

### Statement of problem

India has been witnessing a spate of farmers' suicides in the last three decades with the estimated loss of lives pegged at with 5,650 reported during the year 2014 accounting to 4.3% of total suicide victims in the country. Suicides by a large number of farmers during the last two decades have become a regular phenomenon and cannot be brushed aside as events associated with drought or other natural disasters. Indebtedness and family problems are the major causes for farmers' suicides while crop failure, illness and drug /alcoholic addition are other causes. Incidence of suicide is highest in small farmer, followed by marginal and medium farmers. Despite a number of initiatives by Government, the benefits are not reaching the effected farmer resulting in unabated incidence of farmers' suicides. According to the National Sample Survey Office, a large number of farmers across the country are not interested in agriculture. Lakhs of farmers have already been pushed out of agriculture as employment in agriculture is fast shrinking<sup>5</sup>.

### Objectives

1. To study and analyze key instrumental factors relating to farmers' suicides.
2. To examine efficacy of Government intervention in mitigating instrumental factors.
3. To evaluate, with reference to earlier attempts, alternate farming options to effectively mitigate the instrumental factors.

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<sup>5</sup> Ranjit Singh Ghuman , Swaminathan MSP Solution to Agrarian Crisis and Farmers' Distress, *Economic & Political Weekly Vol L 33*, 15 Aug 2015.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the instrumental factors associated with farmers' suicides in India?
2. What has been government intervention and have they been effective in mitigating these factors?
3. What are the long term options to resolve the issue of farmers' suicides?

### **Rationale**

The rationale for undertaking this study is to understand the keys issues relating to farmers' suicides, effectiveness of state intervention in mitigating them and explore the possible options to prevent future recurrence.

### **Scope/Limitations/Delimitations**

The focus of the study is limited to the review and interpretation of information available through public sources.

### **Methodology**

The research of key instrumental factors influencing farmers' suicides, government initiatives and their efficacy is based on secondary data. In addition to research papers, journals, articles and books on the subject, various indicators from National Sample Survey Office reports and other official publications have been used to analyze and correlate with the instrumental factors.

## **Chaptalization**

Chapter – 1 : Introduction & Literature review

Chapter – 2 : Farmers' suicide instrumental factors and efficacy of government intervention

Chapter – 3 : Alternate options to mitigate causative factors

Chapter – 4 : Recommendations and Conclusion

: Bibliography and References

## **Literature Review:**

A large number of studies and research work has been undertaken, and is being continued, to understand this wide spread phenomenon of farmers' suicides in last three decades which has been a blot on the nation's agrarian image. Each of these works has added a new dimension towards understanding and analyzing this critical issue. Some of the works of renowned authors and researchers have been discussed in the subsequent paragraphs.