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FARMERS INTEREST GROUP (FIG)*Arun kumar.V and Balachandar.N**Msc.Agriculture (Agronomy), Karunya institute of Technology and Sciences, Coimbatore-641114.**arunkumar.bush1999@gmail.com*

Farmers in India remain troubled because they are unable to receive better pricing despite the hard work, they put in to yield better harvest. They are unable to set their own prices for their own produce. The necessity of the hour is to form commodity groupings, farmer interest organizations, and farmer federations so that farmers may be confident in setting prices for their produce. A Farmer Interest Group (FIG) is an autonomous group of farmers with a common objective and interest. Members collaborate to achieve this aim by pooling their existing resources, getting better access to other resources, and sharing in the benefits that ensue.

A Farmer Interest Group (FIG) is a self-managed, independent group of farmers with a shared goal and interest. FIGs are formed under every Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) in order to smooth conduct of the mandates and the objectives set before formation of FPO. The members work together to achieve this goal by pooling their existing resources, gaining better access to other resources and to share in the resulting benefits.

Objectives Of FIG

- Addressing production and marketing challenges.
- Developing self-help ways.
- Providing pooled resources.
- Allowing members to benefit from economies of scale.
- Creating a platform for training and information sharing.
- Serving as a focal point for technical and training initiatives.

Characteristics of FIG

Number of members in a Farmers Interest Group should be 15 to 20. The members of Farmers Interest Group should have the age of above 18 years. The members of the group should be residents of that particular village.

While promoting FIGs, different other community institutions promoted in the area under various government and non-government programme have to be kept in view. The details of such institutions, lessons learnt etc. have to be kept in view while promoting FIGs. Such institutions may include Self Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organizations (VOs) *etc.*, If such groups exist then it is advisable to select appropriate groups keeping in view the objective of the project and then treat them as FIGs.

Organizational Structure of FIG

Group leader {Representing group and overall management}



Deputy Group leader {Assisting the group}



Record Keeper {Stores and maintains records}



Treasurer {Keeps financial record}

Services FIG will provide	Functions of FIG:
1. Trading	1. Demand estimation
2. Insurance	2. Distribution
3. Credit Linkages	3. Soil testing
4. Storage / Ware housing	4. Book-Keeping
5. ICT- Market Information, Price information, Technology	5. Thrift and credit management
	6. Crop plan group wise

6. Processing	7. Group Management
7. Input Linkages- Fertilizers, Manure, Irrigation, Equipment and Pesticides	8. Processing units
8. Water shed activities, water budgeting and water audit	9. Grading
9. Capacity building	10. Farmer Field School (FFS)
10. Seed processing and seed bank	11. Loan Guarantee
11. Technical support	12. Knowledge Sharing
12. Fund mobilization	13. Managing common Infrastructure <i>etc</i>
13. Government linkages	
14. Short, Medium, and long-term credits	
15. Seed banking and processing	
16. Marketing, Exporting, <i>etc.</i>	

Farmer Interest Group (FIG) will provide access to technical and market information to the farmers. They also increase purchasing and selling power of the farmer along with increased likelihood of continuing valuable and relevant activities and promoting social cohesiveness.