



FEDERATION OF ALL INDIA FARMER ASSOCIATIONS

H.No. : 4-19-1/24, 2nd Line Vijayapuri, JKC College Road, Guntur Andhra Pradesh
Mobile: +91 98494 33885, Email : contact.faifa@gmail.com

To,

6th October 2016

Shri Arun Jaitley ji
Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs
Government of India
New Delhi.

**Tobacco Farmers request for inclusion in the Official Indian Delegation
to the WHO FCTC COP7 Deliberations**

Respected Sir,

We wish to refer you to our letter dated 9th August, 2016 seeking participation of tobacco farmers as a part of the official Indian delegation, in the deliberations of the FCTC COP7 meeting being held in India from 7-12 November, 2016. As stated in our letter this is essential because the proposals that will be discussed at this meeting have a direct bearing on tobacco cultivation and livelihood of millions of tobacco farmers in India.

We feel the FCTC COP7 meeting provides tobacco farmers an opportunity to get a perspective of the future tobacco control regulations and also share their concerns with the policymakers. However, we are concerned that there has been no response from your Ministry to our requests for participation in the COP7 meeting which is just one month away.

The tobacco farming community is worried that since FCTC is a forum mostly of health and anti-tobacco NGOs, it lacks the knowledge of tobacco growing and does not know that in India millions of farmers and farm workers depend on tobacco for their livelihood. Lack of knowledge on this front is bound to negate the just rights of tobacco farmers, workers and adversely affect their livelihood and result in immense damage to the farming community and the Indian economy. It is important that the Tobacco Control agenda of the WHO FCTC is not allowed to be hijacked by NGOs acting at the behest of vested interests.

Allowing tobacco farmers, access to the COP7 and take part in the deliberations will underline the principle of transparency which is required in any public policy-making process and underscore the inclusiveness and fairness of the global health body.



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It is our submission that the inclusion of farmers in the official delegation to the FCTC COP7 and giving them the right to participate in the policy-making process will also be in line with the high ideals of the democratic spirit of the Indian Constitution as well.

While we are hopeful, that our plea for inclusion would be considered by the Government, we once again submit that in absence of any communication in response to our appeal it may become difficult for the farmer representatives to prepare for the conference and make travel arrangements if adequate time is not provided to them.

We therefore, earnestly request you to impress upon the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to expedite the process and confirm our participation in the official Indian delegation to the FCTC COP7 meeting at the earliest.

Thanking you sir,

Yours Sincerely

For Federation of All India Farmer Association [FAIFA]

P S MuraliBabu – General Secretary