

Acknowledgements

In the course of its work, the Commission on Farmers' Welfare has interacted with a large number of farmers, bankers, officials, academics and other experts, as well as other concerned citizens in villages and district headquarters of nine different districts covering all the various agro-climatic zones of the state, as well as in Hyderabad. A large number of people spared the time to interact with the Commission and/or to provide written submissions. (The lists of field visits and written submissions to the Commission are provided in the Appendix.) We are grateful to all of them for their valuable insights and suggestions, which proved to be of immense relevance when analysing the problems of the farming community in the state and considering possible solutions to these problems. These inputs have contributed greatly to the Report, which is really based on the experiences and analysis provided by so many people.

The Commission would like to place on record its gratitude and appreciation of the tremendous help provided by the Special Invitees to the Commission, especially Shri K. R. Venugopal, Prof. C. H. Hanumantha Rao, Shri Bhavani Prasad and Shri P. Sainath. This Report would not have been possible without their committed involvement in the entire process and very substantial contributions, both written and through discussions. The Adviser to the Commission, Prof. Utsa Patnaik, also played a very valuable role in the discussions and provided inputs for the Report. In addition, the Commission has benefited from inputs, advice and comments from particular individuals such as Dr. S. K. Rao, Principal, Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad; Shri Jagan Mohan, Director of the Regional Rural Bank, Warangal; Shri P. S. M. Rao; Shri Narasimha Reddy of Eenadu; Dr. Gopal of Centre for Environmental Concerns.

The Office of the Commissioner for Agriculture served as the secretariat for the Commission. Dedicated support for the Commission was provided by Shri S.M. Hassan, Consultant, Department of Agriculture, who was very involved, committed and diligent throughout. Other staff were also extremely helpful in organising field visits and local logistics and assisting in various other ways. Special mention must be made of Shri Koti Reddy, Shri Simha Reddy, Ms. Madhavi and others. It is largely due to all of their efforts that the Commission could complete its task within the stipulated time. The local administration of the districts visited by the Commission were also extremely helpful in arranging field visits and public hearings. In particular, we would like to mention the Collectors of Anantapur, Chittoor and Srikakulam and the Director of the Tribal Development Authority in Seethampet.

Finally, the Commission is grateful to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, not only for giving us the opportunity to study this pressing issue, but also for providing us all the facilities and freedom with which to pursue our work and come to our conclusions.