

Both Indian and Now British Farmers Commit Suicide: Bankruptcy Triggered by Prices of Seeds, Pesticides.

Do Governments “Callously and Deliberately Neglect” Food Producers to Avoid Alienating Corporate Party Funders?

By [Political Concern](#)

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Ms Truss, the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, says British farming is one of the Government's key successes – though farmers are taking their own lives [at a rate of one a week](#), according to many sources, though officialdom is reticent about this.

[The Times of India reports](#) that Maharashtra's farmer suicide count in the six-month span from January to June this year stood at 1,300 cases, the state's revenue department figures show.

Respected analyst [Devinder Sharma](#) points out that indebtedness and bankruptcy tops the reasons behind these suicides; followed by family problems and farming related issues. In both countries the authorities try to evade the real issue and blame the availability of shotguns, pesticides and so on.

Snapshots from [a presentation to the UN](#) summarises the real reasons:

- While the prices of crops have been pushed down - often even below the cost of production - the prices of inputs such as seed, fertilizers and pesticides have gone up.
- With limited resources, farmers depend on borrowed money to purchase seeds and other inputs and to farm their land. A drop in their farm income could quickly lead to farmers owing more than they own.
- Financial Stress - constant financial pressure related to the “Farm Crisis” and ongoing drought and flood which add to the economic problems
- Loss of independence and control: many of the issues are not within the farmer's control – disease, weather, government policy, but the debts are personal
- Sense of Loss: repeated sense of hopelessness, loss of crops, loss of land, loss of income, loss of community, loss of family farm, loss of a way of life

British and Indian governments daren't offend the party funding middlemen and corporate end-buyers who – without lifting a finger – profit from the food produced at the expense of the hard-working producers who are often obliged to sell at a loss.

More respect from the new Greek government

At least – [the Financial Times](#) points out – in Greece, Syriza is allowing some leeway to those producing the most essential goods. They are refusing to increase the financial burdens on farmers, who at present pay 13% per cent income tax, compared with the general 25% rate, and receive special treatment for fuel and fertiliser expenses.

With 12.4% of the country's labour force employed in producing food and cotton and a thriving fishing industry, the new Greece government is showing some grasp of essentials and priorities – would that the British and Indian governments showed similar respect for their most important workers.

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