

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INFORMATION REQUIRED BY COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL COSTS AND PRICES FOR ITS REPORT ON PRICE POLICY FOR KHARIF CROPS OF 2009-2010 SEASON.**

(Though the Kharif Report will cover mainly the following crops: (i) *Cereals*: paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi; (ii) *Pulses*: tur (arhar), moong, urad; (iii) *Oilseeds*: groundnut, soyabean, sunflowerseed, sesamum, nigerseed; (iv) *Cotton*; (v) *VFC tobacco*, yet the Commission is interested in all facts, issues, suggestions relating to the State's agricultural sector as a whole. Therefore, replies to the questionnaire may cover discussions on various issues and additional information on other crops grown in the State.)

**PART-I: GENERAL**

1. Give an overview of the state of agriculture, indicating any structural change and reform initiatives that may have taken place in recent years. Also please indicate whether these changes, if any, can be explicitly linked to any policy initiative of the Government.
2. Give an analytical note on production performance of :
  - (a) Kharif as well as rabi crops in your state during 2008-2009 in the light of the various explanatory variables such as monsoon, rainfall and its spatial / temporal distribution and other weather/agronomic factors in the state.
  - (b) The prospects and strategies for kharif crops during 2009-2010.
  - (c) A statement showing the current gap between requirements and availability of various inputs, namely seeds (certified/hybrid/truthfully labelled), fertilizers, irrigation water, electricity, insecticides, pesticides and credit in the state may please also be furnished. What are the problem areas and how are these being addressed ?
3.
  - (a) What are the issues concerning seed sector in your state?
  - (b) Please give the status of seed farms and seed multiplication programme in your state.
  - (c) Please give the current status of seed certification in your state.
4. Was there any agro-climatic aberration during 2008-09 kharif season? If so, then
  - i) Please provide a broad account of the crops affected and quantify the extent of damage to each crop.
  - ii) Was there a contingency plan to deal with such situation?
  - iii) Was this operationalised in time? If so, list the broad components.
  - iv) How did this help the affected farmers to cope with the adverse climatic situation?

5. (a) What is the extent of agricultural diversification including crop diversification in your state? Please also give details of policy support in terms of pricing, appropriate technology, extension, marketing, value addition and other support services provided by the State Government to diversified crops.  
  
(b) Has the State got any study conducted on pros and cons of crop diversification. If so, Please give the salient details of the study.  
  
(c) What is the extent of area shift from rice and wheat to other crops during the past five years.
6. Has the State got assessment of crop-area being diverted to non-agricultural uses/SEZ in the past five years? If yes, provide the details.
7. What is the status of soil health in your State? Are there any soil testing programmes in your state? Provide detailed information on results of soil testing.
8. Eleventh Plan & its Annual Plan (break-up), allocation and physical targets and development programmes of cereals, pulses and oilseeds including those under the Work Plans which are being implemented under the macro management mode in your state.
9. What are the measures taken for improving :
  - (a) water use efficiency in Agriculture
  - (b) on farm water management
  - (c) watershed development
  - (d) gains envisaged from above measures and
  - (e) Post harvest management
10. Please give the trends in the use of bio-fertilisers, compost and green manure. Please also give details of steps taken to encourage organic farming and its certification.
11. Has the state evolved IPM modules to combat the fall in acreage under pulses and oilseeds ? If yes, then details thereof.
12. (a) What are the strength and weakness of the extension system in the state?  
  
(b) What are the current initiatives to strengthen the extension system ?
13. (a) What are the measures taken to improve the agricultural marketing system in the state?  
  
(b) What is the status of reforms in agricultural marketing ?  
  
(c) Are there specific initiatives to attract investment in agricultural marketing and post harvest handling?

(d) Response in your state to futures market.

14. Please indicate progress on contract farming and name of nodal organization (crop-wise) in the state. What are the measures taken in protecting the interests of the farmers by the Government?
15. Please give an update on various agriculture/crop insurance schemes (both public and private) operating in your State, giving comprehensive information on crops/area coverage, premium collected and compensation paid right from the inception of the scheme.
16. Has the National Food Security Mission been launched in your state?. If so, please furnish details as to when the Mission has been launched, the targets laid down, the progress achieved in this regard etc.
17. Media reports suggest that there have been suicides by farmers in many states in the recent years. What are facts in this regard in the case of your state ?. Details (abstract) of the relief measures.
18. *(a) In what way, your state has been affected, or is likely to be affected, by the process of agricultural trade liberalisation?*  
  
*(b) What measures are being contemplated to cope with the challenges of agricultural trade liberalisation and to make state agriculture more competitive? In particular, what is the state's vision.*  
  
*(c) What is the strategy to reap the benefits from trade liberalization in your state and measures for support, technology development, infrastructure strengthening, information dissemination, Sanitary and Phytosanitary(SPS) standards, etc.?*  
  
*(d) What is the status of agri-export zones in your state? Area in hectares (shown in district map of the state). Likely impact on area under cultivation of main crops to be affected.*
19. In addition to support/commercial purchases of crops covered under MSP, have there been any market intervention schemes for any crops in the state during the last three years? If so, then details thereof.
20. Has the state government announced any bonus over the MSP for any of the crops during the past three years? If so, (i) rates of bonus crop-wise and (ii) the reason(s) for giving the bonus.
21. Has the state government sought and got relaxation of FAQ norms for any of the kharif crops during the current season (2008-2009) and the reasons thereof ?
22. Any other point which the State Government would like to bring to the notice of the Commission which can be useful in the formulation of price policy of kharif crops and making non-price recommendations.

23. Please suggest sustainable levels of minimum support prices in the ensuing 2009-10 kharif season

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Suggested Minimum Support Price for 2009-2010 crop</u> (Rs. per quintal)	<u>Rationale</u>
1. Paddy		
(a) Common		
(b) Grade A		
2. Jowar		
3. Bajra		
4. Maize		
5. Ragi		
6. Tur (Arhar)		
7. Moong		
8. Urad		
9. Groundnut-in-shell		
10. Soyabean		
(a) Black		
(b) Yellow		
11. Sunflowerseed		
12. Sesamum		
13. Nigerseed		
14. Cotton (kapas)		
(a) Staple length (mm) of 24.5-25.5 and Micronaire value of 4.3-5.1		
(b) Staple length (mm) of 29.5-30.5 and Micronaire value of 3.5-4.3		

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**PART-II**  
**PRICE SUPPORT, PROCUREMENT AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

1. (a) Have there been instances of primary market prices of any of the kharif cereals/pulses/oilseeds falling below the minimum support price during the current season?  
  
(b) If so, give details: crop-wise, market-wise, month-wise with possible reasons thereof. What were the measures taken to arrest the trend?  
  
(c) Please give your views on banning of export of some varieties of Non Basmati Rice, keeping in view the interest of farmers as well as consumers of the country.
2. Please give the trends in the market arrival of paddy/rice/coarse cereals and the quantity procured in your state (agency-wise) during the 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 seasons. Also provide an estimate of purchase of paddy by millers and private traders for the same period along with the unit prices.
3. (a) What is the status of removing restrictions on inter-state movement and stock limits of produce? Has your Government put entry tax on agricultural commodities?  
  
(b) Were there instances of foodgrains being brought from other states to be sold in the mandis of your state? If so, what is the quantum and the reason thereof?
4. Please state the arrangements for price support operations crop-wise in the state, along with the details on quantity procured/agency undertaking procurement, the disposal made and the unit price realised.
5. Please give an assessment of post harvest losses for paddy/coarse cereals/pulses and oilseeds in the state? What are the steps being taken to reduce such losses?
6. Quantity and value of commercial purchases as well as purchases under MSP of pulses (by name) made by NAFED and state agencies during 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and mode of disposal.
7. Allocation and offtake of rice/ wheat/ coarse cereals from the Central Pool under BPL, APL, and other welfare/relief/employment generation schemes in your state during the last five financial years? Please indicate reasons for not lifting/the trend of lifting and allocation of foodgrains in this year.
8. What is the impact of PDS in ensuring micro food and nutrition security?

9. Give month-wise wholesale prices (Rs/quintal) and retail prices (Rs/Kg) of paddy/ rice/coarse cereals/pulses (whole and split)/oilseeds in selected rural and urban centres in your state during 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, in the following format for at least 5 centres.

Name of the Market:.....

Month	Wholesale price (Rs/Qtl)			Retail Price (Rs/Kg)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
October						
November						
December						
January						
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						

10. The current level of taxes / cesses / commission payable by the buyer / seller in the regulated markets/yards in the state and also give the rate per unit of output in the following proforma. Also mention effective dates.

Item	Date	Rice	Coarse grains	Oilseeds	Pulses	Cotton
Market/Mandi fee						
Purchase Tax						
Commission for Artias/						
Commission Agents						
Development/Rural						
Development Cess						
Other charges						

11. Give a critique of the working of the foodgrains distribution system during the past five years and explain the reasons for large gaps that exist between allocation and off-take under different schemes in your state

### PART III : RAW COTTON

1. Please give area, production and yield of important varieties of cotton in different staple classes in the state during last five years along with targets for 2009-2010 season.
2. Please indicate the category-wise/variety-wise break-up of Kapas (Cotton) grown in your state and particularly for the two classes of cotton as given below:-
  - (i) Staple length of 24.5 mm-25.5 mm, micronaire value 4.3-5.1.
  - (ii) Staple length of 29.5 mm-30.5 mm, micronaire value 3.5-4.3Also indicate other category of Kapas (Cotton) grown in the state by clearly specifying details of staple length and micronaire value.
3. Please describe the weather conditions and its impact on cotton crop during the current season as compared to last year.
4. Please also describe the pest/disease situation with respect to cotton during the current season and the extent of damage, if any, and measures taken to combat the problem.
- 5 (a). Please give performance assessment of GM varieties/BT cotton in your state in terms of area coverage, yield, production competitiveness, reduced pest incidence, lower use of pesticides and farmer's response? Was the introduction of BT cotton properly supervised in your state? If it is not yet introduced, what are the prospects for the same in your state?
  - (b). Whether Bt. cotton has performed better in terms of quality, increase in staple length and market prices, please specify.
6. (a) Please give an update on various cotton development programmes including those under the four Mini Missions of the Technology Mission on Cotton.
  - (b) Indicate the steps taken to reduce or eliminate the multiplicity of cotton seeds and mixing of varieties of cotton in the state and the result thereof.
  - (c) Are any attempts being made by the State Government for improving the post-harvest varietal purity of cotton to increase its quality?
  - (d) Has the State Government any plan to orient its cotton production to harness the opportunities of textile trade liberalisation?
7. Has there been any move to initiate contract farming of cotton in your state? If so, give a status note.
8. Have the prices of any variety of cotton (kapas) fallen below the minimum support price in the state during the current season,? If so, give (a) names of the markets, (b) the period during which prices fell below MSP, (c) the possible reasons thereof, (d) action taken to safeguard the interest of cotton growers and (e) quantity of cotton purchased by or on behalf of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and NAFED and other agencies of the state and cooperatives at MSP in your state alongwith the percentage of kapas purchased at MSP to that of total arrivals in the market.

9. Please give commercial purchases of 'Kapas' of different varieties and prices paid thereof in the State by the CCI, NAFED and other agencies of the State and Co-operatives during the seasons 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. Comment on the performance of each of the agencies that operate in the State and suggestions for improvement in their functioning *may also be provided*.
10. Please give month-wise wholesale prices of kapas and lint (specify variety/staple length) in important markets in your state during the last three cotton seasons.
11. A note on the status of ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new marketing yards in the State, explaining how things have improved under the schemes of the Technology Mission on Cotton.
12. Any other information/issue the state may like to bring to the notice of the Commission that can be useful in the formulation of price policy for raw cotton.

## PART-IV : INPUT PRICES

1. Please make available time series data on cost of cultivation / production generated for various kharif crops giving complete break-up of various components of cost for the last five years along with the detailed methodology. Projections of cost for 2009-2010 may also be furnished.

2. (a) Please give details of operation-wise statutory minimum wages for agricultural labour (Rs/man-day) alongwith the effective dates:-

<u>Operation/Years</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10(likely)</u>
Ploughing					
Sowing					
Transplanting					
Weeding					
Harvesting					
Others					

- (b) Please give operation-wise details of actual wage rates for agricultural labour in major regions of the state (Rs/man-day)

<u>Name of the Region</u>	<u>Operation</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10(likely)</u>
	Ploughing					
	Sowing					
	Transplanting					
	Weeding					
	Harvesting					
	Others					
	State Average (All Regions)					

- (c) What steps are being taken to enforce Minimum Wages Act in the State?
  - (d) Is it a fact that the farm labour availability poses a problem during any phase of agricultural season as a result of NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) implementation? If so, give details.
3. Give information for the current year on (a) cost of supply of electricity per unit for irrigation; (b) charges per unit of electricity consumed for irrigation; (c) total quantity of sale for irrigation purposes; (d) amount of budgetary subsidy provided for the purpose.

4. Please give the details of average electricity tariff/charges for agricultural/irrigation purposes (per KWH) effected since April, 2004. Indicate the revision if any (with date of effect).

Particulars	Pre-Revised Rates	Revised Rates	Date of Revision
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5. When was the latest revision made in canal irrigation rates (per hectare) in your state? Please give the crop-wise details in the following format.

Particulars	Pre-Revised Rates	Revised Rates	Date of Revision
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6. What are the primary sources of irrigation and the relative share of lift and flow irrigation in the total irrigation for various Kharif Crops in the state ?
7. What is the total expenditure on irrigation(per hectare) for various Kharif crops during the last five years?
8. Please indicate expenditure on irrigation (per hectare) for different modes/sources of irrigation for various kharif crops in the following table:

<u>Mode/Sources</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10 (likely)</u>
Flow-					
Canal					
Others					
Lift -using					
Electricity					
Diesel & Lubricants					
Manual					

9. (a) Please indicate consumption of electricity and diesel oil (per hectare) for Kharif crops during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.  
 (b) Please indicate consumption of diesel oil (crop-wise, per hectare for rabi crops during 2004-05 to 2009-10 (likely)

10. What is the running cost of farm machinery such as :  
 (a) tractors/ harvestors and pumpsets used for irrigation and  
 (b) other purposes along with relative share of important inputs (diesel, lubricants, repairs/ maintenance charges etc.) required for their operation.

11. Please give details of prices of certified/improved seeds (Rs. per kg.) supplied by State Seeds Corporation :

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Likely prices during 2009-10
1)					
2)					
3)					
4)					
5)					
6)					
7)					
8)					
9)					
10)					
11)					
12)					
13)					
14)					
15)					

12. Please give details of the prevailing prices of locally grown seeds as well as TL seeds for kharif crops for the above period. To what extent, these prices vary from those of certified/improved seeds?
13. Please indicate the total requirements of seeds (certified/improved or otherwise) of various kharif crops and the seed rate used to arrive at the figures of requirement in your state. Name the sources from which such requirements are met and their relative shares.
14. Please provide the retail prices (Rs. per kg.) of five important insecticides/ pesticides/ weedicides during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and their likely levels during 2009-10.
15. Please indicate the likely level of consumption of insecticides/pesticides (per hectare) for different kharif crops during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and their entry level during 2009-10.
16. Please indicate the per hectare level of consumption of animal manure and organic manure for various kharif crops during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and their likely levels during 2009-10. Prices for the corresponding period of both kinds of manure may also be provided.
17. Please give prices of cattle feed and fodder that are commonly used in your state for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and their likely levels during 2009-10.
18. Please indicate the rates for hiring bullocks (per pair-day) and machinery items (per-hour) such as tractors/harvesters/threshers during the last five years.

19. Please provide details about the relative shares of inputs such as fodder, cattlefeed and human labours that constitute total bullock labour cost.
20. Please provide the retail prices of urea, phosphatic and potassic fertilisers during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and their likely levels during 2009-10.
21. Please indicate per hectare consumption of nutrients N, P & K for different Kharif Crops during 2007-08 and 2008-09. Please bring out the impact of changes in prices of nutrients on their consumption patterns during 2008-09 kharif season and the likely impact during 2009-10 kharif season. In particular, has any report on serious deviation from the optimum NPK balance been brought to your notice? If yes, what remedial measures are being taken?
22. Was the fertiliser offtake during kharif 2008-09 season upto the state's expectations? Explain the factors responsible for shortfall in consumption, if any.
23.
  - (a) What proportion of agricultural credit needs are met from institutional sources in your state?
  - (b) What have been the total disbursement of agricultural credit (source-wise) and rate(s) of interest (by source and by purpose) for these credit?
  - (c) What are the prevailing rates of interest for agricultural credit (crop loans and others) from non-institutional/institutional sources?
  - (d) Please indicate specific problems in obtaining loans and suggestions for removing them.
  - (e) Please indicate the status of implementation of the loan waiver scheme announced by Government of India in the Budget 2008-09.
  - (f) Please give progress of Kisan credit card.
24. Please give details of agricultural loans outstanding/ overdues by agencies, during the last five years. Suggestions for making credit delivery mechanism more effective in meeting credit needs such as deferment of crop loans, waiver of interest, etc. may also be given.
25. Does the State Government provide subsidies on agricultural inputs in addition to those provided under centrally sponsored schemes? If so, give details thereof.
26. Are there any maximum/minimum limits of land rent specified in the state? Are these crop-specific? Please give details.
27. What is the prevailing average transport cost for different crops from the farm gate to mandis/primary markets?
28. Please indicate the average amount of crop insurance premium being paid for different crops (per quintal/per hectare) to be included as an input cost towards risk coverage for the computation of total cost of production.
29. How the value of ground rent for agricultural land (both 'leased-in' and 'owned') imputed? Or is the rent a function of demand for and supply of land for agricultural purposes.

**PART - V : STATISTICAL DATA**

**1. AREA**

( '000 hectares)

Crops	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Target)
i) <u>Total Cereals</u>			
<u>Kharif Cereals</u>			
Rice (a) Autumn			
(b) Winter			
(c) Summer			
Jowar			
Bajra			
Maize			
Ragi			
Others			
ii) <u>Total Pulses</u>			
<u>Kharif Pulses</u>			
Tur			
Moong (Total)			
Kharif			
Rabi			
Urad (Total)			
Kharif			
Rabi			
Others			
iii) <u>Total Oilseeds</u>			
<u>Kharif Oilseeds</u>			
Groundnut			
Soyabean (Total)			
-Yellow			
-Black			
Sunflowerseed			
Sesamum			
Nigerseed			
Others			
iv) Cotton(variety-wise)			
v) <u>Other Kharif Crops</u>			
(Specify the crops)			

## 2. PRODUCTION

(`000 tonnes)

Crops	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010 (Target)
i) <u>Total Cereals</u>			
<u>Kharif Cereals</u>			
Rice (a) Autumn			
(b) Winter			
(c) Summer			
Jowar			
Bajra			
Maize			
Ragi			
Others			
ii) <u>Total Pulses</u>			
<u>Kharif Pulses</u>			
Tur			
Moong (Total)			
Kharif			
Rabi			
Urad (Total)			
Kharif			
Rabi			
Others			
iii) <u>Total Oilseeds</u>			
<u>Kharif Oilseeds</u>			
Groundnut			
Soyabean (Total)			
Yellow			
Black			
Sunflowerseed			
Sesamum			
Nigerseed			
Others			
iv) Cotton (variety-wise)			
v) <u>Other Kharif Crops</u>			
(Specify the crops)			

### 3. YIELD

(Kg. per Hect.)

Crops	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010 (Target)
i) <u>Total Cereals</u>			
<u>Kharif Cereals</u>			
Rice (a) Autumn			
(b) Winter			
(c) Summer			
Jowar			
Bajra			
Maize			
Ragi			
Others			
ii) <u>Total Pulses</u>			
<u>Kharif Pulses</u>			
Tur			
Moong (Total)			
Kharif			
Rabi			
Urad (Total)			
Kharif			
Rabi			
Others			
ii) <u>Total Oilseeds</u>			
<u>Kharif Oilseeds</u>			
Groundnut			
Soyabean (Total)			
Yellow			
Black			
Sunflowerseed			
Sesamum			
Nigerseed			
Others			
iv) Cotton (variety-wise)			
v) <u>Other Kharif Crops</u>			
(Specify the crops)			

#### 4. LAND USE CLASSIFICATION AND IRRIGATED AREA

(`000 hectare)

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Crops	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
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**I.** (i) Gross cropped area  
(ii) Net cropped area  
(iii) Cropped Area ( Kharif Crops)  
(iv) Cropped Area( Rabi Crops)

**II** (i) Gross irrigated area  
(ii) Net irrigated area  
(iii) Gross irrigated area (crop-wise)  
    (a) Cereals  
    (b) Pulses  
    (c) Oilseeds  
    (d) Fibres  
    (e) Others

(iv) Irrigated area (Kharif Crops)

(v) Irrigated area (Rabi Crops)

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#### 5. AREA UNDER HIGH YIELDING/HYBRID VARIETIES

(`000 hectare)

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Crops	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
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i) Kharif (Crop-wise)

ii) Rabi(Crop-wise)

iii) Total (i) + (ii)

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**6. CONSUMPTION OF FERTILISERS  
DURING KHARIF AND RABI SEASONS.**

('000 tonnes)

Crops	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Reasons*
					(Target)	
<u>Kharif</u>						
	N					
	P					
	K					
	Total					
<u>Rabi</u>						
	N					
	P					
	K					
	Total					
<u>Rabi &amp; Kharif</u>						
	N					
	P					
	K					
<hr/>						
	Total					

\*Give reasons for the decrease/increase in a year vis-à-vis the previous year.

**7. DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFIED/QUALITY SEEDS**

(Tonnes)

Crops	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	(Assessed requirement)
(i)	Require-ment	Achieve-ment	Require-ment	Achieve-ment	Require-ment	Achieve-ment
(ii)	Kharif (Crop-wise)					
(iii)	Rabi (Crop-wise)					
(iv)	Total (i)+(ii)					

**8. SEED RATES (SR)/SEED REPLACEMENT RATE (SRR)\***  
**(Kg/Hec) (Percentage)**

Crops	2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-10 (Target)	
	SR	SRR	SR	SRR	SR	SRR	SR	SRR	SR	SRR
Kharif										
(i)										
(ii)										
(iii)										
Rabi										
(i)										
(ii)										
(iii)										

\* Give a note explaining how SRR has been calculated.

**9.TUBEWELLS (PRIVATE AND PUBLIC)**

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-09	2009-10 (Target)
i) No. of Tubewells					
Private					
Public					
Total					
ii) Electricity consumption (KWH)					
iii) Area Irrigated by Tubewells(000 hectares)					

(Only for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka)

**VFC TOBACCO**

1. Please give the following information:

		Area, Production & Yield of VFC tobacco (I=Irrigated; U= Unirrigated ; C=Combined)											
		2006-2007			2007-2008			2008-2009			2009-2010 Target		
		I	U	C	I	U	C	I	U	C	I	U	C
i)	Area												
ii)	Production												
iii)	Yield per hectare												

2. Please give details of weather condition and its impact on tobacco crop during the current season, comparing it with the previous year.
3. i) Grade-wise distribution of total production of VFC tobacco during 2006-2007 to 2008-2009. If grade-wise production is not available, information may please be given in terms of auction sales.  
ii) Please give the size of unauthorised VFC tobacco crop during last three seasons. Is there a need for checking the crop size? Provide steps taken to control the unauthorized production and results thereof.  
iii) Please give the prices realised by the farmers for different grades for the latest 3 years.  
iv) Also give weighted average realisation of prices for latest three years and reasons for sharp fluctuations, if any.
4. Please indicate the specific measures taken to (a) improve the quality and (b) increase the yield per hectare of VFC tobacco in different districts during the past five years, indicating the results achieved.
5. Please give item-wise break-up of the cost of cultivation, curing, processing, etc. from farm grade level to processed Agmark grades at the farm level for the last three years.
6. Please give price trends during the current year, compared with last year in respect of VFC tobacco. Month-end wholesale prices of different farm grades and plant position grades of VFC tobacco in important markets of the State during the latest 3 years along with the respective minimum support prices/minimum guaranteed prices *may also be given*.
7. Please indicate the efforts being made by the Govt./Tobacco Board/other agencies to shift tobacco area to other alternative economically viable crops in your State. Is there any shift in area from VFC tobacco to other crops or vice versa? Please substantiate with data on changes in cropping pattern in tobacco growing districts for the last five years.
8. Please give details of price support operations undertaken, if any, in the case of VFC tobacco during 2005-2006 to 2008-2009 seasons in the following Performa

Year	Grade/quality	Quantity Purchased	Price at which purchased
2005-2006			
2006-2007			
2007-2008			
2008-2009 (so far)			

9. Please give district-wise number of auction platforms, the quantity auctioned (with grades) and the prices realised for each grade. Is there any need to increase the number of platforms. Is there any move for allowing sale of excess tobacco at auctions and the rationale behind this move.
10. Please furnish the views of the state on the level of minimum support prices for L<sub>2</sub> and F<sub>2</sub> grades of VFC tobacco for the 2008-2009 crop and reasons for changes, if any, for the 2009-2010 season.
11. Please furnish views on the grade differentials in the minimum support prices of different farm and plant position grades of VFC tobacco.
12. Is the state government in favour of creation of a price stabilization fund for VFC tobacco to insulate farmers' income from violent fluctuations in prices? If so, please suggest how the fund could be created and operated, on a no-profit-no-loss basis.
13. Any other information/issue the state may like to bring to the notice of the Commission which can be useful in the formulation of price policy for VFC tobacco.

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INFORMATION REQUIRED BY COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL COSTS AND PRICES FOR ITS REPORT ON PRICE POLICY FOR KHARIF CROPS OF 2009-2010 SEASON.**

(Though the Kharif Report will cover mainly the following crops : (i) *Cereals* : paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi; (ii) *Pulses* : tur (arhar), moong, urad; (iii) *Oilseeds* : groundnut, soyabean, sunflowerseed, sesamum, nigerseed, yet the Commission is interested in all facts, issues, suggestions relating to the State's agricultural sector as a whole. Therefore, replies to the questionnaire may cover discussion on various issues and additional information on other crops grown in the State.)

1. Give an overview of the state of agriculture, indicating any structural change and reforms that may have taken place in recent years. Also please indicate whether these changes, if any, can be explicitly linked to any policy initiative of the Government.
2. (a) Has there been shift in area from Jhum/shifting cultivation to permanent type of cultivation (both dry land and wet land)? If so, what is the estimated area that may have undergone such transition?  
(b) Is there any policy measure to curb 'Jhum' cultivation in your state?
3. (a) Describe the state of agricultural extension services in your state? What other mechanism exists in your state for dissemination of information to farmers about the developments in agriculture, new varieties of seeds, MSP announced and other support measures?  
(b) In particular, mention the steps, if any, initiated by the State Government to enhance and deepen agricultural extension services by forging complementarity between governmental bodies and traditional institutions.
4. Has the state government announced any bonus over the MSP for any of the crops during the current season? If so, (i) rates of bonus by crops and (ii) the reason(s) for giving the bonus.
5. (a) Describe the state of market infrastructure for agricultural produce in your state? Please sketch out State Government's short-term and medium-term plans to improve the same.  
(b) Describe the impact of shift from periodic market to permanent market system in the new urbanised centres on production and marketable surplus.  
(c) What is the role of middle men in the extension of market linkages?
6. Please give for each of the major crops in your state (a) seed rate (b) seed replacement rate, (c) total seed requirement and (d) the availability of certified seeds vis-à-vis requirements. Are these available in time?
7. (a) What is the trend in the use of bio-fertilizers, compost and green manure? Steps taken by the Government to encourage its production and use may please be indicated.  
(b) Please also indicate the details of the steps taken to encourage organic farming and its certification.

8. Allocation and offtake of rice/wheat / coarse cereals from the Central Pool under BPL, APL and other welfare/relief Schemes like Annapurna Yojana, Antyodaya, Food for Work Programme in your state, during the last three financial years? Also explain the reasons for large gaps that exist between allocation and offtake under different schemes in your state.

9. Give wholesale and retail prices of rice, coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds/edible oils in respect of at least five markets in your State during 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

Name of the Market .....

<u>Wholesale Price(Rs.Qtl)</u>			<u>Retail Price(Rs/kg.)</u>		
2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009

October  
 November  
 December  
 January  
 February  
 March  
 April  
 May  
 June  
 July  
 August  
 September

(use separate sheet for separate commodity, if need be).

10. Any other specific points that the State Government may like to make to the Commission so that it may highlight the same in its recommendation to the Government of India.