

## 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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