

National Commission on Farmers

8.22 National Commission on Farmers set up in 2004 to suggest an action plan for farmers and farm sector has submitted three interim reports in December 2004 and August and December 2005.

8.23 The First Interim Report of the Commission covers a wide range of recommendations dealing with integrated life-saving support programme for farm families facing acute distress; productivity and livelihood enhancement in rainfed areas; a new deal for women in agriculture; strengthening and expanding the horticulture revolution; enhancing productivity, quality and global competitiveness of cotton; sustaining and expanding trade in farm commodities and its sanitary and phytosanitary dimensions; village knowledge centres; and nutrition security of livestock and livelihoods. The Report also covers rehabilitation and

alleviation of fishermen and farm families from distress due to tsunami, empowerment of community-based organizations and Panchayati Raj institutions, and administrative initiatives like creation of a Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund for women.

8.24 The Second Interim Report deals with food for all, fish for all, enhancing productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of hill and arid agro-ecosystems, coastal zone agriculture, mission for the prosperity of sugarcane farmers, conservation, cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants, organic farming, bio-fuels and agricultural market reforms. The Third Interim Report deals mainly with strengthening of agricultural research, towards an Indian single market and technology missions. Action has already been initiated for firming up Government's decision on the recommendations made in these reports.