

## **National Commission on Farmers**

8.41 The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) chaired by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan submitted five Reports between December 2005 and October, 2006. Key recommendations of the Commission are incorporated in the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers. These include: asset reforms covering land, water, livestock and bio resources; farmer-friendly support services covering extension, training and knowledge, connectivity, credit and insurance; assured and remunerative marketing; inputs and delivery services; and curriculum reforms in the agriculture universities. Other major initiatives recommended include bringing Agriculture in the Concurrent List of the

Constitution; setting up of a National Food Security and Sovereignty Board; universalization of PDS; setting up of an Indian Trade Organization; making the Commission on Agriculture Cost and Prices into an autonomous statutory organization with MSP at least 50 per cent more than the cost of production, and launch of a Rural Non-farm Livelihood Initiative (RNFLI). RNFLI when implemented would be able to absorb higher number of people dependent on agriculture. The recommendations are under active consideration of Government. However, there are several programmes already under implementation by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation on the lines recommended by the Commission.