

All India Kisan Sabha

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On Empowering Peasants For Modern Co-operative Farming with Surplus Sharing

Under the dominance of the neoliberal paradigm over the last three decades, national policies related to agriculture have increasingly moved towards giving greater space to private corporations while the government incrementally withdrew from the responsibilities of protecting the interests of working people and ensuring national food security. This process has been greatly intensified over the last six years under the Modi government. Today, not only do private corporations dominate the supply of agricultural inputs, the government has washed its hands of even the responsibility of ensuring that these inputs are made available to farmers at reasonable prices. On the one hand, the government drastically cut down investments in irrigation, flood control and other facilities which are critical for reducing the exposure of agriculture to vagaries of weather. On the other hand, in 2016, Modi government threw open the doors of agricultural insurance to private insurance companies so that they can make windfall profits while farmers get no relief from natural calamities and other disasters.

The enactment of recent farm acts - 'The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020', 'The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020' and 'The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020' is another step in that direction. These laws have not only opened the doors of agricultural markets to private corporations and created a national framework for contract farming, several benefits have been offered to private corporations to pave the way for further penetration of private corporations in agricultural sector. The central government has not only trampled over the constitutional rights of the state governments to make laws in the area of agriculture, these laws are expected to result in a significant loss of revenue which was hitherto used to strengthen agricultural marketing infrastructure in the States. These laws would disadvantage peasants -- in particular, the poorer sections of peasantry -- in settling disputes with large corporate buyers of agricultural produce. It is clear that the government wants to use these laws to wriggle out of the responsibility of ensuring that farmers get remunerative prices for their crops and maintaining the system of public procurement for this purpose. *Weakening of the system of public procurement means, ipso facto, weakening of the public distribution system, the most important policy instrument against poverty and food insecurity in India.*

The All India Kisan Sabha, along with other organisations of peasants, has mounted a stiff resistance against this latest assault of the central government. The Kisan Sabha is in the forefront of this struggle and will continue to fight until the central government is forced to repeal these anti-farmer laws.

State governments do not have the fiscal capacity to enforce Minimum Support Prices or carry out large-scale procurement using state-level resources especially in the context of enforcement of GST since 1st July 2017. Hence, the primary responsibility of ensuring that farmers get a guarantee of minimum support prices for their produce is on the central government. Only the central government has the fiscal capacity to undertake large-scale public procurement. The system of national public procurement is also critical for bridging the gaps in availability of food commodities across states. The Central Government should bring adequate budgetary provisions for establishing Price Stabilisation Fund in support of the State Governments to ensure producers of all crops get MSP at C2+50% with legally guaranteed procurement.

That said, in the given situation, it is important that the State governments that are committed to protect the interests of farmers take some proactive steps to minimise the adverse impacts of such policies and laws created by the central government. This should be done through legislative interventions, judicial interventions and policy measures. In addition, State governments should also extend support to peasant's movements and organisations in protecting interests of farmers. The precise forms of interventions by the states have to take into account the diversity of agricultural situation, variations in social, political and historical contexts, as well as the variations in legislative and institutional provisions in different States. Keeping these in view, some of the following steps may be undertaken by the state governments to protect interests of farmers in respective states.

- 1) Strengthen the State-government institutions for public procurement for crops especially essential commodities for which national schemes for procurement exist so that State-level institutions can proactively intervene to ensure that procurement of crops continues to be carried out with the grant in aid and loan arrangement supported with bank guarantee by both the State and Central Governments.
- 2) Comprehensive state level legislation to strengthen non profitable social cooperative institutions of peasants and workers to undertake agro-processing and marketing particularly of crops in which processing is necessary before retail. Dominance of cooperatives in agricultural procurement, processing and marketing will help minimise the difference between producer and consumer prices, and pass on the benefits to farmers, farm workers and consumers through transparent IT - enabled system for surplus sharing.
- 3) Include clauses in the legislation that make essential for all the agro-processing industries, trade and marketing enterprises in private, public and co-operative sectors to share the surplus they acquired through value addition of farm produce with the farmers to provide MSP@C2+50%.
- 4) Where possible, provide additional support and carry out procurement for agricultural produce for which the central government does not undertake procurement. For doing this, several considerations are important. First, pressure should be created on the central government to bear the fiscal burden of such interventions. Secondly, a priority should be given to cover commodities that are important for food and nutrition security. Thirdly, such interventions should be designed keeping in mind their implications on sustainability of use of land and water resources. Finally, implementing state-level procurement would require creation of infrastructure and institutional framework for storage and disposal of procured crops. Apart from direct retailing by social cooperative institutions, many commodities could be provided through the public distribution system and used for mid-day meals in schools, child care centres, public hospitals and other public facilities.
- 5) Provide alternative legislative framework for contract farming that discourages corporate-led contract farming and promotes contracts between farmers and cooperative institutions, and contracts between producer cooperatives/farmer groups and buyers. The alternative framework should be designed to protect the interests of farmers. One of the ways of achieving this would be by making it mandatory that the contracts be signed by a public authority as a third-party signatory. State governments should create awareness among farmers to promote social cooperation, and discourage contracts between individual farmers and private corporations. Incentives may also be provided to promote cooperative farming and to strengthen the relationship between farmers and marketing cooperatives. A comprehensive plan for real term compensation and insurance coverage for all sorts of crop losses due to crop disease, natural calamity and wild life menace needs to be assured.

General Secretary

Hannan Mollah

Draft Copy for Circulation-

MODEL (Name of State) FACILITATION OF SOCIAL COOPERATIVES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (PROCESSING AND MARKETING) BILL 2021

A bill to transform agriculture in the state by ensuring fair prices for agricultural produce through procurement, processing and conversion to value-added products and ploughing back a share of the surplus value generated - to farmers and agricultural workers utilising modern marketing methods. Its object is to ensure protection of farmers from exploitation by middlemen and large corporate entities while ensuring additional wages for agricultural workers and additional price for products to farmers and to provide remedies for or related matters thereof. The law is enacted in the 71st year of the Republic of India as follows

**1) Section
Abbreviation, Scope, Initiation**

- A) This Act may be termed as the 'Model (name of State) Facilitation of Social Cooperatives for Agricultural Products (Processing and Marketing) Act – 2021.
- B) The jurisdiction of this Act shall extend to the entire State.
- C) This Act shall come into force on the date fixed by the Government of (state name) through gazette Notification.

**2) Section
Definitions**

Unless otherwise stated in the context of this Act,

- A) 'Government' means Government of State (name).
- B) 'Prescribed' means prescribed by the rules made under this Act.
- C) 'Section' means a section of this Act.
- D) 'Notification' means a notification as determined by the rules made under this Act.
- E) 'Fund' means loans, deposits of members of the respective agro-social co-operative self-help groups, loan and grants systematically availed from various financial institutions and amount provided by the State Government as well as the Union Government under various schemes.
- F) 'Cultivation activity' means an agricultural activity that is a combination of traditional and modern farming practices in the State and is conducive to the development of the agricultural sector through collective and cooperative farming to augment agriculture.
- G) 'Agricultural Produce Procurement Centre' means a modern warehousing centre which collects various agricultural products produced in the respective cooperative farms in the various agricultural sectors of the State ensuring reasonable prices to the farmers and keeps them undamaged at block level and state level warehouses.
- H) 'Modern Agro Processing Industry' means a factory that collects and stores raw agricultural produce from individual farmers and farmers' collectives and cooperatives and converts them into value-added consumer products with the help of science and technology.
- I) 'Agricultural Product Marketing' means marketing of raw agricultural products procured from social cooperatives of farmers as well as the processed and value-added consumer products through the formation of local and foreign marketing facilities by combining traditional as well as modern online business.
- J) 'Agricultural Social Co-operative Self Help Groups' means Agricultural Self Help Group formed by those engaged in agriculture in the limits of agricultural areas of the respective Panchayat or cluster of Panchayats, Municipality, or Corporation in the State and obtained affiliation from the respective Block Level Agricultural Social Co-operative Societies.

K) 'Block Level Agricultural Social Cooperative Processing and Marketing Centre' means the Block Level Centre for the Coordination, Regulation and Development of Farmers' Self Help Groups under the regions comprising of 8 to 12 Block Panchayats in the State and functioning with the approval and direction of the State Agrarian Social Co-operative Processing Marketing Centre.

L) 'State Modern Agricultural Social Co-operative Processing and Marketing Centre' means a State Centre for Coordination, Control and Development of Agricultural Co-operative Centres in the Block Level Regions of the State.

M) '*Social Co-operative*' means a cooperative institution under the collective leadership of the member peasants and workers with financial autonomy and not controlled by the bureaucracy and the government.

3. Section

Formation and activities of Local Agricultural Social Cooperative Self Help Groups Self Help Groups can be formed with the approval and under the direction of the respective Block Agricultural Social Co-operative Processing and Marketing Centre comprising of not less than twenty and not more than forty peasants and agricultural workers residing in the designated local bodies and engaged in farming.

B) Local Agricultural Social Co-operative Self Help Groups are a group of farmers engaged in cultivation of one kind or another within the limits of respective Local Self Government Institutions and known as the Primary Agricultural Social Co-operative Self Help Groups (PASC SHG).

C) The Committee shall consist of a President, Vice-President and Secretary elected from among the members.

D) The group shall open an account in an authorized bank in the name of the President and Secretary.

E) The meeting of the Self Help Group shall be compulsory once in two months and on any emergency. The quorum of the meeting may be twenty or one third of the total members whichever is less.

F) The Self-Help Group meeting should be chaired by the President. In the absence of the President, the Vice President may preside.

G) An office is required to focus on the activities of the group and to keep records. The day-to-day operations of the office shall be vested with the Secretary.

H) An annual general body meeting of the group shall be convened at the end of each financial year and the revenue and expenditure statement for the year duly audited shall be submitted to the meeting for approval. At the annual meeting, the group may allow office bearers to remain, or be elected. Members can be elected by secret ballot if multiple names are nominated for each position.

I) At the annual meeting, the representatives of the Block Level Committee should be present as observers and should review the procedures and give necessary instructions to streamline the activities of the Group.

J) Within the scope of work of each Self Help Group, it is possible to work in collaboration with those who are engaged in agriculture and other groups of a similar nature.

K) The respective Self Help Groups should strive to plan and implement schemes for further improvement of agricultural practices within the limits of the groups, to increase production by adopting modern farming practices and to increase the area of farmland.

L) Conscious intervention should be made to promote eco-friendly farms, organic farms, aquaculture and integrated farming considering the geographical features of each farm.

M) For the expansion of agricultural land, schemes should be initiated and implemented to promote fallow land, lease cultivation and home cultivation, to provide necessary assistance and guidance including input supply, extension services and to provide adequate prices for produce.

N) To modernise agriculture production, IT enabled Farm Planning schemes with co-operative cultivation linking with procurement, processing, marketing and surplus sharing shall be executed.

4) Section

Membership, Liability and Expulsion of Members of Local Self Help Groups

A) Any individual who is a resident of the area covered by the proposed group engaged in farming, capable of collecting and delivering agricultural produce to the group's centralized market, willing to act in accordance with the rules and regulations of the said self-help group, sensible and adult can become member of the local self-help group.

- B) A person who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the group without a valid reason, or *who continuously fails to make his produce available in the group's warehouse at all intervals of the harvest*, and who acts contrary to the terms of the group is incapable to remain as a member and will be expelled. In case of unreasonable expulsion from the membership of the group, that member can file an appeal to the concerned block committee.
- C) All members are responsible for implementing the decisions of the group.
- D) Members are required to pay a membership fee and monthly subscription as decided by the team and supply their agricultural products to the respective Social Cooperative centre.
- E) Each member is responsible for finding the capital required for collective farming under the group. In addition to loans and deposits from members, bank loans, loans from recognized financial institutions and plan allocations from various government departments and Union Government can also be used for developing capital.
- F) It is the responsibility of the group to ensure that the agricultural products of the members receive remunerative price.
- G) Certain fixed percentage of the surplus income from the sale of the value added consumer products processed out of the raw agricultural products after deducting the cost of cultivation, cost of procurement, processing, marketing and any other ancillary expenses shall be distributed to the members as additional price according to the proportion of the quantity and quality of the products and as additional wage to the respective workers.
- H) The assets and liabilities of the group will be vested in the members.
- I) Members should be notified three days before the regular meetings of the group and one week before the annual meeting. It is the duty of the Secretary to convene the meeting with the permission of the President, to keep a record of the minutes of the meeting, to keep a record of the revenue and expenditure, to present it at the annual meeting and, if necessary at other meetings, and to carry out correspondence with the group.
- J) It is the responsibility of the Group President to coordinate, oversee and control the activities of the group, to preside over meetings and other events, to sign documents, to review revenue and expenditure accounts and other documents, and to lead a transparent and smooth team work. In the absence of the President, these responsibilities will fall to the Vice President.

5. Section

Formation, structure and function of Block Level Modern Agricultural Social Co-operative Processing and Marketing Centres:

- A) The scope of work of Block level regions is to be composed of not less than eight and not more than twelve Block Panchayats in one district or two adjoining districts. (The following is an example.)
- B) A 15 member Block level governing body (excluding the ex-officio members) can be formed from the President and Vice President of Self Help Groups in Block level regions or members elected by the respective governing body Self-Help Groups.
- C) Of the 15 selected, four women and one SC & ST member must be on the block level committee and there is no impediment to their inclusion in the general category.
- D) Block Agriculture Officer as directed by the State Government. (Ex officio)
- E) Block Fisheries Officer as directed by the State Government. (Ex officio)
- F) Block Development Officer as directed by the State Government. (Ex officio)
- G) Block Level Industries Officer as directed by the State Government (Ex officio)
- H) Block Level Revenue Officer as directed by the State Government (Ex officio)
- I) Co-operative Assistant Registrar as directed by the State Government (Ex officio)
- J) The President, Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected from among the members of the Board elected at the block level. (Criteria for electing elected members should be clarified)
- K) Office for block level governing body, modern warehouses and vehicle facilities should be set up.
- L) The Block Level board has the power to appoint the necessary staff. But At the block level subject to the provision of the State level committee applications should be invited and appointments should be made on the basis of written test and interview to ensure transparency. Dependents of block level board members should not be allowed to apply at the respective block level.
- M) Examination conducted by the Board of examiners appointed by the respective groups subject to the conditions of the State level committee; Appointments should be made from a published rank list based on interviews conducted by the governing body.
- N) The expiry date of the said rank list may be decided by the respective groups.

O) From the Block level, the secretary and the team should be considered as employees. The appointment should be made as mentioned above. Appointing a member of the Governing Body as Honorary Secretary until the Secretary is legally appointed activities can be started. The team is then required to appoint a paid secretary on a consolation salary. Once the financial stability is achieved salary and other benefits may be granted to the Secretary.

P) Qualification of Paid Secretary is +2 with JDC / BCom (Corporation) / A recognized degree with HDC desirable. But in other posts the qualification, salary, Benefits and the name of the post will be decided by the block level committee. Procedures for appointments should be recorded in the minutes book (Eligibility, benefits, promotions, promotions, retirements, penalties, expulsions and pensions under Section 80 of the existing State Co-operatives Act can be followed and amended from time to time.)

Q) (I) The Block Level Centre is primarily responsible for the formation, consolidation and promotion of Self Help Groups (PASCs) within the respective Block Centres in each Block Level Center in the State.

II) Formation of Agricultural Self Help Groups as required in the respective areas according to the agricultural potential of each local body. Assist in the activities of each group.

III) To enable farmers to adopt modern methods.

IV) To deliver quality seeds and fertilizers and other inputs.

V) To ensure financial and technical support.

V) Establishment of modern warehouses under block level regions for collection and storage of produce from agricultural Self Help Groups after local market.

VI) Keep agricultural produce procured from Self Help Groups intact and transfer to local markets and centralized processing plants, cold storage and refrigerated vehicle systems. Establish modern agro-processing industries on the basis of crops.

VII) Establish Block level centres for marketing of agricultural products and processed value added products.

VIII) Provide mutual market for agricultural produce available from different Block regions.

IX) Arrangements will be made to provide insurance benefits to the members of the Agricultural Self Help Group under Block Level Regions.

X) Provide immediate compensation, agricultural insurance and other security for crop damage caused by wildlife on farms.

XI) Take necessary interventions to ensure water availability in the fields.

XII) Take steps to supply the required electricity to the farms. Intervene to prepare solar power systems where power is not available.

XIII) Take action to provide immediate assistance in collaboration with the concerned departments for mitigation of crop damage due to natural calamities.

XIV) Provide the necessary infrastructure and technical facilities for the implementation of farm tourism schemes and integrated farming in tourism potential regions.

R) For official purposes of board members travel expenses and a fixed amount of honorarium can be paid.

(Block level officers from Animal Husbandry and Dairy needs to be considered as ex-officio members. Considering the leadership role of peasants and workers in the social cooperatives, the decision making power needs to be vested with the elected members and the ex-officio members shall not have voting rights. This aspect needs to be included as a clause of the Bill)

6. Section

Formation, Structure and Function of State Level Modern Social Cooperative Agricultural Produce Processing and Marketing Centre:

The Board of Directors of State (name) Modern Social Cooperative Agricultural Produce Processing and Marketing Centre shall be constituted as follows:

- A) The Chairman shall be a farmer representative elected by the members of the State Committee.
- B) A Government-nominated agricultural expert shall be the Vice-Chairman.
- C) At least one member (ex officio) in the rank of Joint Secretary, Department of Industries as recommended by the State Government.
- D) At least one member (ex officio) in the rank of Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture as recommended by the State Government.

(At least one member each (ex officio) in the rank of Joint Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy as recommended by the State Government.)

- E) At least one member (ex Officio) in the rank of Joint Secretary of Local Self Government as recommended by the State Government.
- F) A member not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Finance Department nominated by the State Government (ex officio)
- G) 6 farmers nominated by the State Government from the Block level committees.
- H) 4 agricultural workers nominated by the State Government from the block level committees.
- I) 3 persons from Members of the Legislative Assembly among which one shall be from the Opposition representing the agricultural sector and nominated by the Government.

(Members except Ex officio members shall be elected democratically. Block Level Board President and Vice President or members nominated by the Board of Directors may also have the right to vote on the State Board. The current pattern in the co-operative society election can be followed)

- K) Office, allied facilities and vehicles shall be provided to the State Level Committee.
- L) Travel expenses and fixed honorarium may be paid for official purpose to Members of the State Level Board of Governors (Except to ex-officio member).

7. Section

Official Tenure of Block - State Level Committees

- A) The official tenure of the State Modern Social Co-operative Agricultural Produce Processing and Marketing centre, excluding ex-officio members, shall be up to 5 years from the date of nomination/election and eligible for re-appointment/election.
- B) Any member may resign by notifying the Government in writing. Once government accepts the resignation, he becomes a non-member.

8. Section

Block level and State level committees are not invalidated due to vacancy/ deficiency - Any decision or action taken by the State and Block level committees is not invalid only on the ground of-

1. The aforesaid vacancy or defect
2. Any irregularity in the proceedings/ in the formation of the above Governing Councils which does not affect the value of the subject.

9. Section

Vacancy

The vacancies in the State and Block level committee need to be filled as soon as possible._

If the member elected by ballot is removed, the next member must be elected within 6 months from the date of his resignation.

10. Section

Powers and Duties of the State Level Committee

- A) To co-ordinate, regulate and promote the activities of the Block Level Committees and to integrate the various schemes of the State and Central Governments and to finance various schemes, for mobilising grants and loans with government guarantee from Central Government and State Governments and Government-controlled and other financial institutions and directly through budget allocations by both the State Government and the Union Government.

- B) Assistance in raising funds required for the activities of the Block level committees and also to ensure financial discipline.
- C) Participate as observers in the meetings of Block level governing body, evaluate the activities directly and submit necessary advice.
- D) Intervene to ensure the service and co-operation of various departments of the State Governments to the activities of the Social Cooperatives.
- E) Organize research activities required for modernization of the agricultural sector.
- F) Consider and settle appeals from block level groups.
- G) Provide facilities for legal advice if in need on litigation to Self Help Groups.
- H) Set necessary standards and norms and ensure its flawless implementation for election to Block level Governing Boards and appointment of staff.
- I) Take necessary steps to bring to the notice of the Government whenever the Act requires periodic amendment and extend co-operation in this regard.
- J) Necessary and timely action should be taken to provide compensation in case of widespread damage to crops due to natural calamities, wildlife and pests.
- K) Establish agro-industrial parks in the State each park to cover certain number of the Block level clusters either directly or in collaboration with other state owned agencies to develop agro-industries.
- L) Cooperate with the Industrial department to make maximum use of Central Government and State Government schemes for setting up of agro-industrial Park and related infrastructure in the State.
- M) Establish and promote crop wise- modern - large scale agro-industrial processing centres and storage and transport facilities including cold chain network.
- N) Promote and develop (state name) brand of processed value added consumer products locally and globally and develop product distribution network, expand the marketing network online market and digital market. Develop market by cooperating with government, semi-government institutions, through public- co-operative-private sector undertakings, public distribution system, school noon meal scheme and anganwadi scheme and other Central Government and State Government schemes etc.
- O) *Ensure Minimum Support Price – MSP@C2+50% (50% above cost of production) to all agricultural products based on the quality standards supplied to the Primary Agricultural Self Help Groups and the Social Cooperatives by the member farmers as well as non-member farmers.*
- P) *Develop and implement scheme to share certain fixed percentage of the surplus income earned by marketing the branded value-added consumer products processed out of the primary agricultural products as additional price to the member farmers according to the proportion of the quantity of products supplied to the social cooperatives and additional wages to the respective workers involved in the production network.*
- Q) *Establish Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) to ensure Minimum Support Prices (MSP) at C2+50% for the products from all member farmers as well as non-member farmers with the support of various schemes of the Central Government and State Government, interest free loans from the financial institutions with government guarantee and share from the surplus income of the social cooperatives from marketing the branded value added consumer products out of the raw agricultural products. The PSF can develop as self-reliant fund from the share of surplus created out of the income from the processed, value added consumer products and extend assistance for developing crop insurance and compensation schemes to all member farmers.*
- R) *Large Scale Agro-processing industries in the public, private and co-operative sectors are required to procure agricultural produce from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) at C2+50% and procurement of agricultural products at rate lower than MSP will be treated as an offence and proceeded with. A system of authority to monitor and fix Minimum Support Price to all crops from time to time shall be ensured.*
- S) In order to develop scale of economies to protect the interest of the farmers, Social cooperatives shall cooperate with the State government's scheme and various agricultural development schemes under various government and semi government departments and similar institutions in all sectors including production, procurement, processing and marketing.

11. Section

Establishment of Funds of State and Block Level Agricultural Social Cooperative Process Marketing Centre

The fund shall comprise of fixed amount from the annual budget of the respective local bodies, amount provided under various government schemes, NABARD loan grant, various projects launched with the support of the State and Central Governments and the share of surplus income from the marketing of value-added consumer products produced out of agricultural products supplied by the member farmers to the social cooperatives.

12. Section
Annual Report and Accounts

Within three months of the commencement of each financial year, the Council shall present and approve the annual audited statement of accounts of the previous year prepared by the auditing team decided by the state governing council of the social cooperative.

13. Section
Power to make rules

A) The Government may make all necessary rules for the implementation of this act through a notification published in the gazette.

B) As soon as possible after the enactment of any provision made under this Act, before the State Assembly for 14 days or in two consecutive sessions should be placed and the Legislature so amends the rules or decides not to make the rules, the rules shall be amended only effective or have no effect at all. Any such amendment, however those rule must be such as not to infringe on the validity of anything previously done.

14. Section
Description of intentions

The agricultural sector of the country is going through various crises. Peasant suicides are on the rise and they are facing more crises due to the lack of fair prices for their produce that they produce even by overcoming climate change and natural disasters.

Studies undertaken worldwide reveals that the farmer gets only less than 10 percent of the value of the value added products made out of raw agricultural products as price of their primary products.

In order to ensure reasonable price to agricultural products, to liberate farmers from exploitation by the intermediaries, to increase agricultural production and to establish modern centralised storage facility to stock the raw products undamaged, to process the raw products to manufacture value added products, to develop local as well as foreign marketing facilities, to share the surplus obtained through marketing the value added products as additional price to farmers and additional wage to workers, and since protecting the interests of the peasantry and ensuring their progress is the responsibility of any progressive society-

To produce quality agricultural products and enhance productivity by combining traditional and modern farming methods according to the potential of each region through the farmers' cooperatives and collectives, to avoid occupational hazards and ensure livelihoods and financial security for the peasant households, to compensate crop damage caused by wildlife menace, natural disasters, pests and crop failures and ensure insurance coverage and protect the environment of the State, to promote cooperative and collective farming, to assure reasonable and remunerative price to the farm produce through expanding local market facilities for various farm produce.

To set up modern warehouses to stock agricultural produce intact, to convert raw agricultural products as value added consumer products by establishing modern technology based large scale crop wise agro industries, to develop online and digital marketing to strengthen and further develop local and international markets, to promote agro-industrial culture in the state of (name) to ensure food security to the people of (name) by promoting food crops and to set up modern Social-Cooperative-Agricultural Produce Processing and Marketing Centres, such a legislation has become essential.

15. Section
Financial Memorandum

If this bill is enacted and comes into force there will be no additional expenditure from the State reserve fund.

16. Section
Delegated legislative power memorandum

A) Section 13 of the Bill empowers the government to make rules by notification for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the Act.

B) The procedures for making rules or issuing notices on matters relating to them are normal or administrative and after the rules have been made are also subject to scrutiny by the legislature. The delegated legislative power is therefore of a normal nature.

(The bill is entirely for farmers and agricultural workers envisioned with absolute power and rights. Financial and technical assistance, legal protection and promotion by the government agencies need to be ensured. That is why legislation is necessary.

The compelling situation of primary agriculture products to be sold as raw materials at minimal cost can be avoided. After value addition, marketing of the consumer products locally and internationally through modern technology like e-Trade can be assured. The surplus income thus developed can be redistributed as additional price to the peasants according to the volume and quality of products supply and additional wage to workers.

It is also possible to eliminate the exploitation of corporate monopolies and their intermediaries. Governance of social co-operative societies can be guaranteed through modern worker self-management system led by the respective committees of workers and council of peasants. The necessary legal protection is possible through this legislation)

Hannan Mollah
For AIKS Centre