

DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

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p v satheesh
director

February 13, 2015

Dear Chief Minister,

Land for SC population, Cash support to build their homes, Increased grain under PDS – all these are extremely laudable steps taken by your Government to lift the living standards for the poor. That the issue of developing dryland agriculture in our state..... acres of land in Telangana fall under the dryland category thrice over non-drylands in particular districts like Medak where it doesn't even have one kilo meter of river irrigated land and hence the farmers are literally left high and dry. The government is trying to address this issue by creating irrigation schemes and bring water for these arid lands. While this effort attracts most expensive of resources it has the least chances of success. Because water is a finite element and can't be "created" with the best of our efforts. The decade ahead are decades of the climate change when the global warming increases and in 50 years water availability becomes less by 30%, therefore irrigation for agriculture becomes no option.

This sources to look for creating alternatives. Fortunately for us Telangana has such alternatives all around us. Our farmers have pursued some of the most creative agriculture in the history of the world. They show us how to grow crops without consuming least of water. In this process they have simultaneously created food security, fodder security, health security. Thus they have converted a crisis into an advantage and shown us the way towards creating a sustainable agriculture future.

It is this model that the Bangaru Telangana has to emulate and show the world how our traditional civilization can be our modern beacons.

We request you to kindly **establish a Committee of Traditional Agriculture Experts for Telangana** and mandate them to find out the principles followed by the traditional Telangana farmers and discover how they have built a brilliant agriculture that produces Biodiversity, increased the grains and fodder output from their dryland farms and produces a concept of uncultivated food for more food output for their people.

We also argue that you should use all the influence under your command to get **Telangana State declared as a Millets State**. This will be the first time in India, that any state would have called itself a Millet state and declared Millets as State Crops. Such a policy will not only save enormous amount irrigation water to state, but also increase the food production, improves people health and nutritional security considerably.

This will be a revolutionary step that the state of Telangana will be taking under your leadership for which history will be beholden to you.

With warm regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Satheesh', is enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

(satheesh)

To

Sri K Chandrashekar Raogaru, Chief Minister of Telangana, Hyderabad