

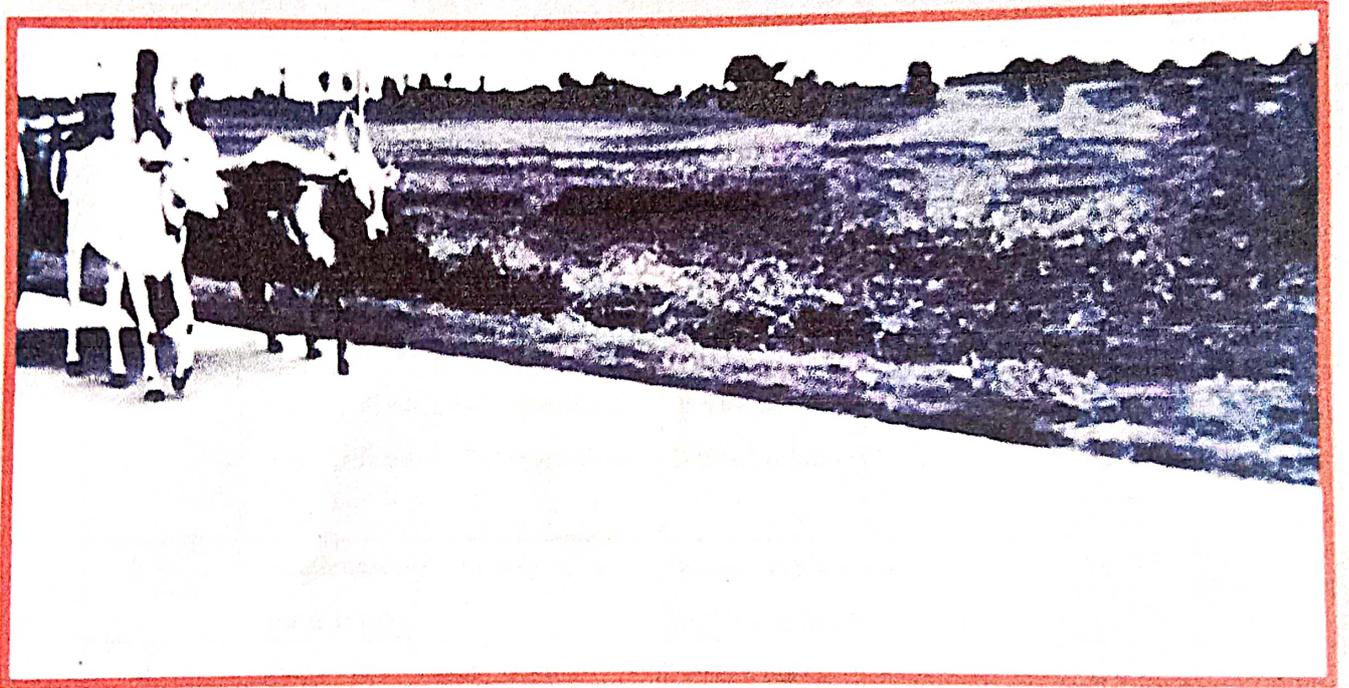
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# **Agrarian Crises And Farmer's Distress in India**



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## Challenges in Agricultural Marketing:

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The major challenges facing by the Indian Agricultural Marketing are:

1. Licensing Barriers 3.
- High wastage in supply chain 5.
- Lack of National Integrated Markets 7.
- Less farmer's price realization 9.
- Large number of middle men
- Lack of market infrastructure 2.
- High incidence of market charges 4.
- Long Gestation period of infrastructure 6.
- Large number of marketing channels with long supply chain 8.
- Limited access of agriculture produce markets 10.

## Suggestions:

The largest sector being agriculture in India, to improve it a well-developed marketing system is need of the hour – For this purpose following steps can be adopted

1. Good marketing infrastructure
2. Less marketing charges
3. Licensing system to be liberalized
4. Good transport facilities to be provided especially in rural areas
5. Credit facilities to farmers.

## Conclusion:

Agriculture is the primary sector of Indian Economy. Since agriculture production is increasing significantly during the Post-Green Revolution period, the well-conceived marketing system should be provided to the farming community. The aim of the present government is to doubling of farmer's income. Therefore, by providing more number of regulated markets and by fixing fair prices to the agriculture products, the government can realize this objective. The large number of marketing networks to be extended in the rural areas under statute to curb unfair practices by the local dealers.

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## (4) A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF FARMERS' SUICIDE IN KARNATAKA, INDIA

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### Abstract

Households in southern India are most indebted; for example, Andhra Pradesh has the highest share of indebted agricultural households (93%), followed by Telangana (89%) and Tamil Nadu (82.1%). The nationwide figure is 52%. This paper examines the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the farmer's suicide in Karnataka. It is found that the highest numbers were registered in well-developed and resource rich districts like Haveri (125), Madya (128), Mysore (113), Belagavi (112) amounting to almost 37% of the total farmers suicides in Karnataka during 2016 - 2017, whereas the drought prone and dry areas exhibited relatively less number of suicides. Generally farming practices in dry districts are performed in the context of environmental factors. Number of farmers' suicides per lakh hectare of net sown area shows that 15 farmers committed suicide in Karnataka. Likewise, there were 12 farmers' suicides per lakh hectare of gross cropped area and there were 19 farmers' suicides for every lakh of farming families in Karnataka. Suicides among farmers are not only because of monsoon crop failure but there are many other reasons like indebtedness, bankruptcy, inability to sell output etc. This social problem can be mitigated through psychological counseling, increase of crop loan, technological adaptation and changes in farming methods, strong implementation of minimum support price (MSP) etc.

### Introduction

About 70% of India's population relies on agriculture or a number of informal sectors related to it. For over a decade, farmer's suicides in India has been a serious issue concerning the existing public policy. Recently, this has also lead to shrill outcry from the media and much politicking about this. However, the government's response has mostly been very simplistic in nature and in some cases, perhaps aggravating the original situation. The main problem with offering 'special packages' to deal with such a problem is that it is reactionary rather than pre-emptive in the long term policy. Suicides are characterized by a prior history of difficulties and

in most cases mental illness that renders the person vulnerable to such. Suicide is caused by many factors even when it occurs in a cluster of places. Therefore, it is crucial to avoid oversimplification of the causes and sensationalizing the issue. This requires responsible reporting by the media, widespread efforts to screen and support mental health ailments by the public health system in India and appropriate instruments of insurance (Shamika Ravi, 2015)

Between 2012 and 2016, over 3000 farmers committed suicide in India. Farmers' suicide is therefore a major cause of political contention, even though they have always occurred and the factors driving these deaths are sometimes outside the control of the policymakers, including crop failures, inability to get the right price, and insurmountable debt. Nevertheless, when large number of suicides occur, it generates heated political debate. The ruling party typically defends its interventions by its programmes such as farm loan waiver schemes, higher minimum support price (MSP), fertilizer subsidies, and tax free agriculture income, while the opposition parties criticize the government for not doing enough on the ground (Nilanjan Banik, 2016).

Agriculture continues to be the principal source of livelihood for more than 55% (source: 'India -2016', compiled by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) of the population of the country. Despite involvement of more than 50% of workforce in agriculture sector, contribution of agriculture in Gross Domestic Product is merely 14%. Agricultural sector has not reached its full potential due to small land holdings, over dependency on monsoon, inadequate irrigation facilities, cheap credit and insurance etc. Highly erratic/ inadequate monsoon in the last 2/3 years has aggravated the problems for persons engaged in farming sector. Manifestations of these in extreme situations can be seen in the form of farmers' suicides (NCRB, 2015).

Some 850 million people still live in rural India. India has around 260 million people living in poverty and 30% of them live in the countryside (Banik, 2016). Not only is per-capita agricultural income low, but at times it is not possible to sustain even this low income. Also, agricultural output fluctuates far more than the outputs of the industrial and services sectors. Official output data shows that during the period between 1991-1992 and 2013-2014, the coefficient of variation for agricultural output is 191.34, in comparison to 50.48 for industry, and 22.03 for services sector (Central Statistical Organization, Government of India, 2014). This has led to unequal income distribution in India with rural-urban wage gap at 45% in comparison to around 10% for China and Indonesia. During the fiscal year 2013-14, contribution of the agricultural and agriculture related allied activities was only 14% of the GDP, despite providing the livelihood of around 70% of the population (Central Statistical Organization, Government of India, 2014).

### Objectives

The study addresses following specific objectives:

1. To analyze the incidence and spread of farmers' suicide in Karnataka and to map the hot-spots of suicide;
2. To explore the causes leading to farmers' suicide including geographical, psychological, economic and social factors
3. To recommend suitable programs and policies to eradicate this social evil.

### Methodology

To study the farmers' suicides at national level, the author has used the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports titled "Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India". To find out the state and districts wise distribution of farmers' suicides in Karnataka, data has been taken from the department of agriculture, Government of Karnataka (2016) and NCRB's report on accidental deaths and suicides in India. After the data collection from secondary sources, statistical analysis has been performed using statistical software to get important findings and interpretation. For spatial analysis and visualization, GIS software has been used. Results have been analyzed to assess the scenario of farmers' suicides in spatio-temporal frame in order to find out hot spot region and to propose some recommendations.

### Quantitative Analysis Indian Scenario

Nearly 70% of India's 90 million agricultural households spend more than they earn on average each month, pushing them towards debt, which is now the primary reason in more than half of all suicides by farmers nationwide, according to Saha's (2017) analysis of various government data. The failing economics of such farms are exacerbated by additional loans that families take to meet health issues, leaving them with diminished ability to invest in farming.

Recently, considering the paramount importance of this issue, the NCRB in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Home Affairs started collecting data exclusively on farmers' suicide since 2014. Data on suicides of persons whose profession is farming and who either cultivates his/her own land or who cultivate lease land with or without the assistance of agricultural laborer's. Agricultural laborers are those who primarily work in farming sector (agriculture horticulture) and whose main source of income is from agricultural labor activities (NCRB Report 2015)

Table - 1. Features of Suicides in Farming Sector during 2013 - 2015

Year	Suicides in farming Sector	Total Suicides	% Share
2013 @	11,772	1,34,799	8.70%
2014	12,360	1,31,666	9.40%
2015	12,602	1,33,623	9.40%
Percentage Change	2.00%	1.50%	

In a comprehensive annual report "Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India" for the year 2015 the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has given some very important facts and figures of suicides in farming sector. A total of 12,602 persons, involved in farming sector (consisting of 8,007 farmers/cultivators and 4,595 agricultural laborer), have committed suicide during 2015, accounting for 9.4% of total suicides victims (1,33,623) in the country (Table - 1). Out of 8,007 farmers/cultivator's suicides, a total of 7,566 were male and 441 were female (2015).

State/UT-wise analysis reveals that majority of suicides by persons engaged in farming sector were reported in Maharashtra (4,291) followed by Karnataka (1,569), Telangana (1,400), Madhya Pradesh (1,290), Chhattisgarh (954), Andhra Pradesh (916) and Tamil Nadu (606) during 2015. Together these accounted for 87.5% of total such suicides in the country (11,026 out of 12,602 suicides).

A total of 8,007 farmers/cultivators have committed suicides during 2015. The State/UT-wise information on the number of suicides committed by farmers/cultivators during the year 2015. Majority of suicides committed by farmers/cultivators were reported in Maharashtra (3,030) followed by 1,358 such suicides in Telangana and 1,197 in Karnataka, accounting for 37.8%, 17.0% and 14.9% of total such suicides (8,007) respectively during 2015. Chhattisgarh (854), Madhya Pradesh (581) and Andhra Pradesh (516) accounted for 10.7%, 7.3% and 6.4% of the total farmer/cultivators suicides reported in the country respectively. These 6 States together reported 94.1% of the total farmer/cultivators suicides (7,536 out of 8,007 suicides) in India during 2015.

Table - 2:

Top Five State-wise Incidence of Farmers' Suicides and Percentage Share during 2014-15, India

State	Number of Suicides in 2014	% of farmer Suicides to all India total in 2014	Number of suicides in 2015	% of farmer Suicides to all India total in 2015
Maharashtra	2,568	45.5	3030	37.8
Telangana	898	15.9	1358	17
Madhya Pradesh	826	14.6	581	7.3
Chhattisgarh	443	7.8	854	10.7
Karnataka	321	5.7	1197	14.9
Total	5056	89.5	7020	87.7

Source: NCRB report: 2014 & 2015, GoI

Table- 2 explains how some of the states in India continuously remained in top five which registered highest farmers/cultivators' suicide cases and these five states are Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka which have accounted for 89.5 and 87.7 percentage to farmers suicides in all India (NCEB, 2014). Bankruptcy or indebtedness' and 'family problems' are major causes of farmer/cultivator suicides, accounting for 38.7% and 11.7% of total such suicides respectively during 2015. The other prominent causes of suicides committed by farmers/cultivators were 'farming related issues' (19.5%), 'failure of crop' (19.4%) and 'illness' (10.5%). During 2015, major cause of suicides in male farmers/cultivators were 'bankruptcy or indebtedness' and 'farming related issues', accounting for 39.4% and 19.7% respectively of total farmer/cultivator suicides (male). Bankruptcy or indebtedness' followed by 'family problems', 'illness' and 'farming related issues' were major causes of suicides by female farmers/cultivators, accounting for 27.0% (119 out of 441 suicides), 18.1% (80), 15.4% (68) of total such suicides

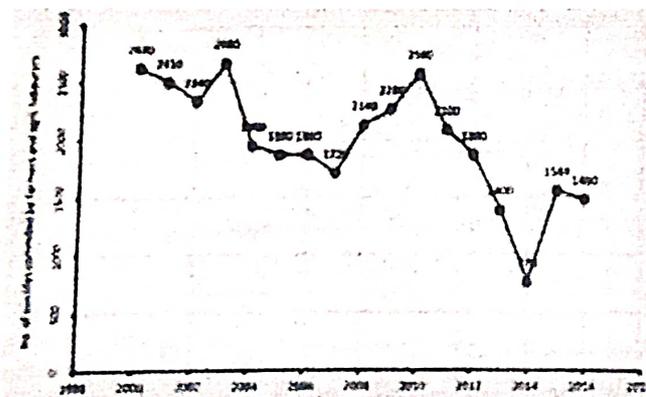
respectively during 2015. About 79.0% of farmer/cultivator suicides in Karnataka and 42.7% of farmer/cultivator suicides in Maharashtra were due to 'bankruptcy or indebtedness'. About 26.2% of farmer/cultivator suicides in Maharashtra were also due to 'farming related issues (related to failure of crop)'. Farmers/cultivators belonging to 30 - 60 years of age group accounted for about 71.6% of total farmers/cultivators' suicides during 2015. Only 9.0% of farmers/cultivators who have committed suicides were in age group of 60 years & above. 'Family problems' and 'illness' were major causes of suicides among agricultural laborers, accounting for 40.1% (1,843 out of 4,595 suicides) and 19.0% (872 out of 4,595 suicides).

### Karnataka Scenario

To compile state wise farmers' suicides in the country NCRB is the authentic data source. Since 1967, its first publication of accidental deaths and suicides in India, only from the year 2000 onwards NCRB has recorded suicides in agricultural sector (farmers plus agricultural laborers). But only in 2015 publication onwards the number of suicides of agricultural laborers and farmers is presented separately which is very much essential for studying farmers' suicides during the last seventeen years data i.e. from 2000.

Table – 3: Suicides reported in Agricultural Sector, Karnataka

Year	Farmers' Suicide	Year	Suicide
2000	2630	2009	2280
2001	2510	2010	2590
2002	2340	2011	2100
2003	2680	2012	1880
2004	1960	2013	1400
2005	1880	2014	770
2006	1880	2015	1569
2007	1720	2016	1490
2008	2140	-	
		Total	33819



Source: Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka (2016) Fig. 1: Reported Farmer's Suicide in Karnataka, 2008 -16 According to this data of NCRB, during the last 17 years from 2000 to 2016, in Karnataka, there had been 33819 incidences of suicides belonging to agriculture sector in Karnataka (Table - 2).

The graphical representation of statistical data of suicides in agricultural sector (Fig. 1.) shows downward trend from 2000 to 2012 but numbers remained above 1800. After 2012 very considerable drop in the incidents has taken place and registered lowest suicide incidents (770) in the agricultural sector in the year 2014 in the Karnataka. But contrastingly, the state again registered sharpest jump in the year 2015 i.e. from 770 in 2014 to 1569 in 2015 and 1490 in 2016.

To find out the 770 in 2014 to 1569 in 2015 and 1490 in 2016. To find out the data has been availed from the department of agriculture, Government of Karnataka (2016) and NCRB's report on accidental deaths and suicides in India 2015. The data from department of agriculture, Government of Karnataka represent the incidents which has taken place during the 1 July 2015 to The district wise data is presented in Table - 4. Analysis of the data on farmers' suicide in Karnataka shows that five districts i.e. Haveri, Mandya, Mysore, Belgaum and Kalaburugi have registered almost 37% of the total farmers' suicide that have taken place in Karnataka in 2015-2016. About 15 farmers per lakh hectare of net sown area committed suicide in Karnataka Likewise.

12 farmers' suicides per lakh hectare of gross cropped area and 19 farmers' farming families were recorded in Karnataka (Fig. 3.) during suicide for every lakh of 2015-2016. Table - 5 shows divisionwise farmers' suicide in Karnataka About 50%, 48% and 2% suicides took place in North, South and Coastal Karnataka from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016 It's very interesting to note that almost an equal number of farmer suicides have taken place each in North and South Karnataka although North Karnataka is considered dry area and south Karnataka is rainy area. Distribution of farmer suicides in Karnataka (Fig. 2.) shows that the highest numbers were registered in well-developed and resource rich districts. Generally farming practices in dry performed in the districts are context of environmental factors. Since farmers from dry region of the Karnataka are already aware of the condition of the environment, they have adopted their agricultural practices which can give the optimum production using available resources. Farmers from these areas are not solely dependent on agriculture alone but rely on allied practices that they have evolved over a period various strategies that can successfully help them to manage the stress condition (Manjunatha & Ramappa, 2017).

S.No.	District	No. Of Farmers' Suicide	% to State Total	No. Of Farmers Suicides/0,000 ha of Net Sown Area	No. of farmer suicides /00,000ha of gross cropped area	No. of Farmer Suicides /00,000 Farming Families
1	Haveri	125	8.4	35	29	57
2	Mandya	118	7.92	62	49	30
3	Mysuru	113	7.58	31	22	29
4	Belagavi	112	7.52	17	12	21
5	Kalaburagi	75	5.03	9	7	19
6	Hassan	74	4.97	20	17	17
7	Chikkamagaluru	74	4.97	25	21	33
8	Tumakuru	72	4.83	15	13	17
9	Raichur	69	4.63	13	10	21
10	Chitradurga	69	4.63	18	15	24
11	Yadgir	60	4.03	18	14	26
12	Dharwad	60	4.03	21	13	42
13	Shivamogga	60	4.03	26	23	28
14	Bidar	54	3.62	15	12	22
15	Vijayapura	47	3.15	6	5	14
16	Davanageri	46	3.09	12	10	16
17	Gadag	44	2.95	12	8	27
18	Koppal	35	2.35	9	7	16
19	Ramnagar	31	2.08	19	18	11
20	Bagalkot	30	2.01	6	5	13
21	Bellary	29	1.95	7	6	11
22	Chikballapur	23	1.54	12	11	11
23	Uttara Kannada	14	0.94	13	11	7
24	Kolar	11	0.74	6	6	5
25	C.R.Nagar	10	0.67	6	5	5
26	Bengaluru (Rural)	9	0.6	8	5	5
27	Dakshina Kannada	9	0.6	7	6	4
28	Udupi	9	0.6	9	8	4
29	Kodagu	7	0.47	4	4	10
30	Bengaluru (Urban)	1	0.07	2	2	1
	Total	1490	100	15	12	19

On the other hand, farmers from resource rich areas are not properly adapted to the changing nature of the environment e.g. dry spell in the rainy season, desertification and other activities based on agriculture e.g. poultry, dairy, goaterly etc. In these areas, especially south and coastal Karnataka, mono crop like sugarcane, paddy etc. is more prevalent. These crops often fail, and production goes below expectation due to the failure monsoon rain if not provided with enough irrigation Farmers fail to recover invested money and therefore commit suicide. Compared to dry regions of the Karnataka, resource rich region has not adopted the efficient irrigation methods e.g. drip irrigation which can help to sustain crops during shortage of water and failure of monsoon season. Double cropping in agriculture and different irrigation methods are famous in dry region of the Karnataka The causes of farmer suicides can help to identify the main reason behind the increasing number of suicides in Karnataka. In NCRB report, one can find causewise categorization of suicides in agriculture sector which can help to find out what the major reasons were behind the scenario (Table-6). It's not only because of crop failure but also due to the reasons like indebtedness, bankruptcy, inability to sell output etc. Though the highest number of such suicides were in Haveri but number of suicides per lakh hectare of net sown area and gross cropped area is also very high in Mandya, that is 62 and 49 respectively. Data shows the fact that about 80% of farmers' suicide are registered during agriculture period 2015 to 2016 in Karnataka and most of those were marginal and small farmers As mentioned earlier, most of the farmers committed suicide due to lack of access to irrigation water and failure of rainfall and drought followed by indebtedness. Indebtedness is the instant reason for the extreme step of suicides by the farmers. The crop loans are used for student education purposes Parents are hoping that repay the loan after the child gets the employment. It may be used for constructions of houses treatment of chronic ailments, for children's marriages and launching a business. Non-institutional credit is another cause of concern for the farming community. It reveals that the farmers are mainly dependent on money lending institutions for their additional needs. They are lacking adequate resources to repay the loan and this leads to financial liability for the farming community (Sivagnanam, 2017)

Table – 5: Division-wise farmers' suicides in Karnataka from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016

Division	Percentage	No. of farmers Suicides	Districts
North Karnataka	50%	12	Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gadag, Gulbarga, Haveri, Koppal, Raichur, Yadgir
South Karnataka	48%	15	Ramnagar, Bangalore (U), Chamrajnagar, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Hassan, Kodagu, Chikballapur, Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga, Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore (R)
Coastal Karnataka	2%	3	Dakshin Kannad, Udupi, Uttara Kannad

Table – 6: Causes - wise Distribution of Farmers/Cultivators Suicides during 2015

Property Dispute	Marriage Related Issues	Farming Related Issues (Crop Failure)			Illness	Bankruptcy or Indebtedness	Unknown Causes
		Due to Natural Calamities	Due to other Reasons	Inability to Sell			
10	9	69	65	1	23	115	15

Source: Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India 2016



Fig. 2: Districtwise Farmer's Suicide in Karnataka, Families July 2015 -June, 2016

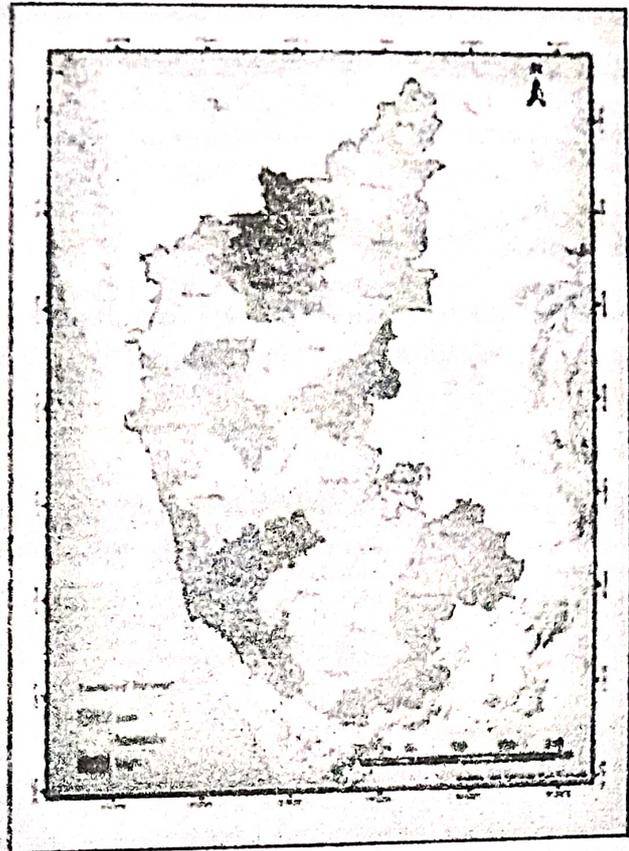


Fig. 3: No. Of Farmer's Suicide/100,000 Farming in Karnataka, July 2015 -June, 2016

### Recommendations

Based on the various causes of farmers suicides, one can find out ways to tackle the problem. For Example, to improve mental health, psychological counseling needs to be given to the farmers. Timely counselling can help in reducing the suicide rate. Crop loan from the banks should be increased as it needs high investment in agriculture to get good amount of production and consequently profit. If farmers get easy access to the agriculture loan, they won't depend upon the village traders and money lenders. Spatial distribution of farmer suicides reveals that the greater proportion of the suicides is in rainy and resourceful area and main causes are lack of adaptation to failure of rainy season. It is recommended that technical adaptation and changes in farming methods can lead to reduction of crop failure and the chances of committing suicides. Other than natural calamities and crop failures, drinking alcohol is an important reason. This has created lots of problems like family disputes, betting, change in life style, selling produce cheaply, selling land etc. If this alcoholism reduces then certainly lot of problems in farmers' family can get decreased. Although minimum support price (MSP) has been decided but it is not handsome amount since the cost of cultivation is more than what they get in the market and MSP must be adhered to by the buyers.

### Conclusion

The reasons for agriculture failure certainly have lead farmers to take extreme steps but it's not wise to connect the deluge of suicides directly to any single cause. Risk management in agriculture should address yield, price, credit, income or weather-related uncertainties among others. Improving water availability will facilitate diversification of cropping pattern, but this should go hand in hand with policies that increase non-farm employment. Irrigation presents added problem for those farmers who must invest heavily in seeds and pesticides. While the viability of the cotton is not disputed, the national and inter-state data do not support transgenic cotton as an overall boon to the Indian farmers. The equation is simple: a Bt. farmer facing an unfavorable expenditure-yield ratio can find himself in a more precarious position than a non-Bt. farmer (Thomas & Tavernier, 2017). Improving agricultural extension that addresses de-skilling because of technological changes and facilitates appropriate technical know-how for alternative forms of cultivation such as organic farming will be of help. Availability of affordable credit requires revitalization of the rural credit market. There is also a strong case for regulating private credit and input markets. Besides public institutions, there is need for a greater involvement from the civil society (Mishra, 2006). Different experts' committees have suggested many recommendations that can help farmers to build production capabilities. Farmers' suicide will bring more difficult days for the agriculture sector in future if not dealt wisely. To solve this problem the state must come out with strong decisions and relief programs which can save farmers' lives and consequently all of us who are being fed by them.

### Acknowledgements

The study titled "Farmers' Suicides in Karnataka: The Spatial-Temporal Analysis" is based on the secondary data sources. We are grateful to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Government of India, Department of Agriculture Government of Karnataka and Institute for Social and Economic Change, Karnataka. We recommend to readers for referring a comprehensive report by Dr. Manjunatha, A.V and K.B, Ramappa titled "Farmer Suicides in Karnataka" from Agriculture Development and Rural Transformation Centre Report, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Karnataka.

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## (5) SOME REFLECTIONS OF GLOBALIZATION ON INDIAN AGRICULTURE

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### Abstract:

Today the word globalization is used in the world wide development process. It is now possible to purchase or sell necessary commodity in each and every corner of the world only because of the means of communications, development of information technology and transport facilities. Thus, the concept of globalization is 'development'. Globalization refers to the process of integration the domestic economy with the world economy. Globalization refers to integrate the domestic market with world market in the field of trade of goods and services, technology and laboretc . Globalization is the process of movement of capital and flow of finance from one country to other country. Globalization is the new buzz word that has come to dominate the world since the nineties of the last century. Globalization can be simply defined as "The Expansion of Economic activities across political boundaries of native states". Globalization has to increases the movement of finance, inputs, outputs, information and science across vast geographic areas. In Indian context it implies opening up the economy to foreign direct investment and provide entry to Multinational corporations in India. Globalization means an explanation of market from local level to worldwide. Globalization aims at the integration of the Domestic Economy with the Global Economy and the optimum utilization of growth potential. The process of globalization has revolutionized World Agriculture and allied sectors directed to improve the efficiency productivity and cost competitiveness. Globalization has brought in new opportunities to developing countries. Greater access to developed country markets and technology transfer hold out promise improved productivity and higher living standard. Post liberalization, Indian farmers face new challenges in the form of competition from highly subsidized agriculture of developed nations. This prompts the need for making Indian agriculture successful and profitable by improving the conditions of small and marginal farmers, countering then negative effects of Green Revolution, developing and promoting organic farming, and diversifying cropping pattern from cereals to high value crops. Agriculture sector plays key role in economic development. Therefore present study analyzes the impact of globalization on Indian agriculture.

**Key Words:-**Globalization, Agriculture, Positive and Negative Impact