



# FEDERATION OF ALL INDIA FARMER ASSOCIATIONS

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

Date: 11-08-2018

To  
Shri. Jagat Prakash Nadda Ji  
Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India  
New Delhi

Respected Sir,

**Sub: Tobacco Farmers Right to Participate in the WHO FCTC COP 8 Deliberations**

The Federation of All India Farmer Association (FAIFA) is a non-profit federation whose mission is to support the farmers in India. Tobacco growers all over the world share similar problems, threats and challenges, regardless of the size of their crop production

**The WHO is holding the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Conference of Parties (COPS) at Centre International de Conferences Geneve (CICG), Rue de Varembe 17, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland from October 1 to 6 with India as the chair.**

In this context, we would like to draw your attention that we were not included in any deliberations during the COP 7 as well. Some of our farmer brethren also protested the exclusion from the WHO-FCTC

We drew heart from your address during the COP 7 wherein you had **highlighted the important role of tobacco farmers in policy making stating, "...the Government, the WHO-FCTC, WHO and other UN agencies, the Civil Society as well as the tobacco growers and workers are our partners and stakeholders in framing and implementing effective tobacco control policies at the national and international levels. We can together review implementation of WHO FCTC, to identify and applaud best practices across countries to chart the way forward**

**Both the United Nations and Ministry of Law and Justice clearly enunciates consultative process with all stakeholders and placing in public domain any proposed legislation / rule and the feedback and comments from the stakeholder.**

Participation of farmers in the COP8 would also be in line with the 'Policy and Recommendations on Economically Sustainable Alternative to Tobacco Growing (in relation to Article 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC)' Guiding principle 2.



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**Our participation will also ensure that the farmers view point on issues are taken into account resulting in reasonable and balanced policy adoption and prevent the formulation of extreme on-sided decisions by the Parties to the Conference which will cause misery and suffering to the livelihood of millions of farmers and others in the tobacco sector**

Democratic rights of farmers to voice their concerns should not be denied by an international conference which is dominated by anti-tobacco NGOs, from countries which have no dependence on tobacco farming and hence have no concern about the impact on the people dependent on tobacco.

**In conclusion, FAIFA once again request the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India to kindly ensure that the representatives of tobacco farmers are included in the official Indian delegation to the Conference so that no resolution is passed which will have long-term adverse impact on the Indian Farming community.**

Thanking you Sir,

Yours Faithfully,

P S Murali Babu

General Secretary-FAIFA