

Farmers Appeal to PM for COP7 Inclusion

Federation of All India Farmer Associations (FAIFA), a Farmers' body representing the cause of millions of farmers of commercial crops across the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat etc. submitted an appeal signed by over one Lakh tobacco farmers to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. "The appeal urges the Prime Minister and the Government of India to include the tobacco farmers in the official Indian delegation to the upcoming WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Seventh Conference of the Parties (COP7)," stated FAIFA in the Media release issued on September 29, 2016.



Through this media release, the Federation requested the Prime Minister to direct the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to include tobacco farmers in the Indian official delegation and facilitate their participation in the WHO – FCTC COP7 meeting. The COP7 is being held in India from 7-12 November, 2016.

"The appeal is a demonstration of disappointment and resentment towards WHO–FCTC regulations," said FAIFA. "It requests the Government to reject the extreme FCTC proposals, which are not evidence-

based. The farmers plead with the policy makers to promote balanced regulations to safeguard the interests and livelihood of millions of small farmers and rural workers and their families," the release added.

FAIFA is concerned that adhoc decisions on tobacco control at this Conference, as in previous such Meetings, will affect the livelihood of millions of tobacco farmers and farm labourers involved in tobacco cultivation in the country.

The Federation has also submitted the Appeal to various concerned Ministries such as the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Finance etc.



Further, FAIFA has applied to the WHO FCTC Secretariat to give observer status to tobacco farmers in the FCTC COP7. The Observer Status, according to FAIFA, will allow farmers, one of the key stakeholders of the tobacco industry, to understand the future course of actions being proposed by the WHO on tobacco control and the impact of these measures

on their tobacco crops. "The applications and requests of the farmers have not been acknowledged by the WHO and it seems that the UN agency wants to pursue the conference in a non-inclusive manner", FAIFA said.

"A democratic and participative approach in the formation of the Indian delegation to COP7 will ensure that the farmers and the Industry view point on various proposals arising out of the COP7 Agenda is taken cognizance of and no unilateral and discriminatory one-sided decision is taken by the Parties to the Conference that is hostile to the livelihood of millions dependent on tobacco in India," FAIFA said.

According to the Federation, the participation of farmers in the FCTC COP7 deliberations will be in line with the

principles of transparency and equity as propagated by the United Nations itself. "However, these principles have been completely disregarded by WHO in its past conferences and it is unfortunate that they want to keep the upcoming conference closed door as well", FAIFA noted. "The undemocratic posturing of WHO has gone to such an extent that the media is also not being allowed to cover the proceedings," said the Federation.

"Such undemocratic FCTC COP7 meetings are not good for India's reputation which values transparency and democracy. It will certainly be a black mark on the Government and our Country," FAIFA said in the release.

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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Policy-makers urged
to promote balanced

unilateral, discriminatory
and one-sided decision

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OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, September 29
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SHORT TAKES

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AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29



మొల్కాడుతున్న సైరా అధిపతుల సభ్యులు

Tobacco farmers urge Govt not to bow to US puppet WHO's dictats

FAIFA asks govt to reject proposals at WHO convention

Tobacco farmers' body Federation of All India

एक लाख किसानों की सरकार से अपील

एजेंसी/नवज्योति, नई दिल्ली
फेडरेशन ऑफ ऑल इंडिया फार्मर्स



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