

## PRESS RELEASE

### Key FOLU India report launched: Farmers, Farm laws and Ways Forward

*Report highlights the significance and potential impacts of the three Indian farm laws which were initially promulgated as Ordinances in June 2020; and recommends food system approach for policy reforms.*

**New Delhi, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2022:** Food and Land Use Coalition ([FOLU](#)) India launched a key publication today, analysing the impact of Indian farm laws passed by the Parliament in September 2020. Titled **Farmers, Farm Laws and Ways Forward**, the report recommends pathways towards transformations of agricultural policy initiatives, adopting a food systems approach.

The report, which was entrusted to **Mr. T Nanda Kumar IAS (Retd)**, a FOLU India Senior Fellow, for authorship, takes a view on the critical issues being faced by the Indian agricultural sector and examines the pros and cons of the three farm laws and their subsequent repeal. It further presents diverse approaches for transformative pathways from the perspectives of - functioning markets; legal; policy; incentives; and institutions. It advocates for policy revamp with economic, social and environmental considerations. (*See annexure for more details*)

The report was released today in the presence of Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI, by senior representatives of FOLU partner organisations – CEEW, WRI and RRAN. Heads of these partner organisations also shared their thoughts, while focussing on the key messages on the report. The unveiling was followed by an insightful discussion by panellists from research, farming community, media, and policy. Dr. Mekhala Krishnamurthy, Centre for Policy Research; Pravesh Sharma, Kamatan Farm Tech Pvt Ltd; Ajay Vir Jakhar, Ambassador for FOLU, and Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj; Harish Damodaran, The Indian Express; and Dr. Shweta Saini, Arcus Policy Research were the eminent discussants.

**Mr Nanda Kumar, while discussing his report at length, said,** “We need a system which provides - Economic sustainability, that is profitability for farmers); Social sustainability, and Environmental sustainability, with positive or neutral impact. In short, what we need is a pro-farmer, pro-poor and pro-nature policy, and more ambitiously, a gender inclusive policy.”

**Mr. S Vijay Kumar, IAS Retd. (Country Lead - FOLU India),** while setting the context, remarked, “The report in its entirety is a very important and useful addition to the knowledge base for Indian agricultural reforms. As we go forward with the reform process in the post-repeal period, the report will provide many useful pointers on how to take the process forward, given the diversity of Indian agriculture and the need to address the context in which the reforms will be applied in many regions of India. I thank Mr Nanda Kumar for this extremely interesting report.”

**KM Jayahari, PhD, FOLU India Country Coordinator,** moderating the panel discussion remarked, “Agriculture policy transformations are inevitable in India; the pressing issues which demand these

transformations are listed in the report. FOLU India aims to create a knowledge-based ecosystem, which enables informed discussions among various stakeholders – including farmers, union and subnational governments - towards this. This report is part of such an effort.”

The report is the first such attempt by a research organisation and a senior policy expert after the repeal of the farm laws to take a constructive view of potential of the current scenario in the analysis of the past with a holistic perspective, thus enabling to initiate a forward-looking discussions in the society.

### **About WRI India**

WRI India is a research organization with experts and staff who work closely with leaders to turn big ideas into action to sustain a healthy environment – the foundation of economic opportunity and human well-being. We envision an equitable and prosperous planet driven by the wise management of natural resources. We aspire to create a world where the actions of government, business and communities combine to eliminate poverty and sustain the natural environment for all people.

### **About FOLU**

Established in 2017, the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) is a community of organisations and individuals committed to the urgent need to transform the ways we produce and consume food and use our land for people, nature and climate. We support science-based solutions and help build a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities to unlock collective, ambitious action.

The FOLU Coalition in India includes the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and World Resources Institute India (WRI India), and with a detailed integrated country modelling effort, led by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) with support from International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-arid and Tropics (ICRISAT). [Know more about FOLU here.](#)

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## ANNEXURE

### Transformative Pathways recommended in the report – in brief

#### **PATHWAYS FORWARD**

- Functioning Markets
- Legal
- Policy
- Incentives
- Institutions

#### **FUNCTIONING MARKETS**

- A unified national market to manage supply , demand and price discovery
- Long term predictable import export ( incl Tariff) regime
- Markets to signal diversification
- Promote private investments in Agri-infrastructure: Tech, Logistics and Retail
- Enabling policy for land lease, consolidation and contract farming
- Farmers to be convinced about the gains, assured that land will NOT be alienated.

#### **LEGAL**

##### **Approaches with the Central government**

- Legislate on an inter state trade law empowering farmers to sell anywhere.
- Amend Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to bring predictability

- Amend Foreign trade Reg & Dev Act to bring predictability
- Make price reporting mandatory

#### **Approaches with the Indian States**

- Make Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMCs ) farmers' organizations
- Encourage contract farming
- Promote farmers' collectives

#### **POLICY**

- A new vision for food, agriculture and nutrition
- A food system based sustainable agriculture
- Rainfed farmers: livestock, poultry
- Compensation for loss: weather, policy
- Address food loss and waste
- Make NWRs work real time

#### **INCENTIVES**

- Redesign Minimum Support Price
- Shift to Income Support/ DBT
- Incentivize water conservation/ regenerative agriculture
- Delink MSP and procurement
- Redesign Public Distribution System : Focus on 'Local Loops'

#### **INSTITUTIONS**

- Set up a consultative council for agriculture
- Create an expert advisory group
- Make data digitization work for farmers' benefit
- Creative destruction of a few existing institutions

[Please see the full report from more details under each section.](#)

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