

49. A JOINT PARTNERSHIP & INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN FOR INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

ACTION AREA	UNIVERSAL FOOD ACCESS TO BUILD RESILIENCE
SOLUTION CLUSTER	NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS
THEMATIC AREA	POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATIONS FOR RURAL AREAS
SUBMITTED BY	ANNAMRIT FOUNDATION

WHAT ARE THE KEY THEMES THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCY?

This solution considers the Wastage in supply chain

WHAT DO YOU THINK CONSTITUTES SOCIAL RESILIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS? WHAT ARE THE CROSS-CUTTING SOLUTIONS BETWEEN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE?

Setting up eventually farmers collectives owned value addition businesses with social investors. Our partnership model at www.farmersasowners.org with www.himalayanapples.com practiced <https://yourstory.com/2015/04/the-apple-project/amp> this successfully. The aim of the new approach is to create a profitable partnership between investors and farmer groups, by setting up ICT enabled joint venture of agro-processing enterprises based on solid feasibility studies and business plans. Similar to the self-help groups and cooperatives, the aim is to set-up healthy business in handling, processing and trading farmer's commodities on a commercial basis. The main difference of the new approach is that the farmers, along with social-conscious corporate partners become equal business partners of the investor. The farmers will only gain full economic ownership once the investment is repaid fully. The economic ownership of the companies, however, can be fully transferred to the farmer groups solely.

WHAT SOLUTIONS CAN WE PROPOSE TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AND PREVENT FUTURE SOURCES OF CONFLICT, MANAGE TENSIONS AND OTHER STRESSES IN FOOD SYSTEMS ?

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WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT WOULD PUT THIS ACTION INTO PLACE?

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses, etc.), Civil (NGOs, etc.), Farmers, Farmers' Organization / Cooperatives, Scientists

WHERE ARE MAIN AREAS IN WHICH THIS SOLUTION WOULD MAKE CHANGES

The aim of the new approach is to create a profitable partnership between investors and farmer groups, by setting up ICT enabled joint venture of agro-processing enterprises based on solid feasibility studies and business plans. Similar to the self-help groups and cooperatives, the aim is to set-up healthy business in handling, processing and trading farmer's commodities on a commercial basis. The main difference of the new approach is that the farmers, along with social-conscious corporate partners become equal business partners of the investor. The farmers will only gain full economic ownership once the investment is repaid fully. The economic ownership of the companies, however, can be fully transferred to the farmer groups solely.

WHERE IS THIS IDEA COMING FROM?

In India, small and marginal farmers tend to get caught in the powerful grip of middlemen, informal lenders and other intermediaries. They have lack of collective action and on the other hand private sector is hesitant of giving ownership of the value chain to the farmers and sometimes it is exploitative in nature. The vision of FFT is to provide solution for socio-economic empowerment of small and marginal farmers through livelihood improvement that tries to address the above mentioned problems through a new system of institutional design. Here a new form of partnership on a loan cum investment basis is being tried out. This is tried by organizing the farmers to form fair and feasible business entities based on feasible business planning. Therefore, an approach is targeted towards setting-up healthy agro-businesses through joint venture of farmers and private investors with the help of FFT consortium. It aims to set up healthy farmer owned businesses in handling, processing and trading farmer's commodities collectively. The main constraints hampering the growth of industries in the hilly states of nation are summarized below: ▪ Geographical and environmental constraints in the regions; ▪ Lack of availability of infrastructure including roads in remote areas; ▪ Lack of marketing opportunities and avenues; and ▪ Non-availability of raw materials locally; ▪ Poor ICT infrastructure and services.