

# "KISSAN JAMAWDA"

Aug. 22-23, 2012, New Delhi

## APPEAL

We all know that India is a land of villages. The picture of a Village without farming is beyond imagination. It is amply clear for quite some time now that farming sector is in serious crisis. Farmer is either struggling or is quitting both village and farming, and his life too - by way of committing suicide.

Farmer's struggle is divided into parts. Somewhere they fight for seed, elsewhere for fertilizer, land acquisition, minimum support price, water, power, subsidy, storage, procurement of crop, restrictions on export, import permissions; against exploitation by corporate sector and even natural disasters. Very rarely does farmer succeed in securing transient victory that too only after generous sacrifices.

Funds allocated to agriculture in the union budget have been steadily declining every year. Even a cursory look at his struggle against - Seed Bill, Biodiversity Regulatory Act, Water Policy, Food Safety and Standards Act, patent law, foreign investment, Contract farming, Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, the Land Acquisition Act, subsidy, BT Technology, GM Techniques, Free Trade Agreement (FTA), etc. Etc - provides sufficient reason to believe that 'agriculture - farmers - villages' are gradually wiped out from official agenda. Consequent impact of this process is visible on several sections of the society including political parties and Media. Efficacy of the available leaders belonging to Farming in different political parties and their influence on policies of their respective organizations is also best known to them.

Several people and organizations are working on these issues on several fronts. But enormity of the challenge and intensity of the struggle demands increased interaction and complimentary networking among all these leaders and organizations for a strong, sustained and successful struggle. The possibility of mobilizing sufficient public opinion in persuading government to affect required policy and legislative changes will increase manifold, we believe. 'Villages without farming and India without villages is unconceivable' - If it is a fact and if you believe that the time to launch a decisive struggle for systemic change has come - then farmers will have to make this declaration themselves, unanimously and unitedly!

With agitated minds and plenty of Ideas in our mind, few of us sat together, and this 'KISSAN JAMAWDA' is the outcome of churning of ideas in that meeting. We believe that this is our collective Vision transcending parties and ideologies. Of course, It will be successful only with the support of all. Therefore you are requested cordially to extend your whole-hearted support in organizing 'KISSAN JAMAWDA' in New Delhi on **22-23 August 2012** and also to guide us in making the movement successful.

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