

# Farmer Bill India, 2020: The Greatest Farmer Protest in the World

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**Abstract:** *Although the globe has evolved, India's agriculture strategy has remained same for the past 50 years. In associated with food scarcities in the mid - 1970s, India implemented a combination of price (purchasing, rationing, and predefined threshold costs "minimum support price") and quasi regulations (fertilization, improved varieties seed, concessionary manures) that resulted in an agricultural revolution in grains and a comprehensive system of acquiring and sale grain thru the Food Authority of India and the Open Distribution Network. However, this arrangement has served its purpose in India, and altering it is difficult since individuals whose lives are dependent on it are hesitant to incur any adjustments, as seen by agricultural demonstrations. This article analyses the factors that have sparked agricultural demonstrations in India and offers recommendations for improving the country's agriculture legislation.*

**Keywords:** Farmer, India, Government, Protest, Agriculture

## 1. Introduction

The Indian farmers' agitation of 2020–2021 occurred in response to three agriculture bills enacted by India's legislature in 2020. Several farmer organizations and political opponents have criticized the measures, referring the legislation as "anti - farmer legislation" which might keep farmers at the discretion of large corporations. Farmers also have asked for the establishment of predefined threshold price legislation to guarantee that corporations will not have influence on prices. The collective bargaining administration, on the other hand, claims that the rules would make it simple for farmers to make directly to potential customers, and that the demonstrations are depends on incorrect facts. Farmer fatalities and inadequate farmer earnings are two recurring inheritance concerns.

Notwithstanding the existing virtually conscience in agricultural output and having social programmed, India continues to struggle with starvation and nourishment, placing as one of the world's richest nations in achieving food security. Organizations began conducting regional demonstrations soon after the legislation were passed, particularly in Punjab. Following 2 months of demonstrations, farmer organizations, mostly from Punjab, launched a campaign saying "Let's Go to Delhi", inside which many farmers traveled to the country's capital. To discourage the farmer organizations from invading Punjab and subsequently Delhi, the Indian court forced government and police officers from numerous states to assault the demonstrators utilizing water hoses, truncheons, and flash grenades.

In favor of the farmers, a countrywide mass demonstration was held in 2020, with huge numbers of people assembling at several border posts along the road to Delhi. During 2020 and 2021, 11 sessions of discussions occurred conducted between the federal government and farmers representing by agricultural associations; everyone was unsatisfactory, although only two small matters agreed upon. Even though some farmer organizations have protested the agricultural legislation, the Indian government maintains that certain organizations have voted in favour of them. The Court of India has acquired a slew of applications requesting for the

protestors' barriers all across Delhi to be removed. Farmers reportedly stated that if they are instructed to pull off by the courts, they will not comply.

Party representatives have also stated that delaying the agricultural legislation' enforcement is not a viable option. The agriculture legislation has been put on hold by India's High Court. The delay ruling, which is still in existence, was applauded by farmers. The secret judgment of a Highest Court in the land council was presented to the jury. Six provinces' legislatures have results in the formation opposing the agricultural bills, and three provinces have introduced neutralize in their state legislatures. Neither of the neutralization was approved by the legislatures of the individual states. On India's National Day, increasing numbers of farmers marched towards Delhi inside a farmer's procession accompanied by a big caravan of vehicles. The demonstrators diverged from the pre - approved pathways allowed by the Enforcement Directorate, actually results in police shootings and confrontations.

Afterwards, demonstrators arrived somewhere at Red Fort they erected farmer association banners and religious banners on the rampart's tower. The united administration resolved to abolish the measures in November, and the Farm Regulations Reform Package was enacted among both legislative assemblies. Farmer associations constantly seeks mandated minimum incentive payment after the revocation of the farm regulations was announced, stressing the administration of the government's goal of increasing farmers' earnings by 2022; or the 2004 MS Swaminathan-led Advisory Committee on Farmers findings. A panelist published the findings of the Constitutional Court inquiry.

## 2. Background

India is conscience in the manufacturing of agricultural crops like wheat and rice, and several other items for example vegetables, dairy, livestock and fruits. Notwithstanding this, starvation remains severe problems in the country. The Worldwide Hunger Index rated India 101st out of 116 nations in 2020. As per the United Nations, "India bears a 1/4 of the world's starvation responsibility. " Instead of the fact that India has comprehensive food rationing and

benefits systems, farmers in India possess limited farmland, according to the 2014 Farming Survey, that is one of the factors they are unable to satisfy their demands. 2 different of the country's large estates are smaller beyond one acre.

In the region, component farming is uncommon. Farmer fatalities and the health of Indian industry are two more linked topics. During 1990 and 2010, India recorded a total of 300 thousand farmer suicides. In the year 2020, ten thousand persons working in the agricultural sector will have perished, or 25 people every day. Punjab's sector, notably its agricultural sector, is thought to have slowed, fueling the agitation. This covers topics such as rice cultivation monotony and degradation threats.

The Standard Farming Regulations were published by the federal government in 2017. Nevertheless, it was discovered over a timeframe that many of the reforms recommended in the legislation were not executed by the government. In 2019, a council of 7 Cabinet Members was formed to evaluate the execution. As a result, in 2020, India's federal government issued three laws that addressed, along with other matters, farm goods, its distribution, storage, agricultural commercialization, and farm mechanization changes. Several regulations were submitted as legislation in 2020, and they were enacted. Subsequently, the three laws were enacted by unanimous vote in places in which the administration is in a minority, despite objections calls for a public referendum.

The legislation was signed into legislation after the President given his approval. The legislation' legitimacy was already contested; "agricultural" appears 6 times in the matters enumerated, 4 times in the memorandum of association, and twice in the matters enumerated. And those are the regions where these actions occur:

- The Farmers' Promotion and Convenience) Act broadens the concept of farmers' product industry from a few designated places to "whatever stage of manufacture, collecting, and assemblage. " Enables farmers' goods to be traded and sold electronically. For a transaction of farmers' commodities done in a 'external trade agreement, ' legislatures are prohibited from imposing a tax any trade tax, surcharge, or charge on farmers, merchants, or automated trading networks.
- Farmers (Autonomy and Preservation) Arrangement on Value Guarantee and Farm Operations Act: offers a structure for farming activities by requiring a farmer and a purchaser to negotiate a price well before farm products is produced or reared. It establishes a three - tiered conflict resolution system, including a reconciliation commission, a Comment thread Administrator, and a Relevant Authority.
- The Fundamental Products (Modification) Act empowers the federal government to control specific food goods in unusual circumstances such as war or starvation. Any

inventory restriction imposed on agricultural products must be predicated on price increases.

In the 1990s, several emerging nations changed their agricultural incentives to promote corporate sector engagement. Kenya's agricultural liberalization boosted the efficiency of the economy, but this increase also produced additional challenges for the producers. Approximately 90 US farmers' organizations signed a sympathy statement in 2021, citing Reagan - era policy instruments as an illustration: "The Reagan period exacerbated the agriculture problem by purposeful congressional reforms, including persistent degradation of equivalency pricing and other financial deregulation measures. "

### 1) Analytical Considerations and Constructs

There has been a lot written about Indian agriculture, and it may be very complicated. But, to put it another way, to better grasp the forest from the trees. To better comprehend the intricacies of agricultural policy and its intended and frequently unanticipated repercussions, a few analytical frameworks may be useful. The importance of agricultural price is illustrated in Figure 1. Increase farm prices if you desire greater supply along a supply curve S1. Agricultural products, on the other hand, become expensive if farm prices are elevated too high. This highlights the importance of non - price factors in balancing acceptable profits for farmers with inexpensive products for consumers. At price P1, demand and supply are balanced in period 1. However, when the population grows and earnings rise, food demand changes to D2. Prices will climb to P2 if supply does not grow; this is the price increase farmers will need to boost supply. However, at P2, food prices would skyrocket, making them unaffordable. Importing additional food is one alternative. However, this will necessitate the use of foreign currency. The second alternative is to develop ways to boost productivity, which would transfer supply from S1 to S2 allowing prices to return to P1 and both demand and supply to grow. More farm goods are in demand, and they can now be produced at a reasonable cost.

Investing in on - farm productivity improvements like soil improvement, terracing, and irrigation, as well as much larger collective investments like huge irrigation projects and improved seed types, causes supply changes. Higher prices may motivate those who work on farms, but it might also be due to improved titling, access to lower - cost loans, and water and energy pricing. Public expenditures in irrigation, research and extension, rural electricity, and connection often result in far bigger transformations. Rural roads also play a role because they offer up new markets, and IT connectivity improves information and understanding of new farm methods, as well as market and weather information, and access to loans and inputs.

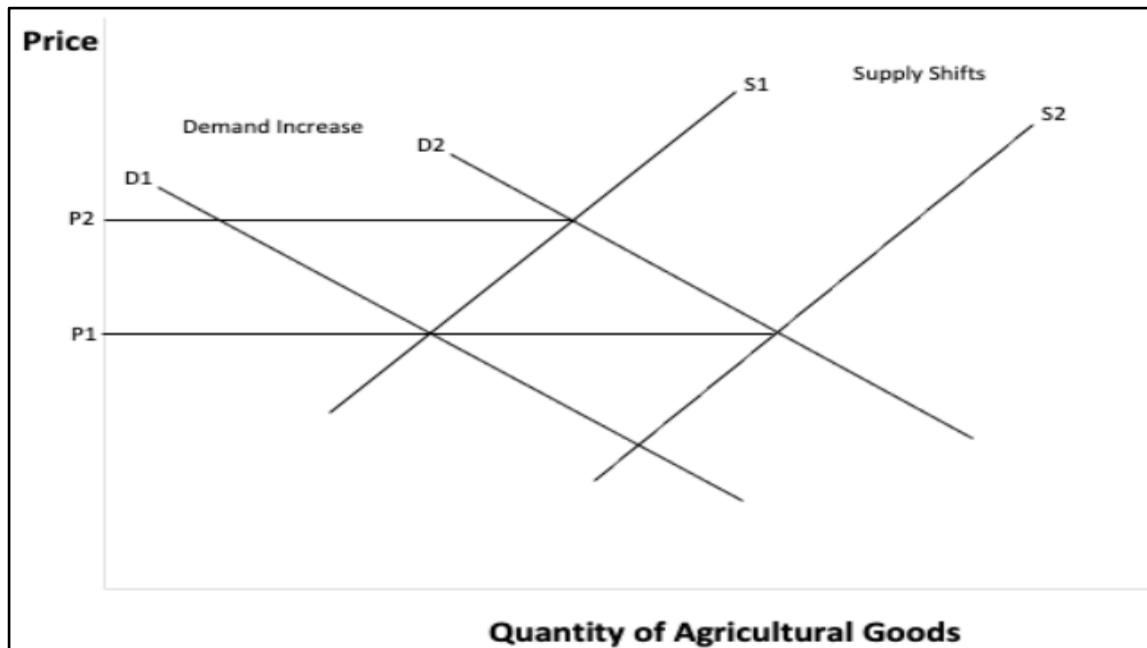


Figure 1: Agriculture Market Response

Source: Self constructed

More agricultural produce may be given at reasonable costs the larger the supply changes produced by investment and spending in irrigation, roads, electrification, and new seed types. If demand continues to rise, supply adjustments will be required to maintain agricultural prices reasonable. This is true for every farm product, but it does not have to be true for all agricultural products. Trade may help a country balance its budget if it has surpluses in certain areas and deficits in others. India has the ability to export excess grains while importing lentils and potatoes. However, governments like to be self-sufficient in important commodities in normal years and use some buffer stockpiles if rainfall fails or a crop disease wipes away a portion of the harvest. Forward markets are also common, and they rely on private stockpiles to ensure that farm supplies are delivered at pre-determined prices. Cropping patterns might also alter when supply sources change. Farmers may switch from less water-intensive crops to even more water-intensive crops when irrigation develops in a given location.

In 1965, India was in the midst of a famine-like situation. Agriculture had been neglected for a long time. India concentrated all of its efforts on industrialisation, but the country's supply could not keep up. Demand is increasing, even for simple foods like cereals. India rose to prominence.

It was reliant on food handouts since it lacked the foreign exchange to purchase it on international markets. The United States offered food aid under the PL-480 programme, which angered Indian officials. As a result, authorities in the United States wanted India's cooperation on matters such as the Vietnam War. As a result, India was compelled to promote the Green Revolution, albeit with much difficulty. The Rockefeller Foundation in the United States has provided funding. India also put a lot of money into it. Irrigation, high-yielding and rust-free seeds, and subsidized fertilizer are examples of supply changers. Pesticides and credit are two things that come to mind while thinking about pesticides. In order to modify the conditions

of trade between agriculture and industry, farm support prices were also created. The focus was initially on wheat, but new high-yield rice cultivars were also produced later. Because irrigation was so important to the project's success, it was distributed unevenly, with the greatest advantages going to Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh, where irrigation was well-developed.

The sluggish distribution of high yielding seed types that might accelerate productivity changes is due to a lack of acceptable adaptations to local circumstances. Diffusion accelerated when local research institutes were able to offer the required adaptation. The spread of innovations in rural regions is more complicated, and the type of innovation as well as the social and economic conditions into which it is introduced impact the rate of acceptance. If irrigation is accessible, farms are of a given size, and improvements produce individual economic rewards, they are likely to be swiftly implemented.

Farm goods can also be susceptible to a cobweb cycle, in which prices swing dramatically from year to year (Figure 2). Sugarcane, onions, potatoes, grains, oilseeds, meat, and poultry goods are particularly vulnerable to such cycles due to their high storage costs and limited commerce. Onions are particularly essential in the Indian diet, and rising onion prices have been known to bring down governments, especially if they occur shortly before an election. An abrupt loss in supply, such as due to severe weather, can raise prices, which leads to a fast increase in output in the next crop cycle, which leads to a steep price drop the next year, and so on. The production of such commodities, as well as investment in their productivity, is discouraged by these fluctuating agricultural price cycles. The cobweb model explains large variations in pulse prices between 2019 and 2020. Tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP) also have periodic price swings that a cobweb model may explain. Tomato prices climb every 2.4 years, onions every 2 years,

and potatoes every 2.8 years, from 2017, and then plummet in the following years, in a normal cobweb cycle.

Then certain price stabilization methods are required. Farm prices are more volatile than non - farm prices, despite the fact that forward markets help to stabilize them. Removing trade barriers is another possibility, but coordinating large - scale imports in the quantities required by India is difficult. India had to arrange for onion imports from Iran in 2019, but it took several months for supplies to arrive, resulting in a price increase.

The Bureau of Agricultural Costs and Prices, whose main function is to establish minimum support prices (MSPs), and the Essential Commodities Act, which includes cereals, potato, onion, pulses, oils and oilseeds and are subject to trade and price regulations, are two mechanisms India developed to stabilize prices of cereals and some essential commodities. MSP was formerly set below market pricing, but over time – and partly as a result of political pressure – a cost - plus idea proposed by the Swaminathan Report emerged, with MSP set at 50% over the cost of production.

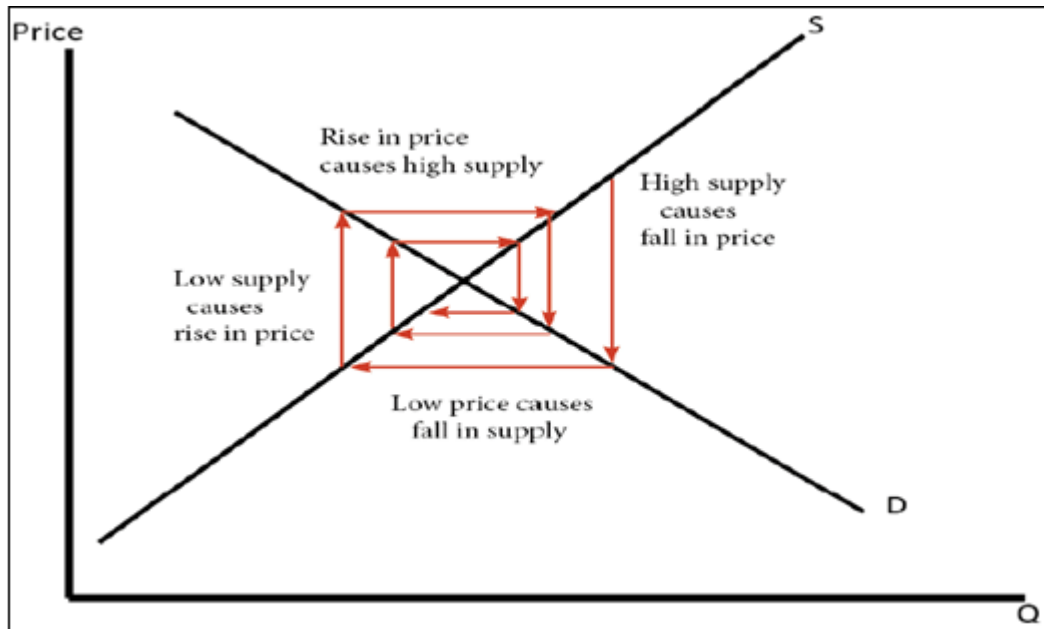


Figure 2: Cobweb Framework

Source: Self constructed

As a result, India's MSP no longer reflects market or international pricing. International food prices were high between 2015 to 2020, while MSP was below them; however, since 2014 - 15, MSP for wheat has been roughly 1.5 times international prices, and for barley and jowar, it has been twice as high. Only rice has some parity between the MSP and the international price, owing to the fact that international rice prices have not plummeted as precipitously as wheat prices.

## 2) Response of Farmer Unions: Why Farmer Protests?

Producers' unions say the regulations will allow farmers to sell and promote farm products beyond the Farm Output Distribute Authority. Furthermore, the legislation will permit commercial activity and stimulate increased agricultural trading systems. The new regulations prohibit legislatures from obtaining a market tax or levy for trading outside of the Products in the domestic markets, leading farmers to worry that the legislation will "progressively deteriorate and eventually destroy the market system, " putting farmers "at the disposal of corporations. " Farmers also worry that the regulations will put an end to their current connection with agricultural micro enterprises.

Furthermore, agitated farmers feel that dissolving the Amendment to the constitution markets will favour the elimination of the Fair trade Minimum Cost for their crops.

As a result, they are asking that the government guarantee the minimum confidence costs in writing. Other requests that have been introduced throughout time include:

- Call a special session of Congress to overturn the agriculture legislation.
- Consider the Minimum Support Price and governmental agricultural purchasing a legal entitlement.
- Declarations that the traditional procurement method will continue to exist.
- Execute the Swaminathan Committee Recommendations by setting the Minimum Support Price at minimum 50 percent higher than the adjusted costs of production.
- Gasoline costs for agricultural usage have been slashed by half.
- Cancellation of the Council on Ambient Air Quality in the National Capital Region and the accompanying Regulation 2020, as well as the penalty and sentence for forest fires.
- Farmers detained in Punjab for destroying wheat chaff have been released.
- Getting rid of the Energy Regulation 2020 The federal government should not meddle in state affairs, and decentralization should be practiced.
- All charges involving farmer activists are being dropped, and they are being released.

Producers have been adamant that the agricultural regulations be repealed. Farmers rejected the state's promise to postpone the agricultural legislation for two years in 2021, and instead fought for their abolition. People like Corrective or preventive measures Possible equivalent and Thol. Thirumavalavan, in addition to agricultural organizations and organizations, have talked openly in support of the farm legislation.

Despite the Prime Minister's statement that the agricultural rules will be repealed in 2021, calls for an universal Basic Means the following resurfaced. This was the farmers' movement's second most important objective. This occurred alongside discussions of the government's goal of increasing farmers' earnings by 2022; the economy minister had remarked in 2016 that "we need to look above food availability and provide our producers evidence of economic stability." Appropriate suggestions from the Standing Committee on Farmers, chaired by MS Swaminathan, have indeed been referenced as a recall.

### 3) Protests, Processions and Fatalities

When the Farm Bills were made public in 2020, small - scale demonstrations began in Punjab. More farmers and farm unions throughout India joined the rallies against the changes only after the acts were passed. Agriculture unions throughout India have called for a nationwide shutdown in 2020 to protest current farm policies. Protests were most common in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, although there were also demonstrations in Karnataka, Haryana, Odisha, and other states. Beginning in October 2020, railway services in Punjab were interrupted for around two months because of protests. Farmers from several states then marched to Delhi to take an instant action in contradiction of the laws. Farmers also controlled the national broadcasting for figure - hugging the objection in an incorrect light.

Farmers' unions in Haryana detained close highway toll plazas on December 12 and allowed free motion of cars. Bullock - cart gatherings in favour of farmer protests have also been staged by bordering farmers in several states of India. Transport organizations such as the All - India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), which represents over 9.5 million truckers and 5 million bus and taxi drivers, have exposed to stop supply transportation in the north states if the administration does not discuss the farmers' concerns.

Farmers started a "Rail roko" (transl. "stop the trains") movement on September 24, 2020, causing railway facilities to and from Punjab to be disturbed. The campaign was continued into October by the farmers. Some farmer groups selected to call off the campaign on October 23rd, since goods of fertilizer and additional substances in the state were running low.

Later waning to increase the support from their state governments, the farmers flinch the march to Delhi to apply burden on the central government. Protesters from the Dilli Chalo campaign were opposed by police at the city's entrances on November 25, 2020. To stop the protestors, police fired slash gas and water guns, dug up roads, and used pieces of barriers and sand barricades, ensuing in at minimum three farmer losses. During the battles, media

focused on the performances of a young man who jumped atop a police water gun that was being used to target complaining farmers and shut it off. He was charged with tried murder later on.

On November 26, 2020, the march on Delhi was maintained by a 24 - hour strike by lots of people across India in protest of equally the agricultural law reform and planned changes to labour law. The number of farmers who choked Delhi's border roads between November 28 and December 3 was believed to be between 150 and 300 thousand. Despite calls for quick negotiations, the centre set the date for 3 December 2020. Also, just limited agricultural unions were invited, and the Prime Minister would not be there. Some unions declined to attend the conference because of the limited invitation. The farmers were ordered by the centre to transfer to a designated protest spot in Burari.

PM Modi's and commercial leaders' effigies were set blazing, and important figures started stating their strategies to return prizes received from the Central Government. More strikes and negotiations between the central government and farmers and their unions shadowed. The farmer's union declared a day before the strike on December 8 that it would only strike between 11 a. m. and 3 p. m. to avoid disrupting the public. Farmers' unions divergent the government's planned changes in legislation in 2020, in spite of the Centre committing to a lowest support value for crops in a written plan. Thousands of people protested in Delhi on Republic Day 2021, with tractor rallies and a storming of the ancient Red Fort.

A Maharashtra farmers' union supports the claims and wants the market to control agricultural product pricing. It keeps that lowest provision prices have offended farmers rather than supported them. They want the government to break contributing in the agricultural supplies market so that farmers aren't dependent on lowest support prices. In favour of agricultural legislation, 20, 000 Kisan Sena members marched to Delhi. Five of the organizations supporting the laws, on the other hand, are directly affiliated to the dominant party, and numerous have no bonds to agriculture or farmers. Residents of the border communities that the farmers seized organized protests in 2021, demanding that the farmers evacuate the locations since it hampered their journey.

Following the second wave of the COVID - 19 pandemic, supporters at protest sites around Delhi have reduced; however, this has been accredited to the harvest season. On the 3rd of February, farmer groups counselled that if the agricultural regulations were not repealed, the protests will escalate to the point of toppling the government. In Bihar, a nonviolent anti - farm legislation rally is assaulted. "You (farmers) have to turn Bengaluru into Delhi. You will have to untrained barrier to the city from all angles," the statement said on March 21. According to Haryana Police, there are over 40, 000 dedicated demonstrators sitting at Singhu and Tikri near the Delhi border as of March 21, 2021.

Starting on July 22, 2021, the SKM has planned for 200 farmers to demonstrate outdoor the Parliament every single daythrough the monsoon assembly. A farmers'

mahapanchayat was held in Muzaffarnagar on September 5, 2021. They began a sit - in at Jantar Mantar, a huge Mughal - era ground near the Parliament, on July 22. On September 5, around 500, 000 farmers gathered in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, for a demonstration rally. Farmers' unions planned a Bharat Bandh on September 27. The bandh had a minimal impact across the country. A demonstration in Lakhimpur Kheri on October 3, 2021 bring about in a number of deaths. Farmers in Hoshiarpur interrupted the showing of a film at five movie halls in November 2021, disappointed that Akshay Kumar had not come out in support.

The Modi administration eventually overturned all three - farm legislation in late November 2021. Protests, on the other hand, would last until December 11, 2021. Hundreds of farmers celebrated their win by dancing and destroying hundreds of tent dwellings along key highways. The farmers began returning to their houses when the protests were deemed finished.

The death toll stood at 41 on December 20, 2020, the day when farmers came together to mourn their losses. It was over 50 on December 30, 2020. On January 2, 2021, the number of deceased farmers was estimated to be 57. According to leaders of the farmer's movement, the death toll of farmers had grasped 120 on January 8, 2021, the week after the start of winter rains. This counted in deaths by suicide during farmer's Satyagraha. 248 farmers had been verified killed as on March 5, 2021. According to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, 537 people perished in the protest between July 10 and July 10, 2021. Around 750 demonstrators perished in October and November 2021, according to BKU leader Rakesh Tikait.

Dhanna Singh, a farmer from Punjab's Mansa district, was the first to die. He was a Bharatiya Kisan Union leader (Dakaunda). According to farmer leaders and media accounts, he died on the night of November 26, 2020, while attempting to manoeuvre his tractor over a Haryana Police Roadbarricade of sand - laden busses and pebbles. He was on his way to join the farmers who had been imprisoned by Delhi Police on the Haryana - Delhi border on November 26.

According to media sources, the death toll among farmers reached 41 on December 20. Punjab had 38 of them, whereas Haryana had three. Seven farmers died near the Tikri border owing to the cold and heart attacks, and six at the Singhu border, including Sant Baba Ram Singh, who dedicated himself on December 16. According to Manoj Yadava, Director - General of Police, Haryana, 25 farmers died between November 26 and December 18. (Heart attacks and cold 14, accident 10, suicide 1). Though, this number did not bout the credible deaths in the 'struggle' by Dr Darshan Pal, the head of the farmer, who claims that 35 farmers died in the 'struggle' through this time dated.

Piara Singh, a 70 - year - old underprivileged farmer and BKU (Dakaunda) participant, died of pneumonia on December 29 at a Sangrur private hospital. Discussing to his elder brother, Piara Singh has been a member of the farmer's Satyagraha since November 26. Amarjeet Singh Rai of Jalalabad and ranch worker Malkiat Kaur of Mazdoor Mukti

Morcha in Mansa, Punjab, was amongst the farmers immolated on December 29.

#### 4) National and International Response

Harsimrat Kaur Badal of Shiromani Akali Dal, the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, accepting on September 17 in protest of the suggestions. Shiromani Akali Dal left the National Democratic Alliance on September 26. Somveer Sangwan, an independent MLA in Haryana, drew his support for the Bharatiya Janata Party administration on December 1. The Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), a BJP partner, has wished that the federal government deliberate provided that a "written promise of the maintenance of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops. "

PM Modi expressed worry on the delinquent of deceived and radicalized farmers on November 30. "The farmers are being bitter on these outstanding agriculture transformation measures by the similar people who have been dishonest them for decades, " he said, noting many instances when opposition members were found guilty of disseminating misinformation. Modi went on to say that the existing system was not being replaced, but that new choices for farmers were being presented. Several Union Ministers have also made similar views. The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare spoken an open letter to farmers on December 17 in response to the new rules.

Until the 20th of January, the Centre and farmers had held ten rounds of negotiations. On the 14th of October, the farmers walked out of the first session of discussions after learning that only the agricultural secretary, not the minister, was there. Three Union ministers, as well as agricultural and trade ministries, attended the conference on January 4th. The three Union Ministers turned down proposals to repeal the three new agriculture legislation, claiming that doing so would need additional consultation with senior officials. Only two items that farmers are concerned about, electricity price increases and fines for stubble burning, have been reached an agreement on by the two parties. A government proposal to suspend the restrictions for 18 months, which was made in January, was also rejected by farmers.

Several analysts have criticized the government's failure and lack of communication in alerting farmers and political allies about the necessity of agriculture bills. Both the BJP and the Congress have emphasized farm reform in their manifestos. The widow of one of the Nihangs participating in the lynching of a suspected desecrater remarked, "He did the right thing. " "In my opinion, this justice is just; we cannot accept sacrilege, " a representative for the United Akali Dal said of the event.

Rob Mitchell, a member of the Victorian parliament, and Russell Wortley, a member of the Victorian Labour Party, were amid the Laborhead who spoke out in provision of the farmers' protests, with Mitchell moralizing the Victorian parliament on the topic afterwards numerous citizen protests across Australia. The Prime Minister of Canada voiced worry over the Indian government's handling of protesters. He was the world's first politician to speak up for farmers on a global scale. "Canada will always be there to protect the right of peaceful demonstrators, " Trudeau said, adding that

he supports "the discussion process. " The Indian Ministry of External Affairs summoned Canada's High Commissioner to India, Nadir Patel, and brought a démarche, calling Trudeau's annotations "an in suffer able interfering in our domestic affairs. "

In spite of the Indian government's cautionary that his words may jeopardize bilateral relations, Trudeau reaffirmed his position. Hundreds of followers demonstrated in downtown Toronto in December, demonstrating their unity in front of the Indian embassies in both cities. The protestors, who were prepared by affiliates of the Sikh communal, stood in unity with the farmers and their right to peaceful protest. In December, the Indian Ambassador to Italy paid a visit to Rome as part of the Indian government's outreach to Sikhs in the wake of the farm protests. When the Embassy declared that Malhotra was well greeted during her visit, she got outrage on social media. Members of the gurudwara management committee, on the other hand, heckled her when she spoke out in support of the new agricultural legislation.

In December 2020, 1, 500 Indian New Zealanders protested the new farming legislation in Auckland's Aotea Square. The United Nations has urged the Indian government to allow the rallies, noting that "people have a right to demonstrate peacefully and authorities must enable them to do so, " supporting the right to express disagreement to the government.

Agriculture reforms, according to the International Monetary Fund, have the potential to be a big step forward for India's agricultural reforms. He claims that the bills will minimize intermediaries and increase efficiency in the long run. He also stated that there should be a "social safety net" in place to safeguard people. On February 2, Human Rights Watch released a statement urging the Indian government to withdraw "baseless criminal proceedings" against journalists who covered the demonstrations.

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana have opted to surrender Jio - sims and move to competitor networks in protest of the intensifying opinion between protesting farmers that Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani were the mainsupporters of the NDA Government's agriculture legislation. In the last week of December 2020, Some of Reliance Jio telecom turrets and other apparatus were damaged in Punjab. Amarinder Singh, the Chief Minister of Punjab, has requested to farmers to stop demolishing communication turrets. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh protested on December 30 to Punjab Governor Vijayender Pal Singh Badnore recall the state's main administrator and Punjab Police Director - General Dinkar Gupta. Before being named DG Punjab police, Gupta worked for Intelligence Bureau for eight years before being nominated DG Punjab police. Singh stated Badnore has caved in to the "antics of the BJP, " which has erroneously claimed that law and order had broken down in Punjab. He urged the BJP to cease slandering farmers with labels like "Naxalites" and "Khalistanis, " and for the party's central leadership to listen to farmers' voices and abolish farm regulations.

### **3. Conclusion**

#### **Vulnerability of Indian Farmers**

Agriculture was still enslaved by a tangle of regulations and subsidies. Unlike South Korea, China, Thailand, and, more recently, Vietnam and Bangladesh, India has been unable to transition people from agriculture to better - paying industrial jobs. As a result, agriculture's proportion of output has dropped to 15% of GDP.

However, over 42% of the workforce still works on the farm. In India, the average farm size is roughly one hectare, and 86% of farms are less than two hectares, with little excess to sell. Even those who do are squeezed by a tightly regulated marketing system, in which dealers frequently establish cartels to pressure farmers and guarantee that pricing information is kept hidden.

High market license costs, which are an important source of revenue for state governments, also limit new merchants' entry and reduce competition. On both the consumer and producer sides, India has been a global laggard in adopting cash transfer programmes direct benefit transfers (DBT). It has implemented DBT for a few products such as kerosene and gas, but it has maintained an ineffective, wasteful, and corrupt food subsidy scheme. On the production side, there is a wasteful input subsidy system for farmers, including loan, fertilizer, pesticide, and power subsidies, which reduce agricultural output, favour bigger farms, and accelerate soil deterioration. India has also intervened with agricultural prices through minimum support prices (MSPs) and import and export regulations to provide the costly food subsidy system, harming rather than benefitting farmers. When the country should be altering its cropping pattern toward lentils, vegetables, fruit, and proteins, it is presently acquiring and storing massive amounts of useless grain. India today spends about 3% of its GDP on different subsidy packages.

One approach to achieve this is to create a system of incentives that favour these crops over wheat and rice, whose output may be reduced. Instead of increasing MSPs under duress, the government of India may boost payouts via PM KISAN and a larger MGNREGA. It should also strengthen agricultural pricing information systems and key infrastructure for the food supply chain using mobile telephony. However, the majority of India's population, which accounts for 42 percent of the population, is trapped in a low productivity trap in agriculture. The majority of these people does not own land and work as workers.

Free energy, no income tax, cheap fertilizer, and guaranteed MSPs in government market have benefited a select few, but India's agriculture is in jeopardy. While the COVID pandemic had a little influence on agriculture, it was in need of a reboot even before the outbreak. Farm protests the largest in Indian history in reaction to measures rushed through parliament during the epidemic have highlighted India's farmers' susceptibility and fragility. Their remedies are a second green revolution on the farm and, for the great majority, more non - farm work.

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