards food and nutrition security of fast urbanizing India. Since 377 million people now live in its cities and towns, which is more than India's population in 1951, urban farming needs a boost at policy and technological level. People must learn to grow food. Nearly every urban household grows some plants, mainly Tulsi, some flowers, or other decorative plants. Even in slums, people grow plants. If Cuba could produce 60% of its urban food requirements in its cities and towns, why can't we achieve at least 50%? Locally grown foods will be cheaper and more nutritious and a system can be created whereby the food reaches the kitchen without expending scarce fossil fuel energy.

We also need to feed the 93 million slum dwellers, many of whom are denied basic entitlements to food because many are migrants. The number of slum dwellers will rise to 110 million by 2017, a huge problem for urban food security. And this will grow faster as agrarian crisis in rural areas worsens. At the moment the rural poor are starving from low cash income; the urban poor are also starving from low cash income. The urban poor can be networked into the self-sufficient food systems on vacant lands, even the roof tops of their huts. They can grow sweet gourd [lauki, sitaphal], bitter gourd [karela] and feed themselves; the surplus can be sold to neighbours. We will have to look into our urban planning processes. The next decade will see a closer coupling of rural and urban farming systems, issues of health and nutrition and closer inter-dependence of the rural and urban intellectual and scientific capital, resources and skills.

Therefore, the government should implement the National Policy for Farmers, it was placed in Parliament in November 2007, includes the following goal—"to introduce measures which can help to attract and retain youth in farming and processing of farm products for higher value addition, by making farming intellectually stimulating and economically rewarding." This would pave the way for food and nutrition security of fast urbanizing India and also create a mechanism of transfer of intellectual capital to the urban poor and the rural farming communities. We need a symbiotic rural-urban system to ensure food and nutrition security and the National Policy can be tweaked to achieve that.

Krishan Bir Chaudhary

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Suggestions for improvement are invited

French farmers will have to pay to use their own seeds

'Compulsory voluntary contribution' to seed companies extended to 20 more types of crops, and use of saved seeds for other crops banned

* Angela Bolis

3 Jan 2012 - In the world of French farming, unrestricted and royalty-free use of seeds may soon be no more than a happy memory. For several decades seeds have been brought under the protection of plant variety certificates, which enshrine plant breeders' rights.



Grain under licence ... Tour de France riders pass a French wheatfield outside Amiens. Photograph: Jean-Paul Pelissier/Reuters

Resowing such seed was theoretically prohibited, but in practice it was largely tolerated in France. In future it will be strictly controlled, the ruling conservative UMP party having passed a bill to this effect in parliament last November. "Of the 5,000 or so cultivated plant varieties on sale, about 1,600 are protected by a certificate [in France].

The latter category account for 99% of the varieties grown by farmers," says Delphine Guey, of France's Inter-Professional Association for Seeds and Plants.

But until now half of all cereals were obtained from farm-saved seed, according to the National Co-ordination for the Defence of Farm-Saved Seed. In other words, illegally. The authorities seem determined to stop turning a blind eye. Agriculture minister Bruno Le Maire is categorical that such seed "can no longer be royalty-free, as is currently the case".

The recent bill transposes into French law a previously ignored 1994 European regulation on protection of plant varieties. As a result farm-saved seed, which was tolerated until now, is now legal, only provided "a fee is paid to certificate holders [seed companies] to sustain funding of research and efforts to improve genetic resources". Small farmers producing less than 92 tonnes of cereal are exempted.

Soft wheat is the onlytype on which duty has been levied in France since 2001. This "compulsory voluntary contribution" is paid to the federation of seed manufacturers. Farmers must pay €0.50 (66 cents) a tonne when they deliver their crop.

This system will be extended to 21 species, the list still not finally settled, said Xavier Beulin, the head of France's main farmers' union (FNSEA).

So "for half the crop species – soy, fruit and vegetables – it is forbidden to use your own seeds, and the other half – cereals and fodder – you have to pay to sow", said Guy Kastler, the head of the Semences Paysannes network and a member of the Peasant Confederation.

Several groups of ecologists and small farmers have expressed concerns at seed manufacturers' increasing control over access to seed, due to property rights being extended to crops and the resulting seed.

With the new tax, "even farmers who make no use of commercial seed will have to pay for what they use", said Kastler.

He is afraid that the share of farm-saved seed will decline as it becomes more expensive and consequently less attractive to farmers.

With the tax and the ban on sowing their own seed, there is a growing incentive for farmers to buy, rather than produce, seed. This worsens concern about increasing dependence on seed manufacturers.

Beulin, on the other hand, maintains that there is good reason for everyone to contribute to research into crop species, because even farm-saved seed is generally derived from company-bred varieties in the first place.

Drawing a parallel with legislation to protect the digital rights of creators of music and film, he suggested that "it is only right for [users of farm-saved seed] to pay their share of funding the creation of new varieties, from which they benefit".

A further source of concern is the impact of the new rules on farming diversity. Certainly sowing the same variety – almost always the result of research – does not improve biodiversity, particularly as "for all the main crops, none of the varieties in use were handed down by our ancestors; they were all obtained by selection of new varieties", Beulin said.

Kastler said that replanting your own seeds could lead to variations in a species, thus favouring biodiversity. "New characteristics appear so the plant is better suited to the soil, climate and local conditions.

This means there is less need for fertilisers and pesticides. Conversely seed companies adapt plants to suit fertilisers and pesticides, which are the same everywhere," he said.

France's plant variety certificates are an alternative to patents on living things, as enforced by the United States.

This intellectual property right is held by companies that have developed cultivated species through research, and consequently enjoy a monopoly over sales of the corresponding seed, until such time as it comes into the public domain.

Some in the industry, including Kastler, are afraid of gradual slippage towards this patent-based regime, by limiting the right of farmers to use protected seed freely.

However, unlike plant variety certificates, patents place an absolute ban on the use of farm-saved seed, with or without the payment of fees, Guey points out.

Plant variety certificates also allow plant breeders unrestricted use of a protected variety to exploit its genetic resources and select new ones.

But though they may work on a gene belonging to a particular species they cannot patent it or wholly appropriate it.

According to Guey this distinction has helped maintain a degree of diversity among French seed companies, and by extension gives farmers a larger choice of species. However, although France has not agreed to patents on living things, patenting of plant genes is increasingly frequent.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jan/03/france-farming-seeds



In Victory for the West, W.T.O. Orders China to Stop Export Taxes on Minerals

*** Keith Bradsher**

30, Jan, 2012 - HONG KONG — The appeals panel of the World Trade Organization ruled on Monday that China must dismantle its system of export taxes and quotas for nine widely used industrial materials.



Shiho Fukada for The New York Times - A phosphate mine in Yunnan province. China's steep export taxes have pressured chemical makers to shift production to China.

The legal setback for Beijing could set a precedent for the West to challenge China's export restrictions on other natural resources, including rare earth metals that are crucial to many modern technologies, trade experts said.

In the closely watched case, the trade organization's Appellate Body, its highest tribunal, ruled that China distorted international trade through dozens of export policies it maintains for bauxite, zinc, yellow phosphorus and six other industrial minerals.

The Appellate Body, reviewing an earlier decision by a W.T.O. dispute settlement panel, said the panel had gone too far in defining why more than three dozen Chinese policies violated free trade rules. But the appeals group said on Monday that the overall effect of China's export restrictions was harming international trade and the policies would have to be scrapped. The case was filed in 2009 against China by the United States, the European Union and Mexico.

“This is a major win for the United States,” said James Bacchus, a former chairman and longtime member of the Appellate Body, who now helps lead the global trade practice in the Washington office of the law firm Greenberg Traurig.

Mr. Bacchus predicted that China would comply with the World Trade Organization ruling. Beijing has a strong record of adhering to adverse W.T.O. decisions, recognizing that it needs the access to foreign markets that the trade organization provides.

China's commerce ministry said in a statement on its Web site that it regretted the ruling but appeared to indicate it would accept it, saying that it would act in accordance with W.T.O. rules to “achieve sustainable development.”

Ron Kirk, the United States trade representative, said in a statement that the ruling was “a tremendous victory” for the United States. he said, “ensures that core manufacturing industries in this country can get the materials they need to produce and compete on a level playing field.”

The case has been one of the most widely watched trade disputes in many years because of the precedents it could set for other, even more crucial natural resources.

Those will almost certainly include China's export quotas on rare earth metals, for which Chinese policies appear to have raised similar legal concerns.

Rare earths, however, were not part of the trade case on which the trade organization ruled Monday. Besides bauxite, zinc and yellow phosphorus, the other six industrial minerals are coke, fluorspar, magnesium, manganese, silicon carbide and silicon metal.

China is the largest or among the largest producers of each of these. The United States, European Union and Mexico accused China of using export taxes and quotas to force international chemical companies and other businesses to move their factories to China to tap these resources.

Those sorts of forced migrations are the reason international trade rules bar export quotas in many cases. Many non-Chinese companies have already been setting up factories in China, for example, to gain access to the crucial rare earth metals used in a wide range of modern technologies, since China began clamping down on rare earth exports in recent years.

China produces over 90 percent of the world's rare earths, which are used in products including computers, cellphones, hybrid cars and wind turbines.

In defense of those rare earth quotas, China had cited a decades-old legal exception to the W.T.O.'s predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, known as GATT. That exception let countries levy export taxes and restrict exports if the limits were aimed at conserving a scarce natural resource or protecting the environment.

But when China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, it agreed to dismantle virtually all export restrictions, including on industrial raw materials. That agreement superseded the GATT provisions, the appeals group ruled on Monday.

China's agreement to join the W.T.O. also bars it from imposing export restrictions on rare earths. Yet China has done so anyway for the last five years, invoking the same GATT exception.

While Appellate Body rulings do not form legally binding precedents under international trade law, Mr. Bacchus said it was very unlikely that the trade organization would let China use the environmental argument on rare earths after disallowing the same argument for industrial raw materials.

Indeed, a European Union trade official signaled that Europe might apply Monday's ruling to pressure China to lift its export restrictions on rare earth metals.

“China now must comply by removing these export restrictions swiftly, and furthermore I expect China to bring its overall export regime — including for rare earths — in line with W.T.O. rules,” said Karel De Gucht, the European Union's trade commissioner.

International trade officials have said little on the record about why rare earth metals were not included when the United States and European Union filed the original trade case in June 2009. Mexico joined the case on the American and European side in August of that year.

Some of the explanations offered on background included the view that the United States was not worried because it had plans to reopen a rare earth mine in the Southern California desert, and that the European Union was not worried because its companies planned to depend on a mine under construction in Australia. There was also a Western perception in mid-2009 that rare earths were not controversial because they were relatively cheap.

But rare earth prices began climbing sharply less than two months after the filing of the W.T.O. case, after word began to spread in August 2009 that China's commerce ministry had considered a plan to halt exports entirely for some of the rarest of the rare earths — the so-called heavy rare earths — and to curtail exports for other rare earth metals.

Rare earth prices spiked in the autumn of 2010, after China suspended exports of the metals to Japan for two months as part of a territorial dispute over an uninhabited island. And China's commerce ministry ended up sharply reducing its annual export quotas for 2010 and 2011.

Western governments have periodically considered filing an international trade case against nations in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries for limiting oil exports. But they have refrained from filing, having concluded that even an adverse ruling would be unlikely to prompt heavily oil-dependent countries to change their policies.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/31/business/wto-orders-china-to-stop-export-taxes-on-minerals.html?_r=2&pagewanted=all

Another War For Oil With Iran?

*** Sherwood Ross**

30 Jan, 2012 - Over and over again in the Middle East, we see the same pattern repeating itself: An oil-rich country takes control of its own oil fields and cuts out the Western oil companies. What follows as the night the day, the western countries overthrow the offending government and reinstall their favorite oil companies.

This has happened in both Iran and Iraq.

Right now, the U.S. is threatening Iran with war on grounds that it is making a nuclear weapons. To begin with, Iran is a peaceful country. It hasn't started a war in hundreds of years. It only fought when Iraq invaded it in 1980. In that war, Iraq used chemical weapons that it got from the United States---so here we have an example of an American attack by proxy on Iran without any provocation. But the United States attacked Iran on its own without using intermediaries in 1953 and overthrew the legitimate government.

Most Americans don't know about that overthrow. It was engineered by the Central Intelligence Agency. Since Iran did not even have a nuclear facility in 1953, what could have been the excuse for the attack? The answer is oil. Iran kicked out the British oil company it felt was cheating it out of a fair profit for the oil it was extracting and took the oil field over from the British.

The British tried to overthrow the "insolent" Iran government but failed. Iran kicked the British spies out of the country. So Britain asked the American CIA to overthrow the government and the U.S. did, deposing Prime Minister Mossadegh and putting a king on the throne.

And guess who got the contracts? The western oil companies: Gulf, Standard Oil of New Jersey, Texaco and Mobil---got a 40 percent share of the new National Iranian Oil Company. And what happened in Iran in 1953 was also going to happen in Iraq in 2003---- the U.S. attacked Iraq after which the western oil companies got the plum contracts.

"Prior to the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq, US and other western oil companies were all but completely shut out of Iraq's oil market," industry analyst Antonia Juhasz told Al Jazeera wire service. "But thanks to the invasion and occupation, the companies are now back inside Iraq and producing oil there for the first time since being forced out of the country in 1973."

And, adds Business Week magazine, "Western producers like BP, ExxonMobil, and Shell are enjoying their best access to Iraq's southern oil fields since 1972," 1972 was the year Saddam Hussein nationalized Iraq's oil fields. Another big winner of the U.S. invasion: Hunt Oil Co., of Dallas, Tex., run by Ray Hunt, President George W. Bush's friend and fund-raiser.

Oil industry analyst Juhasz says that ExxonMobil, BP, and Shell aggressively lobbied their governments "to ensure that the invasion would result in an Iraq open to foreign oil companies" and that "they succeeded." Sure they ucceeded. Because the Pentagon works hand-in-glove with the oil industry.

So what we have here is history repeating itself. Whenever Iraq or Iran have been attacked by the U.S. in the past it's been over oil. That's the record. Those are facts. But if you like you can believe the U.S. and Israel are threatening to attack only because they're trying to stop Iran from getting a nuke. That's an echo of President George Bush's lie that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

There's an inscription from Shakespeare etched on the National Archives building in downtown Washington, D.C. It says, "What's past is prologue." Shakespeare was right. Better believe it. And history will repeat itself with a new U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran unless the American people rise up and declare: "No blood for oil." I'm Sherwood Ross. Good night to every one of you---and, oh, good luck.

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http://www.countercurrents.org/ross300112.htm

India may exclude clause on lawsuits from trade pacts

The DIPP which allows firms of the partner country investing in India to take legal action against the govt at a global forum in case of any dispute has in principle decided not to include such a condition

* Asit Ranjan Mishra

29 Jan 2012 – India is likely to exclude in bilateral trade pacts a clause that permits a foreign investor to sue the host country at an international dispute settlement agency.



The department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) has in principle decided not to include such a condition, an official said on condition of anonymity, which allows firms of the partner country investing in India to take legal action against the government at a global forum in case of any dispute.

"This is now the view worldwide that the state should not get drawn into private disputes," the DIPP official said. "That's why we are cautioning to be more careful."

India had declined to include such a clause, also known as investor to state dispute settlement mechanism, in negotiations over a trade pact with the European Union, Mint had reported on 4 July. The negotiations are not over yet.

Hong Kong-based Philip Morris Asia Ltd, owner of Australian affiliate Philip Morris Ltd, last year threatened to sue Australia at a global forum on the government's cigarette-packaging norms, which the firm said would violate that country's obligations under a bilateral investment treaty with Hong Kong.

An Australian draft legislation, which aims to make tobacco products less attractive to consumers, seeks to prohibit all logos, along with different colouring and layout, on cigarette packs. It also requires that health warnings cover a substantial portion of each package, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development said on 29 June.

Australia has said that it will not include a clause that allows an overseas investor to sue the country at any global arbitration body in any of its future bilateral trade agreements.

India has comprehensive economic partnership agreements (CEPAs) with Singapore, South Korea, Japan and Malaysia. Besides the European Union, it is negotiating similar pacts with Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Indonesia.

Customary international law requires foreign investors to sue governments in domestic courts for any claims, or at the World Trade Organization dispute panel.

However, many bilateral agreements on investment allow foreign investors to seek legal action at international arbitration bodies such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law or at the World Bank-affiliated International Centre for Settlement of Investment Dispute for alleged breaches of treaty obligations.

India was first sued in an international tribunal in 2002. White Industries Australia Ltd, a mining firm, dragged the Indian government into arbitration quoting the bilateral investment treaty singed between the two countries on a dispute with state-owned Coal India Ltd. The case is currently at the Supreme Court of India.

The contentious clause is part of the bilateral investment promotion and protection agreements (BIPAs) that India has signed with 82 countries.

Out of these, 72 have come into force and the remaining pacts are in the process of being enforced.

Whenever a CEPA is signed with a country or region, the BIPA is weaved into the investment chapter of the trade agreement.

While CEPAs are the turf of the commerce and industry ministry, BIPAs are signed by the finance ministry.

The DIPP official said the department also wants to review this particular clause in all the existing BIPAs.

However, a finance ministry official said BIPAs help Indian companies more than the foreign firms.

“With the growing clout of Indian companies investing in countries around the world, including the less stable countries in the African and South American regions, they need the protection of the local governments,” the finance ministry official said on condition of anonymity. “So, we are not in favour of reviewing this clause.”

The DIPP official said irrespective of the finance ministry's move, his department would like to review the clause in the existing CEPAs.

“When there is an international obligation, you cannot change it unilaterally,” the DIPP official said. “At the time of review of such pacts, which is a routine affair, we will definitely want to correct it.”

Given the controversy surrounding this clause and its implications in terms of a regulatory freeze that it sometimes leads to, a cautious approach may be advisable, according to Anuradha R.V., partner at Clarus Law Associates.

“It is not that the absence of such a clause will be a death knell for justifiable action in case of failure by the state to protect foreign investment or violation of commitments made by a state in an international agreement,” Anuradha said. “There are in-built dispute resolution mechanisms in the CEPAs.”

A balance has to be maintained to meet both objectives, said Krishnan Venugopal, Supreme Court advocate.

“Foreign investors often complain they do not have proper recourse in disputes. The danger of the government passing a law that impacts the value of their business is there,” Venugopal said.

“However, if there is a genuine concern on the part of the government, you cannot take away the sovereign right of a state to legislate.”

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http://www.livemint.com/2012/01/29231517/India-may-exclude-clause-on-la.html?h=B

Developed countries still committed to complete Doha Round

29 Jan 2012 - Developed countries at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, remain hopeful of the Doha Round of global negotiations and are keen on completing them, despite the feeling of some quarters they have become a lost cause.

Launched in 2001, the Doha Round involves all 153 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiating among themselves to lower trade barriers and revise trade rules on 20 areas. But the talks have been stymied by contentious issues of agriculture, services, intellectual property and the global financial crisis in 2008.

Agriculture remained a caontentious issue for developing countries like the Philippines, particularly the matter of designating safeguards for imported farm products such as the designation of special products and the inclusion of special safeguard mechanisms (SSM).

In the Hong Kong draft text issued in December 2005, developing countries were originally allowed to designate a specific number of agricultural products as SP, which would not suffer tariff cuts. Under the SSM, developing countries were allowed to use the price and volume-based trigger mechanisms as basis for adjusting tariffs upward should there be an influx of imported farm products.

Subsequent amendments to the text, however, sought to reduce the number of farm products that could use the trade remedies.

"Doha is not dead," Craig Emerson, minister of trade of Australia, told
participants at the WEF annual meeting in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. "I think there's enough life in the Doha Round to persist with it."

But WTO Director General Pascal Lamy said a lot of political will was needed to push the negotiations forward. He said the difficulty of pushing for a multilateral negotiation on trade has made government leaders shift their focus on bilateral talks and regional arrangements.

These arrangements now include the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The countries included in the TPP are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and the United States.

The WEF, said Lamy, is concerned with different, and perhaps contradictory, industry standards and regulatory regimes that parties in various bilateral and multilateral agreements may commit themselves to. This will pose new barriers to multinationals and global supply chains, which are becoming more extensive by the day, he said.

At the WEF annual meeting, US Trade Representative Ron Kirk said the US has not given up on the Doha Round but acknowledged it is easier to negotiate bilateral agreements, which can create more jobs and bring benefits to two parties.

But Gita Wirjawan, Indonesian trade minister, said the Doha Round was still needed because it remains the best way for every nation, especially developing countries like Indonesia, to be treated fairly in trade matters.

Lamy said the WTO's new strategy on Doha is to set aside the big issues for now and instead concentrate on small wins, such as agreements on relatively uncontroversial trade areas like trade facilitation. The WEF said the WTO prefers to stay in a "quiet mode for now," get things done and build confidence that it can then tackle big issues.

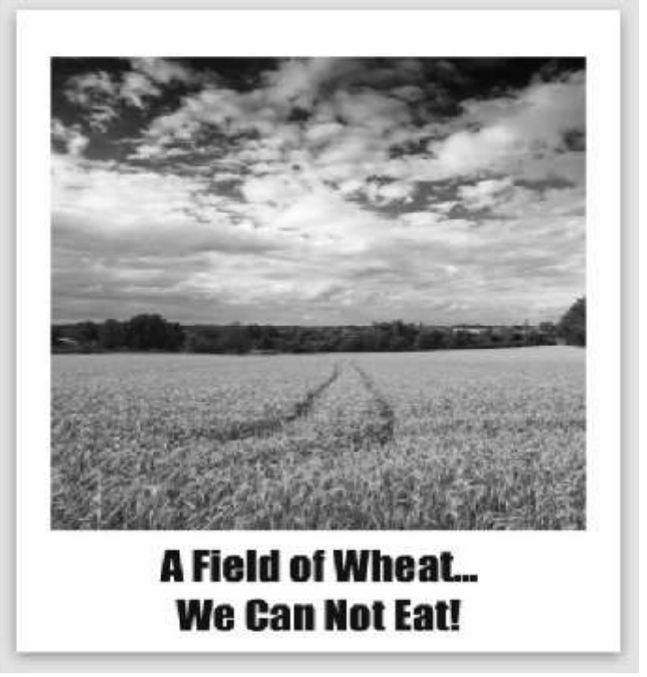
"You need a lot of political energy to do things multilaterally and it's not just available," Lamy said in a statement. "It's in short supply, just as it is in climate change." --Cai U. Ordinario

http://businessmirror.com.ph/home/top-news/22586-developed-countries-still-committed-to-complete-doha-round

Why are Glutens on the Rise???

*** Dr. Michael Taggart**

You hear a lot more these days about people developing problems with wheat. It could be a sensitivity that the person developed or a full blown genetic problem in which you can not digest gluten (which is the protein component of wheat and other gluten containing grains).



When this happens it is called Celiac disease. One thing that always bothered me about gluten problems is there are so many ancient texts including the bible referring to wheat as the "staff of life". So if wheat is supposed to be good for us, why are so many people getting sick from it?

Something Changed…….

We changed and so did wheat. Botonists have identified almost 30,000 varieties of wheat. With the advent of modern farming, the number of varieties of wheat in common use has been drastically reduced.

Just a few varieties account for 90 percent of the wheat grown in the world. When grown in well-nourished, fertile soil, whole wheat is rich in vitamin E and B complex, many minerals, including calcium and iron, as well as omega-3 fatty acids.

Proper growing and milling methods are necessary to preserve these nutrients and prevent rancidity. Unfortunately, due to the indiscretions inflicted by contemporary farming and processing on modern wheat, many people have become intolerant or even allergic to this nourishing grain.

These indiscretions include depletion of the soil through the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals, high-heat milling, refining and improper preparation, such as extrusion.

The damage inflicted on wheat does not end with cultivation and storage, but continues into milling and processing. A grain kernal is comprised of three layers: the bran, the germ and the endosperm. The bran is the outside layer where most of the fiber exists.

The germ is the inside layer where many nutrients and essential fatty acids are found. The endosperm is the starchy middle layer. The high nutrient density associated with grains exists only when these three are intact.

Flour was originally produced by grinding grains between large stones. The final product, 100 percent stone-ground whole-wheat flour, contained everything that was in the grain, including the germ, fiber, starch and a wide variety of vitamins and minerals.

Without refrigeration or chemical preservatives, fresh stone-ground flour spoils quickly. After wheat has been ground, natural wheat-germ oil becomes rancid at about the same rate that milk becomes sour, so refrigeration of whole grain breads and flours is necessary. Technology's answer to these issues has been to apply faster, hotter and more aggressive processing.

Since grinding stones are not fast enough for mass-production, the industry uses high-speed, steel roller

mills that eject the germ and the bran. Much of this "waste Product" – the most nutritious part of the grain – is sold as "byproducts" for animals.

The resulting white flour contains only a fraction of the nutrients of the original grain. Even whole wheat flour is comprised during the modern milling process. High-speed mills reach 400 degrees Fahrenheit, and this heat destroys vital nutrients and creates rancidity in the bran and the germ.

Vitamin E in the germ is destroyed – a real tragedy because whole wheat used to be our most readily available source of vitamin E.

Literally dozens of dough conditioners and preservatives go into modern bread, as well as toxic ingredients like partially hydrogenated vegetable oils and soy flour. Soy flour – loaded with antinutrients – is added to virtually all brand-name breads today to improve rise and prevent sticking.

People have become accustomed to the mass-produced, gooey, devitalized, and nutritionally deficient breads and baked goods and have little recollection of how real bread should taste. Chemical preservatives allow bread to be shipped long distances and to remain on the shelf for many days without spoiling and without refrigeration.

The most practical option is to buy organic 100 percent stone-ground whole-wheat flour at a natural food store. Slow-speed, steel hammer- mills are often used instead of stones, and flours made in this way can list "stone-ground" on the label.

This method is equivalent to the stone-ground process and produces a product that is equally nutritious. Any process that renders the entire grain into usable flour without exposing it to high heat is acceptable.

Ok, you've got your nutritious wheat, now the problem might beyour body.

You may have developed a "Leaky Gut" where the barrier that keeps undigested food particles from entering into the blood stream to early from the intestines- has become damaged due to unfriendly microorganisms.

Your body will treat these particles as an invader and the immune system will go to work to destroying them. Now here is why this is a big deal, this process will createinflammation which can cause pain, that's why as a Chiropractor, I care about this! People come to me with pain, it's not always neuro-musculoskeletal.

Inflammation can cause problems with organs, it can effect your brain function.Your chronic tiredness, joint pain, exzema and asthma that has not responded to anything you have tried may be a food sensitivity!

If you are suspicious about wheat and its effects on you, there is a simple test you can do. Don't eat ANY gluten based grains for 3 weeks, if you notice some changes you are on the right track. If after 3 weeks, you are not sure of any difference, then at the end of 3 weeks eat a LOT of gluten and if your body starts feeling bad again that's a clue it's part of your problem.

If you have confirmed the link, it's a good idea to have some special testing done to see if it's a sensitivity or is it genetic. We use a company called Entrolabs that has a very accurate test that looks for the presence of antibodies to gluten and will also determine if you have a genetic problem.

If it's just a sensitivity then healing the gut with gluten avoidance and supplementation may help you to be able go back to eating gluten. If it is genetic, then it's a lifelong avoidance. You can Google "gluten" and find oout which grains have it and which don't. Actual cases of food allergies that Dr. Taggart was able to help:

Sleeping was a problem due to my allergies. Focus was a problem at work. Since beginning chiropractic care, I can now work longer hours and I feel great! I'm less fatigued and more aware. I've stopped taking my mid-day naps….ha ha ha…. no joke! I get up in the morning feeling ready for my day. I couldn't be happier with the care I have received. C.P.

By July, I will be off all my asthma medications, I can exercise now without having an asthma attack. H.N.

www.lakewashingtonchiropractic.com
http://lwchiropractic.wordpress.com/2010/06/24/why-are-glutens-on-the-rise/

mada]varta baZana k ilae kr jaivak #aada ka]pyaaga

* Ainala kmaar¸ vaI°k°sarI¸ ijant d¥ta¸ svapnaa sapihyaa eva sajaIva sadla

AaQainak saGana kiYa pNa $p sa rasaayainak #aada pr inaBar h. mada pr ike gae lambaI AvaiQa vaala pirxaNa yah dSaat h ik lagaatar Aar ekmaa~ rasaayainak #aada k Asatilat]pyaaga sa ima+I ma saxma t¥vaa kI kmaIÊ t¥vaa ka mada Aar paQaa ma AsatlanaÊ pyaavarNa Avanait Aar jamaIna xaarIya ³km]pjaa} ´ hatI jaa rhI h.

ijasakI vajah sa f salaa kI pdavaar BaI km hatI jaa rhI h. [sailae Aaja k samaya kI ja$rt yah bana ga[h ik rasaayainak #aada ka pyaaga km sa km Aar satilat trIk sa ikyaa jaae. [sak Alaavaa jaivak #aada jasa ik gaabar¸ kcaAa tqaa jaivak]varka ka pyaaga AiQak sa AiQak ikyaa jaanaa caaihe. AtÁ rasaayainak¸ jaivak]varka tqaa jaIvaaNa #aada ka pyaaga samaaklana trIk sa krnaa A¥yaaiQak ja$rI h.

[sasa ima+I kI]pjaa} xamata laba samaya tk banaI rhtI h tqaa saBaI ja$rI paYak t¥vaa ka mada ma satlana BaI banaa rhta h Aar f sala pdavaar BaI hr saala saamaanya sa AiQak hatI h. rasaayainak #aada kI baZtI h[ikmata k calat Aama iksaana k ilae [sa #arId panaa AsaBava saI baat h. AtÁ jaIvaaNa #aad jaa ik baht hI sasta tqaa pyaavarNa ihtsaI inavaSa h¸ garIva iksaanaa k ilae baht]pyaagaI h.

jaIvaaNa #aad hr pkar kI ima+I tqaa jalavaaya k ilae Anakla h. yah #aad baht hI sastI hatI h tqaa [nh]pyaaga ma laanaa baht hI Aasaana h. [na jaIvaaNa #aada k pyaaga sa jamaIna kI]varaSai@t ka baZayaa jaa sakta h Aar [nk pyaaga sa AiQak f sala va AiQak laaBa kmaayaa jaa sakta h. ihmaacala pdSa jasa rajya ma dlahnaI f salaa kI Aasat pdavaar raYT kI Aasat pdavaar kI tlanaa ma kaf I km h. [saka ma#ya karNa rasaayainak #aada ka AiQak va Asatilat trIk sa pyaaga krnaa h. saxma jaIva java caË ka pra krna ma mah¥vapNa yaagadana pdana krt h.

java]varka ma jaivak ³kabainak´ paYak t¥vaa ka Ajaivak ³Akabainak´ paYak t¥vaa ma pirvaitt krna kI xamata hatI h. saxma jaIva naa[Tajana isqarIkrNa piËyaa¸ paYak t¥vaa tqaa panaI kI]pyaaga xamata ka baZana ma BaI mah¥vapNa yaagadana dt h.

java]vark paVaigakI eva [nk inamaaNa ht saxma jaIvaa k AiBalaxaNaa ka &ana hanaa Ait AavaSyak h. ijasak ABaava ma java]varka ka inamaaNa saBava nahI h. [sak Alaavaa¸ va&ainaka k prIxaNaa k AaQaar pr esaa payaa gayaa h ik dlahnaI eva Anya f salaa ka]pya@t]varka sa]pcaairt krna pr [nkI pdavaar ma 1525 pitSat tk kI baZa<arI hatI h. [na java #aada ka pma#a laaBa yah BaI h ik AgalaI f sala kI pdavaar ma BaI 10 sa 15 pitSat kI vaiW hatI h.

jyaada<ar iksaana ekmaa~ na~jana]vark ka hI pyaaga ma laat h¸ saaqa hI [sa vaht AiQak maa~a ma pyaaga krt h ijasasa Anak pkar kI ivamaairyaa tqaa kITaNaAa ka pkap f lata h. AtÁ dlahnaI f salaa kI Aasatna pdavaar vaZana k ilea jaIvaaNa #aada ka]pyaaga krnaa vaht hI AavaSyak h.

jaIvaana #aad na kvala paQaa ka mah¥vapNa paYak t¥va pdana krt h bailk mada kI]varta ka BaI kaf I hd tk baZat h Aar saaqa hI f salaa kI raga pitraQaI xamata ka baZakr [nh Anak pkar kI ivamaairyaa eva ragaa sa bacaat h. @yaaik yah jaIvaaNa mada ma laaBadayak rsaayana CaDt h. va&ainak prIxaNaa k AaQaar pr yah BaI payaa gayaa h ik jaIvaaNa #aadÀjava]vark ³naa[Tajana isqarIkrNa krna vaala´ dlahnaI f salaa ma saamaantyaÁ 3035 ik0gaa0 pit h@Tyar na~jana isqarIkrNa tqaa Anya ³baama´ 2025 pitSat f asfarsa paQaa ka]plabQa krvaat h. AtÁ [na saar laaBaa ka d#akr java]varka kI mah¥va<aa samaJaI jaa saktI h.

ivaiBanna pkar kI jaIvaaNa #aad Á

ra[jaaivayama java]varkÁ – yah jaIvaaNa payaÁ dlahnaI f salaa kI jaDa ma gainqayaa k $p ma payaa jaata h. yah vaayamaNDlaIya naa[Tajana ka isqarIkrNa krk paQaa ka]plabQa krata h. yah java]vark ma#ya f salaa jasa ik maTr¸ masar¸ rajamaah¸ magaf laI¸ saayaabaIna¸ maga¸ varsaIma k ilae baht hI]pyaagaI h. yah 3035 ik0gaa0 pit h0 naa[Tajana ka isqarIkrNa krta h. ijasasa ima+I kI]varta xamata baZtI h. AtÁ [sa java]vark k pyaaga sa na~jana]vark jasa ik yairyaa kI maa~a ka kaf I hd tk kma ikyaa jaa sakta h.

ejaaTaba@Tr java]varkÁ – ejaaTaba@Tr mada ma payaa jaana vaalaa ma@tjaIvaI jaIvaaNa h jaa ik naa[Tajana yaagaIkrNa ma mah¥vapNa yaagadana dta h. pitkla vaatavarNaIya pirisqaityaa ma yah Apna caara Aar ek maaTI prt banaa lata h. [saI prt k karNa yah jaIvaaNa]Ymaa Qvaina AiBaiËyaa tqaa pravaganaI pkaSa sa vacaaba kr sakta h. Anakla pirisqaityaa ma yah prt pnÁ Akirt hakr nae jaIvaaNaAa ma pirvaitt ha jaat h. ya jaIvaaNa calanaSaIla hat h. ejaaTava@Tr java]vark kI naa[Tajana isqarIkrNa kI xamata ra[jaaivayama sa qaaDI kma hatI h prnt [sak]pyaaga sa BaI hma na~jana #aad ka]pyaaga kma kr sakt h.

ejaaspa[irlama java]varkÁ – yah ek calanaSaIla jaIvaaNa Aar sahcaarI sahjaIvaI hata h. ijasama ek QakIya kSaaimak payaa jaata h. [saka]pyaaga Apxaakt gama sqaanaa pr hana vaalaI f salaa pr ikyaa jaata h. yah paQaa kI jaDa ma payaa jaata h. naa[Tajana ma@t savaQana maaQyama ma [sakI AcCI vaiW hatI h. f salaa ma ejaaspa[irlama java]vark ka]pyaaga krna pr ya jaIvaaNa jaldI hI jaD k pBaavaI xa~ ma vaQana krna lagat h tqaa jaD k caara Aar jaIvaaNaAa ka ek AavarNa bana jaata h. f salaa kI kaiyak vaiW ma yah jaIvaaNa A¥yant laaBadayak hat h.

esaITava@Tr java]varkÁ – ejaaspa[irlama jaIvaaNa kI trh yah jaIvaaNa BaI sahjaIvaI Aar calanaSaIla h. yah jaIvaaNa payaÁ ganna k tna¸ jaDa k }<aka pi¥tyaa tqaa jaayalama ma payaa jaata h. ijasakI sth pr ek kaSaimak yaa tIna paSva kaSaiBakae pa[jaatI h yah Aa@saijaIvaI jaIvaaNa esaIiTlaIna Apcayana krna kI xamata r#ata h tqaa 10% saËaja ya@t naa[Tajana ma@t savaQana maaQyama ma AcCI vaiW krta h.

naIlahirt Savaala java]varkÁ – naIlahirt Savaala saxmajaIva h. [nak gaNaa kI jaIvaaNa vaga sa AiQak samaanata hatI h. yah jaIva BaI naa[Tajana yaaigakIkrNa krna kI xamata r#ata h. [sa java]vark ka]pyaaga Qaana k ilae ikyaa jaata h³10 Tna pit h@Tyar´.

ejaalaa java]varkÁ – ejaalaa svacC panaI k Alaavaa gaZZa ma trta hAa payaa jaana vaalaa ek inamnavagaIya padp h. yah naa[Tajana yaaigakIkrNa Wara paQaa kI vaiW ka vaZavaa dta h. ejaalaa ma sahjaIvaI k $p ma naIla hirt Savaala enaaibanaa ejaalaI payaI jaatI h. ijasaka kaya naa[Tajana yaaigakIkrNa hata h. mada ma 10 Tna pit h0 ejaalaa padp ka]pyaaga krna sa 10 ik0gaa0 yaaigakIkt naa[Tajana mada ka paPt hatI h.

fasfT ivalayakarI jaIvaaNaÁ – yah jaIvaaNa fasfarsa kI]plabQata ka vaZat h tqaa [sa jaIvaaNa ka pyaaga ma#yatÁ fasfT Aqavaa ivalayakarI java]va rka ma ikyaa jaata h. yah jaIvaaNa ivaYamapaYaI tqaa Aa@saIjaIvaI hat h. glakaja [nak ilae kabana ka pma#a s~at hata h. [sa java]vark k]pyaaga sa hma fasfarsa rasaayainak #aad ka]pyaaga kma kr sakt h.

maa[kara[jaa ³vaama´Á – vaama paQa kI jaD va ffdI ma gahra irSta h. [saI irst sa paQaa tqaa fsalaa ka baht laaBa hata h. vaama ³ffd´ paQaa kI jaD ma Aar jaD kI rala vaala ka taDkr karT@sa ma sampk krta h Aar ek Qaagaa nalaInamaa maa[isainayama yaa kvak tnt CaDta h [saI Qaaga Wara jamaIna k AGalanaSaIla pWaqaa eva fasfT ka Gaalakr paQaa ka dta h Aar Apna inavaah k ilae [nasa kavaaha[DT lata h. vama]vark fasfarsa Aar panaI danaa kI]pyaaga xamata ka baZata h. vaama ka]pyaaga maTr¸ iBaNDI¸ gah¸ ma@ka¸ Í asbaIna¸ bagana [%yaaid ivaiBanna fsalaa ma kr sakt h. vaama #aad k]pyaaga sa fasfarsa rasaayainak]vark kI maa~a ka 25 pitSat tk kma ikyaa jaa sakta h.

jaivak]varka sa TIkakrNa kI ivaiQa ³ra[jaaivayama¸ejaaTava@Tr¸ ejaaspa[rala ma [%yaaid´Á – baIja ka 10% gaD eva caInaI k Gaala sa]pcaairt krk Cayaa ma fSa yaa baar k } pr flaa kr sa#aa la. saaf haqaa sa klcar ka baIja ma [sa pkar imalaae kI baIja k caara trf ek hlkI saI prt bana jaae.]pcaairt baIja ka ibajaa[k baad ima+I sa AcCI trh Zk d. taik baIja saya kI saIQaI ikrNaa k sampk ma na Aae. 200 ima0laI0 klcar kI maa~a ek ekD baIja k ilae pyaaPt h.

maa[kara[jaa sa TIkakrNa kI ivaiQa Á – #at tyaar hana pr 35 ik0gaa0 vaama klcar ka 100 sa 150 iklaa rt yaa ra#a yaa gaabar #aad yaa Aagainak #aad ma imalaakr #at ma iba#ar d yaa ibajaa[k saaqa lagaa d. [sak]pyaaga ma laana ka ek trIka yah BaI h ik vama klcar kI lap banaakr baIja ka [sama]pcaairt ikyaa jaaeÊ [sa pkar imalaae ik baIja k caara trf ek hlkIsaI prt bana jaae. [sak vaad [sa kC samaya k ilae Cayaa ma sa#aakr saIQaa #at ma baIjaa[kr d. maa~a 35 ik0gaa0 pit ekD tqaa 50100 gaa0 pit paQaa.

[na java]varka k AiQak maa~a ma pyaaga krna pr BaI ka[haina nahI hatI h.

java]varka k laaBaÁ

- ivaiBanna pkar kI Baagaailak eva mada isqaityaa ma BaI fsalaa k]%padna ma laaBakarI hat h.
- dlahmaI fsalaa ma 5075 pitSat na~jana tqaa 25 pitSat fasfT kI AavaSyakta ka pra krna ma saxama h.
- Anya fsalaa pr ka[dYpBaava nahI pDta h. Aipt AgalaI fsala kI pdavaar BaI 15 pitSat tk vaZat h.
- jaD xa~ ma laaBakarI saxma jaIvaa kI AiQakta.
- fsalaa ma panaI eva paYak t%vaa kI]plabQata tqaa raga pitraQaI xamata ka baZat h.
- java]vark Baima kI]varkta ka baZat h. [sasa Baima sarcanaa ma saQaar hata h
  ijasasa Baina kI panaI QaarNa xamata baZtI h va AiQak fsala paiPt hatI h.
- pyaavarNa ihtSaI inavaSa h tqaa yah java]vark hr pkar kI jalavaaya eva ima+Iyaa k Anakla hat h.
- CaT eva saImaat iksaanaa k ilae Aaiqak diYT sa yah baht laaBakarI h.
- yah java]vark vaht hI sast hat h tqaa]nak]pyaaga sa rasaayainak #aad kI vacat hatI h tqaa psa kI BaI vacat hatI h.

samasyaae Á

-]icat vaahk pWaqa kI AnaplabQata eva kma gaNava<aa.
- pikga saamagaI kI gaNava<aa.
- saxma jaIvaaNaAa ka]%pirvatna.
-]cca gaNava<aa va yaagya ivaBada kI]plabQata na hanaa.
- ivapNana str pr samasyaae
- inamaataAa ka java]varka k vaar ma pNa jaanakarI dna ma Axama hanaa.
- sarkarI t~ kI java]varka k inamaaNa ma saImat BaagaIdarI.
- gaNava<aa pr iksaanaa ka Barasaa na hanaa tqaa java]varka k pit iksaanaa ma jaaga$kta kI kmaI.

saavaQaainayaa Á

- klcar ka BaNDarNa zND sqaana pr kr.
- java]varka ka kITnaaSaka tqaa rasaayainak]varka ma na imalaae.

java]vark inamnailai#at pt sa paPt kr sakt hÁ

iksaana ima~ java]varka ka ivaiBanna Ì iYa ivaSvaivaValayaa k mada saxma jaIvaI pyaagaSaalaaAaÊ ³mada iva&ana ivaBaaga´Ê sa paPt kr sakt h. Aqavaa [nakI]pyaaga kI jaanakarI eva paiPt k ilae Apna najadIkI Ì iYa iva&ana knda sa sapk kr sakt h.

mada iva&ana ivaBaaga¸ kiYa mahaivaValaya¸ caa°sa°k° ihmaacala pdSa kiYa ivaSvaivaValaya¸ palamapr

jintudutta42@gmail.com

Monsanto's GMO Corn Linked To Organ Failure, Study Reveals

*** Katherine Goldstein/Gazelle Emami**

In a study released by the International Journal of Biological Sciences, analyzing the effects of genetically modified foods on mammalian health, researchers found that agricultural giant Monsanto's GM corn is linked to organ damage in rats.

According to the study, which was summarized by Rady Ananda at Food Freedom, "Three varieties of Monsanto's GM corn - Mon 863, insecticide-producing Mon 810, and Roundup® herbicide-absorbing NK 603 - were approved for consumption by US, European and several other national food safety authorities."

Monsanto gathered its own crude statistical data after conducting a 90-day study, even though chronic problems can rarely be found after 90 days, and concluded that the corn was safe for consumption.

The stamp of approval may have been premature, however. In the conclusion of the IJBS study, researchers wrote:

"Effects were mostly concentrated in kidney and liver function, the two major diet detoxification organs, but in detail differed with each GM type.

In addition, some effects on heart, adrenal, spleen and blood cells were also frequently noted.

As there normally exists sex differences in liver and kidney metabolism, the highly statistically significant disturbances in the function of these organs, seen between male and female rats, cannot be dismissed as biologically insignificant as has been proposed by others.

We therefore conclude that our data strongly suggests that these GM maize varieties induce a state of hepatorenal toxicity....These substances have never before been an integral part of the human or animal diet and therefore their health consequences for those who consume them, especially over long time periods are currently unknown."

Monsanto has immediately responded to the study, stating that the research is "based on faulty analytical methods and reasoning and do not call into question the safety findings for these products."

The IJBS study's author Gilles-Eric Séralini responded to the Monsanto statement on the blog, Food Freedom, "Our study contradicts Monsanto conclusions because Monsanto systematically neglects significant health effects in mammals that are different in males and females eating GMOs, or not proportional to the dose.

This is a very serious mistake, dramatic for public health. This is the major conclusion revealed by our work, the only careful reanalysis of Monsanto crude statistical data."

http:// www. huffingto npost.co m / 2 01 0/ 01/12 /mon santos-gmo-corn-linked_n_420365.html

Veteran Parliamentarian Maniram Bagri passed away

Veteran Socialist leader and parliamentarian Shri Mani Ram Bagri, passed away on 31st January 2012 at his native place Hisar (Haryana), he was 93.,He born at Ban Mandori, Hissar District, on January 1, 1920, he participated in the National movement at very young age and joined Socialist movement led by Acharya Narendra Deva, Jayaprakash Narayan and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia. He was elected to the Punjab Legislative Assembly, and was member during 1953-55.He was elected to the third Lok Sabha, 1962-67, Sixth Lok Sabha, 1977-79 and Seventh Lok Sabha, 1980-84. He participated in various socialist movements and jailed. A close associates of late Shri Rajnarain, he was also detained during Emergency under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act. (MISA).He was leader Socialist Parliamentary party, 1962-67 and General Secretary All India Samyukta Socialist Party (Lohiavadi) during 1972-74, and alter on Janata Party(S).

BKS urged centre to put moratorium on all GM crops

Tiruchirapalli, Jan 22 (UNI) Bharatiya Krishak Samaj (BKS) urged the Centre to put moratorium on all GM crops and not to force GM food through draconian law. Addressing a press conference here, BKS National President Dr. Krishan Bir Chaudhary pointed out that the Government instead of forcing for GM food, should go for public referendum. He came down heavily on the Government's policy of promoting Special Economic



Zone (SEZ) and warned that SEZ would aggravate agrarian crisis and endanger food security of the country. He also pointed out that there were 2,000 SEZs across the world of which 586 were in India which were creating a revenue losses of to the tune of Rs 1,74,000 crore. All these SEZs were expected to provide job opportunities only to 6.60 lakh persons.

He underlined the need to preserve the agricultural land which was having more than two crop pattern. The agricultural land should be reserved as in the case of forests. He said, 5,56,000 sq km area of non-agricultural lands which was there in the country and should be utilized by the Union and State Governments for non-agricultural activities like establishment of SEZs.

Dr. Chaudhary wanted that the Centre should implement recommendations of the National Farmers Commission headed by Dr. M S Swaminathan, which was pending before the government from 2007 onwards.

The committee made several recommendations including fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agriculture, he said and added that the Cost Agriculture Price Commission had recommended Rs 3,000 per tonne for sugarcane as purchase price in 2009-10 crushing season itself. Despite this, the Government did not notify and declare Rs 3,000 per tonne of sugar cane as supportive price, he added. He urged the Union Government to establish Farmers Income Commission and Farm Products Price Compensation Commission with autonomous status immediately and to solve the farmers problems across the country. He also accused that the politicians across the country were making the food as their political tool, forgetting the farmers welfare. He said due to the lethargic attitude of both the Central and State Governments 2.56 lakh farmers had committed suicide across the country in the recent years.

He strongly condemned the Union Government for introducing the seed bill and asked for whom the seed bill was made. He said, 85 per cent of the farmers in the country were having less than two acres of land while 83 per cent of farmers were using their own seed for their cultivations. He wanted the government to give up its move to pass the Seed Bill as well the Food Security Bill and at any cost the seed subject should not be surrendered to any corporates, he emphasized.

Dr. Krishan Bir Chaudhary, President, Bharatiya Krishak Samaj launching - Farmers Yatra - from Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu on 21st January 2012, along with Sh. Nallasamy, Sh.D.Gurusamy, State President, BKS and other eminent farmer leaders.





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Dr.Krishan Bir Chaudhary, President Bharatiya Krishak Samaj, addressing media. After visiting badly damages farmers field by Thane Cyclone along with Mr.D. Gurusamy , President, Tamilnadu BKS, Mr.S.Venkatesan, Distt. Sect. Federation of Cuddalore District Farmers Association and other farmer leader in Cuddalore on 24th January 2012.





Starvation deaths in Bihar

*** Arun Shrivastava**

One hundred and fifty persons - men, women and children - have died of hunger in nineteen districts of Bihar in the past five years to 2011. The dead are mainly from the dalit and two from the minority community.

Some had the 'red ration card' with entitlement of 25 kg of rice at highly subsidized rates but they could not afford to buy even 50% of the entitlements. The 'red card' assures a below-poverty line household just about enough to survive.

Chandu Manjhi: A Dalit and resident of Bankat village of Gaya district, barely 120 kms from Patna, Chandu Manjhi died on 13 February 2011, leaving behind his wife and two children, aged 12 and 8. His total income from manual labour was Rs 800 [about 40 dollars] per month, and did not have enough money to purchase even the minimum entitlement of rice for all, and remained hungry for eight to ten days on the month, or 3-4 months on the year.

Bankat village also has four households with total monthly income of 150 to 200 rupees per month. They each have a starvation death in the family. The story of Murti Devi and that of Saira are more gruesome.

Should people die of starvation?

The Bihar Government runs food grain distribution program [TPDS], hot mid day meal scheme [MDMS] for school children and free supplementary nutrition scheme under integrated child development services [ICDS] for pre-school children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

In addition to these, there is income support program [National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, or NREGS], which guarantees 100 days of employment annually at minimum wage rate of Rs 144 per day and unemployment allowance.

Three social security schemes are also in place - National Maternity Benefit Scheme [NMBS; Rs 1400 per birth], National Old Age Pension Scheme [NOAPS; Rs 200 per month plus 200 from Bihar Government which has never been given to the poor elders].
In case the primary bread earner dies, Rs. 10,000 of cash assistance under National Family Benefit Scheme [NFBS] is an entitlement of a poor household. The National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] seeks to ensure that quality medical care is available at door step of the poor.

No one knows what NRHM is, not even the doctors. Not many poor illiterate know that 100 kgs of food grain is allotted to each head of the Village Council to be given to any poor household in emergency.

The systems are in place to prevent malnutrition, but starvation deaths are being reported from a state that is home to 110 million. How many deaths remain unreported?

Had these programs been properly implemented, a poor household would earn at least Rs 14,400 per year or 1200 rupees per month guaranteed by law plus whatever additionally. That household would be entitled to subsidized ration of 7 kg per person for Rs. 6.80 per kg or wheat for Rs. 5.20 per month. It means that each household of five persons could easily afford to buy his/her entitlement for Rs 250 per month in rural Bihar plus other food items to lead a healthy life.

Additionally he/she would get free medical care at the village Sub-centre or dispensary and every household would have a medical assistant at door step including ambulance service if required. Budgetary provisions have been made, and Indian taxpayers are paying for these services for the poor.

However, a recent report prepared by Advisors to the Supreme Court Commissioners at Patna, states that none of these programs is working satisfactorily. The Commissioners are N.C. Saxena and Harsh Mander.

In respect of PDS, the allocation to each household is 25 kg against the norm of 35 kg [7 kg per person per month] and according to the report about 40% of

below poverty line households have been excluded. Same is the story with Antyodaya Anna Yojana [AAY], essentially distribution of minimum food grains for the poorest of the poor.

Since 13.67 million households are estimated to be below poverty line [BPL], about 5.5 million households are outside the entitlements; without a BPL or Antyodaya identification card they can't avail of NOAPS, NMBS and NFBS too. NREGS is also in a mess depriving millions of guaranteed income and unemployment allowance.

There is another major problem, not only in Bihar but across India. The Constitution 73rd Amendment sought to establish a powerful local self government. Eighteen years later, just about 5000 elite officers control the power structure and have managed to undermine the participative, decentralized governance across India, and that could not have happened without the complicity of State and Central level politicians.

The village, block and district councils are virtually implementing bodies of government schemes, working under the direction of a bureaucracy established by the British colonial rulers in the 19th century; decisions of elected people to the local self government can be neutralized by unelected officials.

Reporting of starvation deaths

Reporting and verification of starvation death is left entirely to the civil society. Concerned citizens report to the local media representatives who, in turn, file their report. No way of knowing how many were filed and how many were actually reported by the media. Sometimes citizens also send their report directly to the Advisors' office. The advisors' office then undertakes a verification visit to the town or village where the death has occurred.

Piecing together of evidence

Note that starvation death does not occur within a short time. It takes years for a person deprived of proper food and nutrition to come to a stage when normal physiological functions collapse, causing vital organ failure causing death.

The investigation is based on collection of detailed circumstantial evidences of sustained deprivation of food and other entitlements. To ascertain that, the investigating teams meet with the community leaders, village headman, talk to the neighbours, and the surviving members of the household.

They go to the homes of the dead to see what assets they have, how they live, where they work, how much they earn and cross check how much of the subsidized food they can buy. Most of these can be documented and this way a detailed case file is prepared.

During the reference period, the media has reported about 150 deaths; I saw the details of 96 out of which 24 [25%] have been verified by the Advisors office. The investigations were carried out by a team led by Rupesh and included Sanjay Sinha, Ritwij Kumar, Santosh Jha, Anish Ankur, Vineet Kumar, Karu ji, Siddhartha and Akhtar Hussain. A young lady Anshu, 21, has also investigated starvation deaths. Discussion with some of them shows that they can truthfully document the evidences.

The deaths are concentrated in flood and drought-prone areas and Bihar has both, and billions of rupees have been spent on flood and drought control, without respite for the people. This is failure of long term planning process.

Persons in all age groups have died: from under five children to 80 year olds, entirely avoidable loss of life. Data on the extent of malnutrition shows that women and children in all districts have a high incidence of malnutrition and politicians and government officials know that there is inter-generational cycle of malnutrition that would destroy the physical and mental ability of the population.

Have they been voted to perpetuate a mass of lowly, underfed, mentally challenged population who would work as their servants? Major systemic problems have been identified, but it seems that state Government has chosen to sleep over them.

The State government of 'Shining Bihar' can't accept starvation deaths

How can they, when a Supreme Court directive-that 'should any starvation death occur, the state

government shall be held directly responsible'- hangs like Damocles' sword? Therefore, it is virtually impossible to pin the blame on the state government. There are specifically two reasons why starvation deaths can't be proven in a law court.

Usually the body is cremated the same day, often by the police. Post mortem facility is not available in rural and remote rural areas. Autopsy would reveal interstitial edema of heart and 35-40% loss of body weight, both conclusive signs of starvation death. Among children shriveled skin, marasmus, shriveled temporalis muscle, and swelling of the feet are sure signs.

Government doctors will not certify a death by starvation; their career will be ruined. Therefore, even if the death occurred in a hospital, doctors would not specify starvation as the cause of mortality; instead they'd normally enter death by heart failure or respiratory failure.

Therefore, while it is medically possible to certify that a death occurred from starvation, it is extremely difficult to establish the fact in a law court. A person who has remained hungry for four months on the year for years can get any infectious disease like TB, gastroenteritis, severe cough and cold because the immune system is on the brink of collapse leading to morbidity and finally to mortality.

Would a doctor enter in the death certificate that the death occurred because of economic deprivation and hunger? Not to my knowledge. And that also means complete collapse of clinical governance in India that has wider ramifications.

Should any doctor even dare say that it did, given the judgment of the Supreme Court, it'd become a medico-legal case, exactly as if a family member was deprived of food and allowed to die of starvation. A household can be charged for manslaughter for causing the death by starvation of a family member, but not Bihar state.

The state can kill at will and it does but Nitish is a master media manipulator.

How many journalists in the mainstream media have reported this as it should be? Hindustan Times, Aaj, Sahara, Prabhat Khabar, Jagaran, all have reported, but in the local edition, and the context is missing; it has not hit national or international front page yet. Just a few lines for the bereaved family, the loss of a child or mother or the sole bread winner. The context is that there is total collapse of all national programs that have been carefully designed to ensure food and nutritional security, access to health, and decent livable wage; common citizens from 19 districts have reported starvation deaths. This is improper reporting and highly irresponsible behaviour of an elected government. Should India and Bihar keep shining?

Recall that during the British colonial period, 79 million Indians died of hunger and starvation. The British ruled ruthlessly quelling any law and order problem, while people died. Nitish has adopted that dictum. He has given Bihar a relatively safe society, safe for the chatteratti. But he has adopted a path of decimating the poor. Chandu Manjhi is for starters.

Wait for another 5-10 years and all the 'useless eaters' on whom tax-payers' money goes down the sink would have been cremated, no one even knowing why. Mangla Rai should go down as India's most corrupt scientist fit for being tried for treason, are setting an agenda that would destroy Bihar's 10 millennia old civilization. While he deposited of India's farmer saved seeds in Svalbard, Norway, in what is known as the 'SEED VAULT'.

The British starved Biharis for 15 decades and destroyed the physical quality of Bihar's people; Laloo Yadav destroyed Bihar's economy; Nitish and Mangla Rai will destroy a civilization that gave the world much to contemplate, being the birth place of Buddhism and land of Jainism [the 24th Tirthankara, Sri Mahavir ji, was born in Vaishali – ed]. The Sikhs know the importance of Bihar, being the birth place of Shri Guru Govind Singh ji. Yes, it gave plenty of food for thought through the ages.

Starving millions in Motihari brought Gandhi ji to Bihar and then started the movement for independence. History repeats itself, there is no Gandhi in sight but the politicians, bureaucrats and spurious scientists keep playing their colonial tunes.

arun1951@gmail.com

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bl gr Hkfe dh xMkb d l kFk ikfVu gkbMkyk; l dk fNMdko o Hkfe ij iYokj] rki eku dk l ek; kft r j[kr gA ikVhu gk; Mkyk; l V ¼xkcj] nky ; k [kyh] xM] xke=] [kehj dk fd.ou&QjeUV'ku ikMDV½ dk Hkfe dh fo"kkdrk&t gj dk fu"Øh; dju&t gj dk mrkju gr Hkfe o ik/kk ij fNMdko] vdj.k d ckn e o 30&40 fnu dh voLFkk e djA ; g fNMdko ik/kk dh of) o Hkfexr t hok dh l [; k rt xfr l c<rh gA

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xkcj % xkcj dh [kkn l Hkfe e fo|eku t gjh inkFk d t gj dk fu"Øh; djrk gA xke= e vud x.k gA dhVk 0; kf/k; k dh jkdFkke e mi; kxh gA bl e miyC/k vYi ik"kd rRo l rfyr ik/k c<okj e l gk; d xko'k d vkokl &dkB e iDdk Q'k cu] ft l l xke=&xkcj] Q'kj /kyk ikuh dk Vd&xM<k e , df=r djA bl l jkdQkLQV] t hIl e] ikbjkbV ; Dr l of/kr [kkn cuk, A

t ho fofo/krk % xko'k&i'kvk d mijkUr] iM&ik/kk fd fofo/krk] t l iM] e/; e mpkb dh oul ifr] gc&dkey ik/k] cy bR; kfn l ex&l efUor] df"k 0; oLFkk dk e[; vx gA iR; d Qke d pkjk rjQ db idkj dh ouLifr gkuk pkfg, A ik/k ft l dk mi; kx dhV fu; = gr t l uhe] djt] ekgvk] jRut kr] xnk] ryl h] l t uk] vk; ikfe; kj vdovk] ?krjk] ygl u] fep] l hrkQy dh ifRr; k&cht] bR; kfn dk LFkku nA

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nygu dh t M xfFk; k d l gt hoh jk; t kch; k 'kkdk.k] vkckgok dk u=t u&ukbVkt u dk mi; kx dj ikVhu d : i e nkuk e l xfgr gkrk g] og ukM; y dk u=t u l g; kxh Ql y d Hkh mi; kx e vkrk gA xg d l x nygu mxku e nkuk Ql y ykHkkfUor gkrh gA

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; g lg; kxh Qly d fl) kUr dk Hkkjr o vU; n'kk e viuk; k tk; A bl vuk[kh rduhd] l jkl k; fud ;x e u=tu mojd@eU; vj ij fuHkjrk lhfer gkxhA ; g oLrr% i; koj.k fe= rdfud ghrk gA

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mijh irk&ikQkby d t y dh x.koRrk cgrj jgrh g t k mojk Hkfe o dEikLV d l x mRiknu e mRrjk mRrj of) djuk l Hko gk t krk g fo'k"k dj ekul u vk/kkfjr [krh l Hkh A

ikLrkfor gLr{ki tl ; Fkk LFkku ij feVVh&enk] thok'e&dEikLV o t y dk l o/ku e vuid leL; kvksa dk lek/kku gsfl l ekuork t> jgh gA

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df"k ykHk dk 0; ol k; cu ml gr vk/kkj Hkr l fo/kkvk dk fodkl dju dh t: jr gA fct yh] ifjogu] Hk.Mkj.k&LVkjt] 'khr xg dh dMh dk et cr dju ij 40 ifr'kr [kk| l kexh dk [kjkc gku l cpk; k t k l drk gA ykxr [kp vul kj _ .kuhfr o ØfMM dkM dh fyfeV e l l k/ku d lkFk e] Qly chek d iko/kku e cnyko vko'; d gA

Ø; &foØ; l xerk l fd; k t k; ml gr l gdjh l LFkkvk dk l n< djuk iLrkfor g A bl dk ekMy g l gdkjh nX/k l LFkk, A , l k dju ij fcpkfy; k d gLr{ki dk de fd; k t k l drk gA fdl kuk dk viu mRiknu dk vPN Hkko feyx lkFk e mi Hkkdrk Hkh ykHkkfUor gkxA

Kkunku % fdl kuk dk l 'kfRdj.k gr Kkunku&f'k{kk] uohu rdfud e n{krk fodfl r dju gr Vuhx o in'kuk dk voykdu] vk; kft r dju gkx A l jy o LFkkuh; Hkk"kk e df"k dk; ekyk] ipk; rk e vk/kkj Hkr df"k xFk bR; kfn miyC/k djkuk ykHk nk; d gkxkA

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ifjofrr [krh i) fr ft l e de t kf[ke g ml viuk, A viR; kf'kr ekl e d ifr fujk/kd 'kfDr fodfl r gkrh gA l efUor rdfud viuku ij [kp e deh d lkFk e ykHk vf/kd feyrk gA bl dh mRiknu {kerk jkl k; fud [krh d cjkcj g , o 20&25 ifr'kr vf/kd mRiknu ikIr djuk Hkh l Hko gA ifjofrr@t fod [krh viuk u ij ykxr [kp&ykHk dk vuikr 1½2 l 3 ikIr gkrk g] jkl k; fud [krh dk vuikr g 1½1 l 1-5 A

ifjofrr [krh viuku ij [krh ykHk dk 0; ol k; d l kFk e l gk; d jkt xkj l xkeh.k vFk0; oLrk fodfl r dju d y{k dh ifr l Hko gA ifjofrr [krh viuk u ij jkt xkj d vol j e of) l ; ok ox Hkh xkeh.k {k= d bdkÝUMyh okrkoj.k e jguk il n djxkA

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bl iLrd dk df"k dk; ekyk dk 0; ogkfjd : i fn; k x; k gA bl e iR; d LVd gkYMj dk y{; e j[kk g] t l d"kd] mi HkkDrk] vul /kkudrk] fo|kFkh] Vuj&ifl {kd] 0; ol k; h] l kekft d fu; kt udrk] bR; kfn dkA

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Inspiring story shows shortcut to end GMOs

*** Jeffrey Smith**

Read this inspiring story below to find out what is possible with your financial support. I think it's a real eye opener for those who think ending GMOs is a long, drawn out, and difficult process. It took the audience just 11 minutes—11 minutes to give up food brands they had grown up with and to commit to seek healthier non-GMO food.

Of course this group had already been against genetically modified organisms as a concept. This was Greenfest after all; and in San Francisco no less. But when I asked them to honestly rate themselves on a scale of 1-100 how vigilant they had been at avoiding GMOs, the largest number of hands went up for lowest category—1-20. That's typical of most US audiences.And so is what happened next…

After showing them photos of damaged organs from lab rats fed GMOs, skin rashes from farm workers picking GM cotton, and dead livestock that had grazed on the cotton plants; when they saw rodent studies showing a 5-fold increase in infant mortality, smaller babies, sterile babies, and severe immune responses; when they realized that genes inserted into GM crops can transfer into the DNA of bacteria inside our intestines and possibly continue to function, and that the poisonous insecticide engineered into Monsanto's corn is found in the blood of pregnant women and unborn fetuses; when they learned how industry rigs their research to hide dangers and attacks independent scientists and their studies; when they discovered that FDA scientists had repeatedly warned of serious harm from GMOs, but the political appointee in charge—Monsanto's former attorney—allowed GM foods on the market without any required safety tests; and when they discovered that the same doctors' organization that first identified Gulf War syndrome, chemical sensitivities, and food allergies, now urges physicians to prescribe non-GMO diets to everyone; I asked the audience to rate themselves how vigilant they would be next week to avoid GMOs.

"How many will be low vigilance, 1-20?" No hands.
"20-40?" Still no hands
"40-60?" A couple of hands.

The most popular category shifted from the lowest vigilance (1-20) in the first vote, to the highest (80-100) in the second—just 11 minutes later. I then reminded the audience of the strategy to eliminate GMOs, which we had discussed at the beginning:

If brand managers from major food companies see any drop in market share that was attributable to growing anti-GMO sentiment in the US, it would be the food industry equivalent of a "Sell Signal." GMO ingredients would be considered a market liability and be discarded. Remember, these same companies had quickly removed GMOs from their European brands when GMO resistance spread there. To hit that sell signal in the US, we think the tipping point requires about 5% of US consumers changing their diet.

I asked the audience, "How in the world are we going to get 15 million Americans to change their diet?" After the 11 minutes, I told them, "Now we know. We just tell them the truth." I then asked the audience to rate themselves how active they planned to be to educate people on GMOs. At the start of the presentation, most rated themselves in the lowest category. After 11 minutes, nearly everyone was in the highest. "So you see," I said. "The same information that changes peoples' diets also makes the campaign go viral."

Endgame for GMOs

Now it's just a numbers game. Once we disseminate that information to enough people, it's the endgame for genetically modified food. The Institute for Responsible Technology has packaged this behavior-changing message into a full range of educational materials, organized local and national action groups, trained 750 people to give public presentations, and reaches 5-10 million people each month. Because collective consciousness is starting to awaken to this issue, it's become easier to get the word out and change lives. As the same time, we're now getting flooded with opportunities and requests.

With current staffing levels, we simply can't keep up. We need your help. We love our supporters. Our precious donors make our work possible. To you, and to everyone who has ever considered giving a donation, please understand that right now every single dollar has enormous leverage, driving us closer to a non-GMO future.Help us harvest all this low-hanging non-GMO fruit. Please make a contribution to help end the genetic engineering of our food supply. I wouldn't say we're in the home stretch just yet, but we're banking the turn and hear the crowd cheering. It's time to turn on the juice.

http://insideawake.posterous.com/inspiring-story-shows-shortcut-to-end-gmos

Nothing Special about Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

*** Devinder Sharma**

Some years back I delivered a memorial lecture at Rohtak in Haryana. The Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda was in the chair. Knowing how flawed his economic thinking of acquiring large tracts of farmland for the sake of industry in the name of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was, I dwelled upon the dangers and the disastrous fallout waiting to happen as far as livelihood security of the masses and country's food security was concerned. Hooda was obviously irked, and visibly angry. Cutting me short, he got up and intervened saying how right his policy was for the farmers, and for the state's ultimate economic progress. I asked him where and when was a public discourse held to know whether SEZ was a good investment, and he retaliated by challenging me to an open discussion anytime later in Chandigarh, which of course never happened.

Several years later, I stand bemused to find Hooda take a complete u-turn: "It is true that SEZs have not succeeded, not only in the state but in the entire country. There was economic slowdown in the entire world, so SEZs could not succeed," he said recently. Although he acknowledges the fault, what he says in its defence is also not correct. And this is true for the entire policy making process, which still refuses to accept the fundamental flaws in the SEZ policy. As IMF chief economist and an advisor to the prime minister, Raghuram Rajan, had stated way back in 2007: "India's SEZ policy was a tax give-away and was likely to shift Indian production to SEZs rather than create new economic activity." He was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying "these zones would be viable only if they focused on providing superior infrastructure, business-friendly regulations and exemptions from labour laws rather than offering often misdirected subsidies, guarantees, and tax sops that a stretched budget can ill-afford".

By October 2011, ministry of commerce had approved 583 SEZs. As per news reports, one-third of these – approximately 202 -- have been already withdrawn. A majority of those who are still struck are known to be looking for better escape options. For instance, the realty giant DLF with its joint venture partner Hubtown, has recently sold its IT SEZ in Pune to a private equity firm Blackstone for Rs 810-crore. In Haryana, Reliance Haryana SEZ Limited (RHSL), a Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Ventures Ltd and Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIDC), is the latest one to drop out. It had earlier shelved its Jhajjar SEZ and converted it into a model economic township to be implemented by a new company. Reliance was seeking further extension for its Gurgaon SEZ, but has been finally asked to return 1,383 acres that it got from the state government. In Andhra Pradesh, 109 SEZs were approved, only 36 are operational.

The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation has scrapped the MoUs with the major defaulters and taken back the land assigned, including from Unitech and Caparo. In Haryana, only 3 of the 46 approved SEZ are in operation. SEZ were promoted as a engine house of economic liberalisation. These were primarily set up to prop-up the slowing economy. These were supposed to drive exports, and, in turn employment and growth. All kinds of sops – tax waivers and giveaways – including precious land provided at a throwaway price, were given to energise manufacturing and exports. To blame the economic slowdown therefore for the failure of SEZs to take-off is to find an easy escape route for the fundamentally flawed policy.

Even before the global economic meltdown of 2009-10, SEZs had failed to live up to the expectations and at the same time failed to demonstrate any significant upswing in export growth. In reality, it provided a massive windfall for realty developers. SEZ were perceived as real estate ventures and therefore an opportunity for land grab where developers could use 65 per cent of the acquired land to build hotels, restaurant and apartments. Why blame Hooda alone, prime minister Manmohan Singh too was mesmerised by the SEZ potential. At an award ceremony in Mumbai in 2007, he had said: "Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is an idea whose time has come." Supported by all political parties, including the Left Front, he actually launched a nationwide campaign to forcibly acquire and make available land on a platter to the industry, displacing lakhs of farmers.

What began with SEZ subsequently continued in the name of industrial development. Farmers resisted, and pitched land battles were waged across the country, the likes of which have not been witnessed in living memory. The resulting social unrest across the rural spectrum was considered to be a small price the country must pay for achieving long-term development. As companies lined up for SEZs, most state governments went aggressively into property dealing. As expected, not many states have realised the social and economic benefits that were originally promised. Except for the IT sector, which has very cleverly used SEZ to seek further extend the tax exemption period, the enthusiasm from other sectors was clearly missing. In essence, SEZ was a misplaced idea whose time had lapsed much before it caught the imagination of policy makers in India.

http://devinder-sharma.blogspot.in/2012/01/nothing-special-about-special-economic.html

Agricultural Issues that Need Focused Attention in the Twelfth Five Year Plan

*** Dr. Amrit Patel**

Agriculture has equal, if not greater, significance than industry or service sector as it provides livelihood to millions of farmers and food security to 1.21 billion people of the country. It has the potential to provide prosperity to farmers and better health nourishing food to more than a billion people. Issues inhibiting agricultural growth have been known to all since the country's independence but now these issues have aggravated the agricultural situation, more particularly after the implementation of financial sector reforms in 1990s. India may do well to appreciate that time is money but speed is profit.

Issues

Issues relating to growth and development of agriculture [including livestock, dairy and fish farming] that can impact directly on the livelihood of farming community and food security to country's 1.21 billion people, among others, should receive priority attention in the Twelfth Five Year Plan [2012-17].

These pressing Issues include competing demand for land, water, energy and financial resources; containing marginalization of size of land holding; tenancy rights to tenant farmers, share croppers and oral lessees; making farming significantly attractive to rural youths as agro-entrepreneurs; opening opportunities for landless agricultural laborers to engage in rural non- farm sectors; expanding, widening and deepening scope of production, transport, storage and processing of farm produce to make an impact on country's export trade; agricultural marketing reforms; climate change, infrastructure and delivery system.

Infrastructure

Provision of Infrastructure in rural areas to sustain process of agricultural development [as in the case of urbanization and development of industry, trade and commerce] has not received its legitimate share in any of our Five Year Plans and the situation now is catastrophic and explosive. It has been the need of the hour and cannot be postponed. While road connectivity, transport and communication, fuel, energy and power supply to accelerate the farm and rural development needs no emphasis and re-emphasis, institutional infrastructure to deliver services in areas viz. education, health, drinking water, sanitation, cooking fuel, housing etc. that can directly improve the quality of human life and standard of living in rural areas has to, in any case, reflect the concern, commitment, governance and accountability of the elected representatives, State Governments in particular and Union Government in general.

Capital formation

To accelerate the process of agricultural growth and agricultural growth rate, which has significant influence on country's GDP and reduction in poverty, significant amount of capital formation in agriculture supported by public and private sectors is a sine qua non in specific areas such as, [i] development of irrigation by exploiting surface irrigation & groundwater resources, generation of electricity/power to draw groundwater [ii] intensifying soil & moisture conservation measures and land improvement [iii] improving drainage system [iv] strengthening drought proofing and flood control measures [v] all weather roads connecting all villages and towns to facilitate easy and timely transport [vi] storage, warehousing, preservation and processing facilities[vii] Value chains and integrated marketing infrastructure

[viii]developing sound information, communication & market intelligence system [ix] building integrated agricultural research, extension & education system and [x] easily accessible soil & water testing facilities [xi] production, quality control & pricing system to facilitate timely availability of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, fuel, farm equipment & machinery etc.[xii] farm mechanization [xiii] establishing state-of-the-art agri-meteorology in each agro-ecological region of the country.

Research

Research is a continuous process that has to be pursued vigorously and incessantly in the critical areas, viz. land development and reclamation; soil and moisture conservation; soil health care; seeds and planting material; high yielding cattle breeds; plant nutrients and livestock feed; plant protection and animal health care; sources of irrigation and farm power; scientific methods of crop, livestock and fish farming; methods to minimize farm losses and wastage at field level and during transport,

storage, processing and marketing of produce; quality of farm and livestock products; packaging and marketing; financial, business and management practices; concepts and approaches to share and disseminate knowledge at real time etc.

Productivity

Farm productivity per unit area, time and space can be phenomenally increased, as has been demonstrated in the USA & European countries through policy and programs aimed at enhancing productivity and minimizing cost at farmer's level. This undoubtedly necessitates planned financial investment specific to the critical component of crop, livestock, dairy and fish farming enterprises, such as production, procurement, storage and distribution of international standards of quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, water, farm power, equipment and machinery, livestock feeds, veterinary medicines etc. Access of users to these facilities and services in far flung and remote villages has to be reliable, timely and at affordable price.

The supply and use of these inputs of production has necessarily to be accompanied by transfer of proven and demonstrated yield-enhancing and cost-minimizing technology in each individual village by making extension workers responsible and accountable. Farm productivity improvement is influenced by the use of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, water, farm power, equipment and machinery etc. which have necessarily to be of standard quality, available on time and at reasonable price protecting consumers' rights. This, therefore, calls for putting in place a competent Regulatory and Development Authority to consider legal framework, mechanism and procedure to ensure that farmers as users invariably are guaranteed to receive farm inputs of notified specifications and to redress grievances.

Reports

The reports of National Commission on Agriculture, Irrigation Commission, National Commission for Farmers, MS Swaminathan Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, State Agricultural Universities, ICAR and National level research institutes have produced wealth of useful knowledge on understanding issues of agriculture and suggested solutions to these issues on which policy interventionists have to act and administrators have to translate into development programs in consultation with all stakeholders.

Recommendations of expert committees on policy to arrest desertification, land degradation, productive soil becoming saline and alkaline need to be implemented and programs for increasing output in rain-fed areas, drought proofing and utilizing flood waters that necessitate significant capital investment, scientific knowledge and professionalism have to be formulated in public-private-partnership mode. Potential of Public-private –partnership mode needs to be unleashed by dialogue and discussion among all stakeholders and developing appropriate policies and programs.

Regulatory Authority

Since resources, viz. land, water and energy are limited, scarce, costly and having competing demand for urbanization, industrialization and agriculture there is greater need now than before to consider setting up an independent Regulatory and Development Authority manned by professional to look these resources in totality and evolve appropriate legal framework, mechanism and procedure to deal with existing and emerging issues including redressal of grievances.

Credit

Credit to agriculture is a catalyst to lubricate the process of accelerating the growth and development of agriculture. It has to be supported by creating facilitating legal and regulatory framework that can, inter alia, substantially improve the credit absorption capacity and credit culture of the users and the agro-ecological regions of the country, build institutional capacity, strengthen rather than vitiating credit discipline and loan recovery climate, channel credit significantly and in a planned way in backward, tribal, hilly, desert, drought prone regions and to poor and vulnerable rural households that can minimize imbalances and achieve inclusive growth. The efforts of the Government, RBI and financial institutions so far made have phenomenally increased the credit flow from year to year but could not achieve the slated objectives since the flow is directionless.

The country has just 33,489 branches in villages, covering only 5.2% of country's 6,38,652 villages. It is worth researching [for formulating policy on rural branch licensing] the concentration of credit in these 33,489 villages plus a few bordering villages depriving around 90% villages that has contributed to significant level of imbalances within districts, regions, States and the country, making rich richer and poor poorer. Between 1999 and 2011 number of rural branches increased by 632 from 32,857 to 33,489 despite there are as many as 28 public sector and 24 private sector banks operating with mandate to lend to agriculture in the country.

The main reason known to all is the cost of opening branches and then operating in villages. This has been known since 1969 when 14 major banks were nationalized

and subsequently private banks were licensed to be set up with a mandate to open rural branches. It is worth appreciating that every development has a cost and that the Government. RBI and banks will have to seriously consider it necessary that commercial banks and regional rural banks open branches progressively at least in 25% of villages and each branch must necessarily and compulsorily by mandate serve other three villages.

It is most essential and desirable that the cooperative credit institutions, Union and State Governments can speed up their efforts to revive 94,647 PACS and 697 PCARDB within three years in a time bound program that can supplement efforts of commercial banks. It is unfortunate that progress of the revival of short-term credit cooperatives under implementation since 2006 has yet to show the expected results. Similarly, program of revival of long-term cooperatives has yet to start as the report is pending with Union Government for approval since January 2010.

Recommendations need to be implemented within two years on legal, organizational, management, functional and operational reforms, contained in the reports of the BrahmPraksh committee on Model Cooperative Act [1990], the Ardhanareeswaran committee on State Cooperative Act and the committee on financial sector reforms and cooperative banking [1994]. A sub-committee should be set up to work out all finer details for opening 1,26,500 branches of 24 public sector,28 private sector and 82 regional rural banks in 10 years..

The capital cost of opening branches can be shared among Union and State Governments and banks. Even the capital cost can be made available from the RIDF as also unutilized funds provided to each member of both houses of parliament for area development on an annual basis.

These branches need to adopt technology to reach unreached households for which the capital cost can be met out of Financial Inclusion and Financial Inclusion & Technology Fund already established which can be augmented by adding additional funds out of State and Union budgetary resources.

While the RBI should liberalize rural branch licensing policy in consultation with banks, Union and State Governments, the SLBC under the superintendence of the RBI at the State head quarter should be the monitoring authority to ensure that each commercial bank opens branches in a planned and systematic manner. Since the response of 24 private sector banks to open rural branches has been lukewarm they have to demonstrate their concern and commitment in this critical area. The regional office of each bank has a primary role and responsibility to monitor the performance of its rural branches on a quarterly basis and the central office on a half yearly basis. State Governments and Union Governments have to create rural infrastructure for each village, block and district in 10 years in a time bound program. Effectiveness of banks' performance depends greatly on bank management's commitment to put in place effective rural human resource development and training policy to match the requirements of rural areas, in sharp contrast to urban and metropolitan towns, and Government's commitment to provide adequate autonomy to banks to operate professionally as business institutions, leaving the regulatory control to RBI.

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Banks cannot expect their each and every rural branch as a profit center and particularly branches in North-Eastern States, hilly, tribal and desert districts of the country. However, sustainable financial viability of bank at the aggregate level can be attained if enabling measures are initiated, viz.

[i] Developing financial products [savings, credit, insurance, remittances etc.] based on local needs rather than country as a whole. Banks, except a very few, on their own have yet [after four decades of nationalization] to develop financial products for different agro-ecological regions.

Banks have agricultural lending schemes with stereotype blueprints of terms and conditions for the country as a whole, but not loan products to suit clients of each agro-ecological region of the country. Even KCC & GCC designed by the NABARD has been one-fits-all and not developed to meet local needs.

[ii] After developing product banks have to formulate appropriate marketing strategy to make it reach to the expected clients. Experience suggests that while this is conspicuously absent banks wait customers to visit branch several times.

According to NABARD studies, most banks have not guided their clients about the benefits and utility of KCC as a result the objective has been defeated. [iii] Banks need to design simple processes based on local needs to facilitate clients avail the products. While most banks have yet to respond to this requirement, banks have yet not been fully complying with the simplified procedure to avail bank credit that has been advised by the RBI. [iv] Banks can build sufficient business that covers diversified sectors of rural economy instead focusing only agriculture.

[v]Banks remain busy to finance Government programs being implemented by Government agencies. These programs involve provision of capital subsidy to beneficiaries which is compulsorily linked to bank credit.

Disbursement of subsidy and bank credit is strictly monitored by the district authorities on a quarterly basis.[vi] Since April 1, 1989 all banks have been implementing Service Area Approach and hence most rural branches of banks might have perhaps covered all eligible borrowers under credit programs in the villages where branches are situated. Hence, now these branches will have to develop new financial products to cater to existing clients and finance other clients from adjoining two or three villages to develop business. [vii] What is expected of them is significant improvement in building business in all areas right from designing need based products, processes, marketing strategy etc. in a professionalized way.

[viii] State Government's affirmative support is necessary in creating credit culture that can encourage borrowers to willingly repay bank credit on time and put in place infrastructure as detailed in the State Focus document and district-wise Potential Linked Plan prepared each year by NABARD. This can be monitored by the SLBC. [ix] Banks need to consider on time write off loans of individual borrowers as business decision without awaiting Government's mandate around election periods.[x] Rural areas offer opportunities to rural branches in mobilizing significant amount of low-cost savings and term-deposits if they develop savings products and marketing strategy [xi] agriculture in particular and rural development in general has significant potential for Insurance products and services that banks can endeavor to tie-up with insurance companies. Apart from credit insurance there are number of critical components of insurance needs in rural areas that necessitates research and development efforts.

[xii] Banks need to deploy around 75% of deposits mobilized from rural areas as credit in rural areas. This means rural credit deposit ratio should be 75% as against earlier 60%.[xiii] Rural branch has the potential to attain operational viability if it can commit to develop business plans, business models and strategic action plan to penetrate deeply and widely in four to five adjoining villages in a professionalized way and it's performance is monitored and reviewed by higher office in much greater detail on a quarterly basis.

[xiv] The banks may consider necessary to promote business models that help farmers raise farm output and income, such as value chain finance, warehouse receipts, finance lease, contract farming etc. and the Government should establish legal framework to protect farmers from exploitation. [xv] Banks have been providing a variety of services to clients of differing categories and sectors of economy. Banks professionalism and capabilities to manage domestic and international business have been contributing a significant amount to their revenues and profit before tax. Banks have tremendous potential to manage and expand agricultural portfolio. However, since 1969 banks have been severely controlled and regulated and sometimes over-regulated as a result professionals in banks have lost all enthusiasm and vigor to service agricultural portfolio.

Subsidies

The country has now been witnessing existence of India divided in two distinct parts, one relatively under developed rural India that is perceived as heavily depending upon subsidies that Government partly passes from taxes paid by prosperous urbanites. Farmers feel hurt of this act of the Government as they never want anything in the form of subsidy. What they want is adequate, planned and systematic financial investment on an annual basis in agriculture that can substantially convert their agriculture into wealth in the form of food, milk, eggs, meat, fish and transfer them at affordable price to urbanites to improve and maintain their health and vigor and industrial crops as raw material for industries, besides exporting quality products to fetch valuable foreign exchange. . they want is adequate, planned and systematic financial investment on an annual basis in agriculture that can substantially convert their agriculture into wealth in the form of food, milk, eggs, meat, fish and transfer them at affordable price to urbanites to improve and maintain their health and vigor and industrial crops as raw material for industries, besides exporting quality products to fetch valuable foreign exchange. .

States' Commitment

Experience over a period of time suggests that individual States and panchayati raj institutions will have now to demonstrate its role in significantly raising farm productivity and creating infrastructure for sustainable development of agriculture and improving the standard of living and quality of human life in rural areas by drawing a road map, monitoring its implementation and conducting annual evaluation to assess whether the State has achieved the expected outcomes in terms of development indicators rather than achieving expenditure targets. The Union Government will need to have a different approach for designing programs and sharing expenditure with States.

States with potential for development

The States of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have unfathomable potential of agriculture which farmers are keen to tap if scientists can unleash it by researches and Government supports by adequate financial investment and banks make available credit..

North- Eastern region

The socio-economic development of North- Eastern region and other States with hilly districts and concentration of tribal population need a totally different vision and strategy to accomplish the vision aimed at bringing hilly and tribal people in the nation's mainstream.

Information Technology

India has earned a name in the sphere of Information Technology in the world which the country should now demonstrate its practical utility in rural areas in making available all statistics through computerizing them that affect agriculture, land, water and farm power, besides records establishing relationship with farming community.

Knowledge Management

India can benefit profusely sharing experiences with international organizations, such as World Bank, ADB, IFAD, CGAP, USAID,IFPRI, GTZ, KFW, WOCCU etc. in understanding the issues related to agriculture and agricultural credit and policy and business models successfully tried to address the issues. Government of India and small farmers can share experiences and learn from small holding size farmers in Japan to improve productivity of farm, fish and livestock and from Israel to efficiently utilize each drop of water through installing sprinkler and drip irrigation units and increasing productivity, output and quality of fruits and vegetables and exporting them.

Elected representatives

Role and functions of elected representatives, right from village Pachayats to Parliament have to sharply focus on their responsibilities and accountability towards people of rural areas who have voted them to design policies and programs for the generation of wealth through development of agriculture and well- being of farming communities rather than agriculture perpetually depending upon Government subsidies. This has to be reflected through good governance and transparency in policy making, designing and implementing all programs of agriculture, rural development and human life.

Economic surveys

Annual economic surveys presented by Union Government needs to exhibit detailed performance under each program in the following year by collecting full details of data on performance under computerized system. Full evaluation of all individual programs is a must at the end of the fourth year of the Five Year Plan to precisely understand the deficiencies in the policy, planning and implementation process that can be rectified in the next Five Year Plan. On lines of RBI, the Union Ministry of Agriculture should make available on its web site minute details of policy, project, programs, reports, seminars, papers presented etc. regularly and updated on a daily basis..

Development of rural areas

The problem of developing agriculture cannot be isolated from the development of rural areas and the development of rural communities to dispel ignorance and poverty and assist in the process of creating self-reliant and self-sustaining healthy modern little communities. Agriculture can no longer be identified with mere increase in GNP or even per capita national income.

The increased income is expected to be so distributed as to result in significant diminution of inequalities of income and wealth. Every rural family should be enabled to participate in the generation of wealth and should have its reasonable share in the generated GNP. For this, the policy and programs have to be formulated in consultation with people at village level involving panchayati raj institutions rather than being framed by bureaucracy at the top.

Media

Print and electronic media can play important role to bring to public notice ground realities region-wise in regional language on the planning and implementation of programs on agriculture that can open eyes of the policy interventionists and act as pressure group to revisit policy and programs.

Conclusion: Farmers in particular and rural households in general should identify their financial and non-financial needs for income generating activities in rural farm and non-farm sector and infrastructure and demand them as their right from elected representatives. State and Union Government need to allocate adequate financial resources in their annual budgets to tackle issues of poverty, hunger, child nutrition, food security and rural infrastructure.

Implementing agencies including banks should have serious concern, commitment and be accountable to achieve expected goals district, State and region-wise. Information about the performance of each program should be made available to the public every month through local print and electronic media as also through seminars, workshops and conferences at district level.

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Europe's carmakers hit out at India trade deal

*** John Reed**

29 Jan 2012 - Europe's carmakers are crying foul over a proposed trade agreement between the European Union and India, which they say would restrict access to one of their most important but highly protected markets. The industry, led by Germany's powerful VDA carmakers' association, says the agreement as discussed would grant Indian-built cars immediate duty-free access to the EU but would only reduce the tariff barrier to European vehicle exports to a level of 30 per cent, which would stay intact indefinitely.

"The results which are on the table are not deserving of the name 'free trade' because it's not a real free-trade deal," said Matthias Wissmann, VDA president. "The Indian side wants to keep a 30 per cent tariff on passenger cars and gives only vague promises that it will negotiate with the EU again in 2017." Carmakers have been pressing their case ahead of an EU-India summit on February 10, at which this and other contentious issues blocking a proposed agreement are likely to be aired.

Ivan Hodac, head of Acea, the pan-European automakers' association whose members include Volkswagen and General Motors' Opel/Vauxhall, said the group supported free-trade agreements in principle but opposed the Indian FTA as currently discussed.

We want to have an unrestricted access to the Indian market in return for unrestricted access to the European market," Mr Hodac said. "We want a level playing field." The EU's trade spokesman said talks toward a trade agreement continued and "we are looking forward to the political impetus and momentum the upcoming EU-India summit can bring".

The intervention by one of Europe's biggest industries adds to a host of barriers to an agreement, where the two sides are still at odds on a range of topics, including visas, the Indian commercial sector and the opposition of some Indian states. The trade deal has been under discussion since 2007 and Indian ministers have emphasised the need to keep open markets during the economic downturn.

This month Manmohan Singh, the prime minister, warned protectionism was on the rise. European-built cars at present face a 60 per cent tariff in India, which carmakers say doubles the price of imported cars once value added tax and other costs are added. European carmakers say their cars face significant non-tariff barriers in India, including "redundant" and costly protocols on testing of items such as horns and wheels, according to the VDA.

Premium German brands such as BMW and Daimler's Mercedes-Benz are especially hard hit by the barriers because they export a greater proportion of their cars than most mass-market producers, which have bigger manufacturing operations in India. Indian-built cars face a 10 per cent tariff in the EU, lowered to 6.5 per cent because India is considered a developing country.

European carmakers point to a large trade surplus in India's favour as evidence the country's industry does not need special treatment. The country exported 223,102 cars to Europe in 2011 but imported just 4,002, according to Acea. European carmakers are still smarting from a trade agreement between the EU and South Korea that took effect last year, opening the door to imports by Hyundai and Kia – two of Europe's fastest-growing car brands in 2011 – while failing to remove a range of non-tariff barriers blocking exports to South Korea.

Even before any agreement with India, low-priced Indian-built cars such as the Suzuki Swift and Hyundai Getz are becoming a small but growing presence at the bottom of Europe's competitive small-car segment. Ford Motor, which has a large European manufacturing operation near Cologne, says it exports cars in the "hundreds, not thousands" to India. "We would accept an asymmetric dismantling of the tariff barrier but there should be a zero at the end of the tunnel," said Wolfgang Schneider, Ford Europe's head of governmental and environmental affairs.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c8fa89e2-490d-11e1-88f0-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1l2LyeMgx

Rotary Club & BKS of Thirukudanthai (Kumbakonam) Welcome Dr. Krishan Bir Chaudhary



Dr.Krishan Bir Chaudhary addressing a meeting organized by Rotary Club in collaboration with Bharatiya Krishak Samaj on 23rd January 2012 in Thirukudanthai, Kumbakonam (Tamilnadu) and was chaired by Rtn.Raghava Narayanan, President of Rotary Club and State General Secretary of BKS, Sh.D.Gurusamy, President, Tamilnadu BKS was guest of honour, Rtn.Thanga Rajendran welcomed the guests & social researcher from Germany Ms.Sarah Buehler were also on dais. The meeting was attended by farm leaders of Thanjavur District, apart from members of rotary club and Kumbakonam Chamber of Commerce.



Dr.Krishan Bir Chaudhary, President Bharatiya Krishak Samaj along with Swami Sri La Sri Siva Gnana Desiga Swamigal, Ms.Sarah Buehler. and other farmer leaders and dignitaries in a farmers religious programme organized by S.Venkatesan, Distt. Sect. Federation of Cuddalore District Farmers Association in his village Karmangudi District Cuddalore (Tamilnadu) on 24th January 2012.



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Dr.Krishan Bir Chaudhary, President Bharatiya Krishak Samaj, addressing media. After visiting badly damages farmers field by Thane Cyclone along with Mr.D. Gurusamy , President, Tamilnadu BKS, Mr.S.Venkatesan, Distt. Sect. Federation of Cuddalore District Farmers Association and other farmer leader in Cuddalore on 24th January 2012.





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