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Happy New Year

Chairman & Secretary
General, B. K. S. wish a happy
& prosperous New Year 1976
to all the members & readers.

Editorial

Small Farmers Need Irrigation

Vast majority of farmers in the country of small farmers. Unless the weaker sections who are in possession of the vast majority of small holdings can utilise the new technologies, the national agricultural production will be adversely affected. Besides good seed, fertilizers and credit the most important farm input is irrigation water which largely enables to reap the advantages of new technologies and harness the maximum production from small holdings.

At present there are about 77 million hectares of land which has no irrigation facilities whatsoever. It is necessary to take appropriate social and economic measures to meet the situation. Large irrigation projects do not cover all the areas and therefore ground water development is of great importance for the improvement of irrigation facilities to the large areas which comprise mostly of small holdings. Lift irrigation through open wells, tube wells small embankments on streams and rivers, village ponds and percolation tanks all across the countryside are more attractive to the farmers since the irrigation water through these means can be at their immediate command. Farmers should organise themselves into the groups for harnessing all possible resources at local levels. All possible help needs to be extended from all resource concerns to the farmers group for this purpose. There are vast reserves of ground water wanting to be harnessed. The regional imbalances in the availability of irrigation potential should be rectified by an integrated approach to surface and ground water irrigation.

The development of this irrigation potential also depends very much on the spread of electrification in rural areas—through major transmission and distribution network. Major efforts to fully tap the ground water potential for irrigation and make it available to the millions of small farmers certainly holds the key for making the success of the green revolution across the country helping the nation become self-sufficient not only in food but all agricultural requirements.

All members of Bharat Krishak Samaj must assure the required leadership in discharging this national responsibility by initiating potential ground water irrigation projects all over the country for the benefit of our farming community in the larger interest of the Nation.

—Dr. D.A. Bholay

Do not disturb Land Ceiling Law

Nathu Ram Mirdha



Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha, Chairman National Commission on Agriculture addressing the Farmer's Day Meeting organised by Tamilnadu Agricultural University at Coimbatore

Coimbatore. The National Commission on Agriculture has recommended to the Government of India that the existing legislation on land ceiling should not be distributed for a long time to come.

Disclosing this here Mr. Nathuram Mirdha, Chairman of the commission, said farmers should be assured that the existing land ceilings would not be disturbed, so that they could take steps to improve the land.

It had been the practice among politicians to divide the farmers as big farmers, absentee landlords, etc. After the imposition of the land ceiling, there was no meaning in political slogans such as big farmers and small farmers.

Mr. Mirdha was confident that the Government would accept the recommendations of the commission, to be submitted by the end of this month, regarding land ceiling.

Speaking at farmers Day celebrations, organised here under the auspices of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, he urged the economically well off farmers to take care of the less fortunate sections of society in the villages, so that there

would be peace in the villages and politicians did not take advantage of their differences. They should help the small farmers and landless labourers.

Mr. Mirdha said the commission had also dealt with the problems of small and marginal farmers and suggested various employment oriented projects for improving their lot.

Referring to the marketing problems of agricultural commodities. Mr. Mirdha said the commission had recommended organisation of farmer's service societies at the village level, not only to supply credit and inputs to the farmers but also to look after the marketing of agricultural produce. The societies would be broad-based and representative of all sections of farmers. It would avoid some of the shortcomings of the existing co-operative societies. It would act as a base-level marketing organisation having links with taluk and district-level organisations.

The commission had recommended that the agricultural prices commission should be broadbased, consisting of two economists one agriculturist and one agricultural scientist.

To help the agricultural price commission arrive at proper estimates of costs of production, the agricultural commission had recommended that cost index or indices for various agricultural commodities should be compiled periodically and it had also laid down the guidelines on which the cost of production on various crops could be estimated.

The present agricultural prices commission which had three members in the beginning had now been reduced to one member with the resignation of two members. On the basis of the advice tendered to him, the one-member commission gave his judgment, and sometimes the "judgement was distated to him" said Mr. Mirdha.

His commission had also stressed the importance of assuring the farmers

“remunerative prices” and it had indicated how the “remunerative prices” could be arrived at.

The country had achieved this year a record production of 115 million tonnes of foodgrains, against the estimated 108 million tonnes last year. If we maintained the present growth, we would be able to produce about 185 million tonnes in 1985 and about 275 million tonnes by the end of this century, sufficient to meet the needs of our population, but we had to maintain a buffer stock of 15 million tonnes every year to meet the needs of the vulnerable sections of society during the lean period.

Hence we must have “procurement” and his commission felt that the “producer’s levy” was the best solution. The levy price should not only be remunerative to the farmers but should act as an incentive to the farmers, Mr. Mirdha said, though the levy price would always be less than the open market price.

Fertilizer prices, Mr. Mirdha said, were the ‘cheapest’, compared to other countries. Their present requirements of chemical fertilisers were estimated at 3.5 million tonnes and indigenous capacity, was 2.5 million tonnes. At the end of this century, their fertiliser requirements would go upto 8 million tonnes but production capacity only upto 5 or 6 million tonnes. Hence fertilisers imports were unavoidable, if they wanted to maintain the present tempo of agricultural growth.

His commission had also suggested that they should go in more and more for coal-based fertiliser units, as oil-based (naptha) fertilisers were costly.

Mr. Mirdha appealed to farmers to study the recommendations of the commission which run to 15 volumes. The commission had already submitted 24 interim reports, all of which had been accepted by the Government of India.

Mr. A. Venkataraman, Director of Agriculture, Tamilnadu, pleaded that fertiliser prices should be brought down to a reasonable level as due to falling paddy prices, the farmers were finding it uneconomic.

Dr. G. Rangaswami, Vice-Chancellor, of the Agricultural University, also spoke

Dr. S. Jayaraj, Director Extension Education, answered some of the queries raised by farmers.

The Farmer’s Day was also attended by Shri R. Srinivasan, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj, Mr. Nagrajan, Mrs. Arunachalam, Mr. Balram Raja, Mr. Mutu Goounder and members of Tamilnadu Farmer’s Forum.

State’s Samaj News

Reports have been received from various parts of the country about the celebration of Birth Anniversary of our Founder President, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh in the most benefitting manner. Glorious tributes were paid to Dr. Deshmukh for his most valuable services to the farming Community in India. Farmers meetings were held and action programmes were launched for the implementation of 20-Point Economic Programme of the Prime Minister in rural areas. Such meetings were held at Bhubneshwar by Orissa Krishak Samaj; at Jalgaon by Maharashtra Krishak Samaj, at Bangalore by Karnataka Krishak Samaj, at Imphal by Manipura Krishak Samaj, at Delhi by Delhi Krishak Samaj, at Bhopal by Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj, at Durg, Khargone, Bharatpur, Shivpuri by District Krishak Samaj, at Hyderabad by Andhra Pradesh Krishak Samaj and in almost all the states by respective state Krishak Samaj.

Shivpuri

Kolayas Tehsil Krishak Samaj President Shri Deshkumar Jain recently organised the debt relief of number of Harijan and weaker section and small farmers and farm labours in the area from the local money lenders. The Samaj also organised volunteer help for the Family Planning Camp and Free Eye operation camps in Shivpuri district. The Birth Anniversary of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was celebrated and tributes paid by farmers in meeting.

Bharatpur

Bharatpur District Krishak Samaj organised a meeting of the farmers Brigadier Ghasiram presided 20-Point Economic programme of the Prime Minister was explained to the farmers and it was decided to put up supporting action pro-

gramme. It was decided to strengthen the organization and enroll more members. Inform the farmers about the Bharat Krishak Samaj through popular literature. Call regular meetings of farmers, launch membership drive. Organise Tehsil and village units of the Krishak Samaj. Every member of the Samaj should take up responsibility of contracting farmers in their areas and listen and forward their difficulties to concerned departments for resolutions, Organise farmers Seminars and training camp in rural areas, discuss the problems and give information about improved agricultural practices. Use the facilities of Bharatpur Kisan Vidyapeth for training farmers. It was decided to approach the Government to continue the existing Small and Marginal Farmers Development Project in the area which is so useful to the farmers.

Khargone

Khargone District Krishak Samaj organised the meeting of the farmers. Shri Mangat Singh Khanuja presided. It was decided to approach the Electricity Department to make electricity available to farmers for irrigation during the day time. It was decided to launch membership drive to enroll at least 150 life members and Ordinary members of the Samaj throughout the District. Shri Subhash Chandra Yadav was given the responsibility for completing and passing of the Krishak Bhawan Building Plan and the collection of building funds with about Rs. 3 lakhs. The Samaj is selling mobil oil and supply pipes at cheap rates. Farmers are requested to take full advantage of this offer and help the Samaj in turn. It was decided to depute Samaj workers to check the weighments and payments of cotton in Mandies. Shri Prakash Chandra Vyas informed the farmers that Madhya Pradesh is not included in the National Seeds Production Project, therefore the State Government be appealed to farm State Seeds Production Corporation for the benefit of farmers. It was also decided to start Insurance Agency work through the District Samaj for the members. To help the working expenses of District Krishak Samaj, it was decided to enroll atleast 1000 Ordinary members, start at

least 100 village Krishak Samaj units in action with full Committees.

Simla

Himachal Krishak Samaj organised state convention at Simla. Farmers in their meeting requested Mrs. Vidya Stokes to continue as Chairman of State Samaj and elected Mr. B.R. Himalvi as General Secretary. Prime Minister's Economic Programme was welcomed and the farmers pledged unqualified support for its implementation. It was decided to construct "Krishak Bhawan" in Simla for the use of farmers. Farmers expressed concern over the financial loss because of falling prices of apples and eventual market glut. Same thing may happen to potato and therefore it could be avoided through better marketing intelligence and transportation—H.P. Krishak Samaj should be associated on all relevant committees for this purpose. All the district Krishak Samaj units in the states were allotted membership enrollment targets for the year.

Banana exports to fetch Rs. 2 crores

The bananas and fruit Development Corporation (BFDC) has bagged a trial export order for 10,000 tonnes of bananas from Iran valued at over Rs. 2 crores. This will be supplied in shipments within six months. Indian bananas are getting increasing export market in West Asia. The union agriculture and irrigation ministry is taking up a special scheme to increase the production of export varieties of bananas in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu.

Potato rush

Owing to the dwindling supply of potatoes in the international market, India is likely to be flooded with enquiries for potato exports this year. The major potato surplus areas in Europe, including Holland and Germany, had a severe drought this year. The regular importers of potatoes in Eastern Europe the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia among other have therefore, been forced to seek goods outside their traditional. According to rough estimates potato acreage has gone down by nearly 30 percent.

Delhi Land Ceiling Bill Introduced

New Delhi : Agriculture Minister Jagjivan Ram introduced in the Lok Sabha a Bill seeking to bring the ceiling on land holding in Delhi in accordance with the national guidelines.

The Delhi Land Holding (Ceiling) Amendment Bill is to replace an ordinary promulgated by the President on Dec. 8, 1975.

The Bill provides that no person either by himself or with any other members of his family shall be entitled to hold land in excess of 7.25 hectares if the land is assured of irrigation from a private source and is capable of yielding at least two crops in a year.

In the case of land assured of irrigation from a Government source and capable of yielding at least two crops in a year the ceiling will be 5.8 hectares.

If the land is capable of yielding at least one crop in a year the ceiling will be 10.9 hectares if the holding is assured of irrigation from a private source and 8.7 hectares for irrigation from a Government source.

In the case of any other land including orchard, the ceiling will be 21.8 hectares.

For the surplus land vesting in the Government, the Bill has specified the rates to be paid to the landholder.

Besides reducing the ceiling limit provided in the Delhi Land Holding (Ceiling) Act 1960, the Bill also seeks to withdraw some of the exceptions provided in the Act.

Jagjivan Ram's Assurance to Punjab Farmers

Ludhiana : Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Union Agriculture Minister, gave an assurance to Punjab farmers that the Union Government would see to it that there was no shortage of power, diesel and fertilizers to them. The Centre would meet this obligation even if it had to apply cuts in these provisions to other States.

The Union Agriculture Minister, who addressed meetings of farmers at Badowal and Jhamao villages, near here urged the

farmers to use phosphorus and potassium fertilizers alongwith nitrogen.

Appreciating the efforts of Punjab farmers in boosting food-grain production, he said that Ludhiana district was a model for the entire country in raising food production.

Punjab, he said, had earned a revenue of Rs. 400 crores from other States through the sale of wheat. The total sale of food-grains from Punjab to other States was of the order of Rs. 1,000 crores.

The Minister visited an IADP zinc application programme at Jhamat village. He admitted at Jhamat village. He admitted the deficiency of zinc in soil but regretted that India did not have sufficient arrangements to locate the deficiency of micronutrients in soil.

Mr. Pritam Singh Hoshiarpuri, Director of Agriculture Punjab, said zinc application worth Rs. 20 only increased production between 5 and 10 quintals per acre. Punjab had applied zinc in an area of 5 lakh acres last year and this year the target was to apply zinc in 10 lakh acres.

Tobacco Board Set Up

New Delhi : The Government has announced the formation of Tobacco Board effective from January 1, 1976. Established under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, to provide for an integrated institutional set-up to ensure fuller utilisation of the export potential and a fair return to the growers, the Tobacco Board will have its headquarters at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh. It will have a Chairman and 20 members. Besides representatives from the Ministeries, the Board has three representatives of tobacco growers, two representatives of dealers and exporters, one representative of manufactures and two experts in tobacco marketing as members. Regulation of production and marketing of tobacco is envisaged through a system of registration of growers, dealers and exporters.

No Rust on Pulses Means More Profits

Both gram and pea suffer due to rust diseases during cold months.

The disease first appears around early February on gram in the form of small roundish light or dark brown pustules on

the under surface of the leaves. The pustules later turn black. Later on, these pustules are seen on the leaf surface too. The affected leaves fall and the yield goes down. The fungus spores which cause the disease, come from the hills.

The crop should be sprayed with Dithane M-45 (0.2%) followed by two more sprays at 10 days' intervals, if necessary.

In peas, rust attacks all the green parts. The stem is malformed and the affected plant may die. The earliest symptoms are the clusters of yellow spots. This is followed by the development of pustules which are powdery and light brown.

As the fungus which spread the disease survive summer very easily, all the affected plant trash should be burnt.

Spraying the crop with wettable sulphur like Elosal 0.5% helps in reducing the infection.

If, however, the disease is serious, the crop is required to be sprayed with Dithane M-45 (0.2 per cent). Three sprays are sufficient.

Commercial Vehicle, Tractor Price Curb Goes

The Government has decided to discontinue with immediate effect price surveillance over commercial vehicles and agricultural tractors with the exception of three models of tractors—Massey Ferguson 1035 (35 HP) and Tafe 504 (50 HP and Ford (46 HP).

With regard to these three models of tractors, all procedural requirement relating to exercise of price surveillance shall continue.

The government has also decided to discontinue distribution control over all categories of tractors except the above three models of tractors. This would be effective from the date of Tractor Distribution Control Order is amended by a notification.

8 States Revise Minimum Wages

New Delhi : Eight States have revised the minimum wages for agricultural labourers during the last five months. They are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tripura, Haryana and Meghalaya.

Giving this information in the Lok Sabha Labour Minister K.V. Raghunatha Reddy also said that action had been initiated in Gujarat, Tamilnadu, U.P., Delhi and Goa, Daman and Diu to revised the minimum wages.

Cane Price Fixed at Rs. 14.35 Per Quintal

Chandigarh : The Co-operative sugar mills of the State have decided to pay Rs. 14.35 per quintal of sugarcane during the 1975-76 season, according to Mr. Y.S. Ratra, Chairman of the Punjab Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills. However a deduction of 75 paise per quintal would be made as contribution towards the share capital of the grower to strengthen the share capital base of the mills, he said. The Haryana Govt. has fixed the Sugarcane Prices of Rs. 11/- per quintal at the Factory gates.

Fertiliser Worth Rs. 5 Crores Sealed in Punjab

Chandigarh : Fertilisers and pesticides valued at Rs. 5 crores have been sealed by the Punjab government since these were unfit for sale according to agriculture Minister Gurbanta Singh.

He said 36 dealers were found to be selling outdated and misbranded stocks in the state. These included the state co-operative marketing federation (Markfed).

The state government had plans to weed out bungling adulteration in the agricultural inputs and with this in view, a large number of searches were made on fertilisers, pesticides and seed stores.

Mr. Gurbanta Singh said more than 100 cases had been registered against dealers selling sub-standard fertilisers in the state.

Set-Back for Maharashtra Cotton Crop

Bombay : Maharashtra's cotton crop is reported to have suffered a sharp set-back and output during the current season is expected to be down by nearly 43 per cent. According to sources close to the government, the crop is being officially placed around 10 lakh bales against a total procurement of 17.5 lakh bales last season.

The sources attribute the decline to late sowings and damage to standing crop due to excessive rains at the beginning of the season.

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National Convention
of
Bharat Krishak Samaj

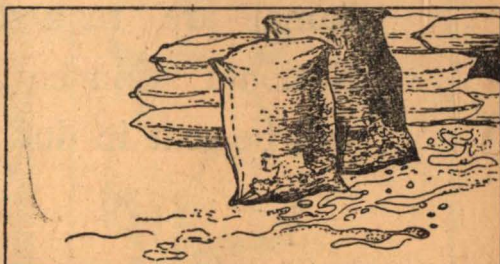
The Standing Committee of the Samaj decided to hold the next National Convention of Farmers and the All India Farmers Council Meeting at Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana Punjab on the invitation of Punjab Krishak Samaj. The National Convention and Council Meeting will be held at Ludhiana, Punjab from 2nd to 4th April, 1976. All Members of the Samaj are requested to attend the National Convention. Formal notices will be sent in due course.

Secretary General
Bharat Krishak Samaj

DO YOU KNOW?
That our farmers have
more than doubled
Grain Production.
But the country loses
One crore tonnes every year
through careless storage.

Most of it is lost to

Birds, Rats, Insects and Pests
Carelessness in handling &
transport
Dampness in godowns, shops and
houses



Save this loss and make the country
self-sufficient

A Grain Saved is A Grain Grown

NATION ON THE MOVE

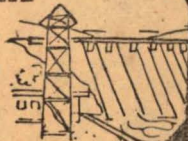
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