Twitter Thread by Bhartiya Kisan Union



Bhartiya Kisan Union
@BKU_KisanUnion

1/4 This is Kisan Manifesto prepared by KCC. It is a very comprehensive document which details out problems and solutions to agriculture crisis. Liberalisation/ Freedom of agriculture is the essence. All political parties should adopt these suggestions if they are sincere (cont)

Farmers' Manifesto for Freedom

Nyaybandi - Dhan Mukti - Dhan Vapasi

Seven decades after India won Independence from British colonial rule, the largest section of our population, the farmers, have remained bound by the chain of laws and regulations.

Recognition of Property rights

Farmers are emasculated, by the sustained assault on their Property Rights, much more than any other sections of society.

Land: It is the principal property of farmers, yet the assets have been grossly devalued. Under constant threat of acquisition, restrictions on land use, rent and lease, along with land ceiling, characterised by poor land records, limiting access to credit and investment, very inefficient land use, and high levels of corruption. Tribal communities, a significant part of the farming community are struggling for recognition of their rights over land and natural resources.

Farm produce: The property which is the product of farmers' labour, have been devalued by innumerable restrictions on trade and limited access to market, thus policies and politics have colluded to deliberately depress farm income.

Technology: It has an increasing role in improving productivity and income, while lowering environmental stress, yet access to technologies are either restricted or prohibited, undermining farmers' potential to grow crops while putting a greater stress on environment. This has forced farmers to seek new technologies surreptitiously with attendant risks.

As the 17th Lok Sabha election approaches, this is the farmers call for freedom, a plea to every citizen to hear and heed. At stake is not just the future of farmers, but the future of Bharat that is India.

- Indian agriculture is the largest private sector. Keeping farmers chained to poverty by legal and regulatory restrictions has diminished freedom and prosperity for all citizens.
- Farmers are suffering due to low prices for their produce, and lack of access to market, while consumers are paying a much higher price for.
- With demonetisation, every Indian got a glimpse of the scope of the government's assault on private property. The farmers experience similar devaluation of their property on a daily basis. The latest one in the name of

2/4 Abolishing APMC Act, Essential Commodities Act, deletion of 9th schedule of Constitution which denies justice to farmers, Karz Mukti, Nyayabandi, Dhan Mukti, Dhan Vapsi, unlocking the land, freedom of trade, future trading, freedom to access science & tech (contd)

most are not just distressed, they are gasping for survival and desperately looking for an opportunity to turn the tide and prosper.

Indian agriculture has become synonymous with poverty, not because the farmers are incapable, but because they are being prevented from unlocking the wealth of their assets and unleashing their spirit of independence.

Anti-Freedom & Anti-Farmer Laws

UNLOCKING THE LAND:

Land is the principal asset for a farmer. While every other section of the economy seeks to grow their assets, invests to make those assets more productive and therefore valuable, the farmers are prohibited and penalised when they try to do the same. There is the ubiquitous threat of land acquisition with the sword of the state permanently hanging over farmers. Most farmers can't legally rent or lease land. He can sell his land only to another farmer. But being in perpetual distress, few farmers can afford to buy farm land, that too without falling foul of land ceiling laws.

Since farming is not seen as a business enterprise but more as a life-style, farmers are prohibited from changing their land use pattern; in fact they are even prohibited from quitting agriculture.

Instead of deregulating land laws, that have restricted normal economic transactions such as rent, lease or sale of land, new layers of regulations in the form of model land leasing, contract farming laws, and others are being introduced. Plethora of laws cannot substitute Rule of Law, rather this approach has only trapped most farmers in the ever-growing regulatory quagmire. Surfeit of such laws have choked the judicial system with litigations, making the simple task of enforcement of contract a challenge, imposing huge cost on the economy.

FREEDOM TO TRADE:

Open and competitive markets, based on recognition and respect for property rights, facilitate freedom to trade and are prerequisites for any vibrant and growing economy. Yet, farmers are restricted in terms of where, how and at what price they can sell their produce. All these restrictions are forms of violation of their property rights.

The Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMC) which were supposed to ensure fair price to the farmers and save them from exploitation by middlemen, have instead created legal monopoly power for select set of licensed traders who now have a stranglehold on farmers and other traders.

We are happy that @INCIndia @RahulGandhi have adopted some parts.

Lets see what @BJP4India @narendramodi adopt.

It is time for political parties to start recognising farmers as citizens of this country too.

Bhupinder Singh Mann Ex MP and National President of BKU and Chairman of All India Kisan Coordination Committee