



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्  
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# Post-Budget Discussion 2025

*Advancing Agricultural Growth through Strategic  
Policy Implementation*

*Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025*

*Venue: Indian International Centre, Lodhi Estate,  
New Delhi*



## ***Post-Budget Discussion 2025 :***

### ***Advancing Agricultural Growth through Strategic Policy Implementation***

***Date: 3rd January 2025 | Venue: Indian International Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi***

The Post-Budget Meeting 2025, organized by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), served as a pivotal platform for analyzing the Union Budget's impact on India's agriculture sector. Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and experts, the session focused on evaluating key budgetary allocations, financial provisions, and policy directives to fortify the agriculture and allied sectors.

The meeting sought to identify gaps and areas where ICFA could advocate for policy reforms, enhanced funding, and targeted interventions. Key concerns such as insufficient research funding, declining agricultural exports, and the necessity for inclusive development programs were examined alongside strategic solutions to drive agricultural sustainability, infrastructure development, and value addition in high-potential sectors like makhana, organic farming, and agrochemicals.

Emphasizing the need for a structured approach, the discussions reinforced ICFA's commitment to shaping policy recommendations that drive innovation, sectoral growth, and long-term resilience. The deliberations highlighted the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure that budgetary allocations translate into impactful outcomes for farmers, agribusinesses, and rural economies.

### ***Aligning Budgetary Priorities with India's Agricultural Vision***

**Ms. Shreyasi Agarwal, CEO, ICFA**, extended a warm welcome to all esteemed participants. She emphasized that the session was convened to critically examine the Union Budget, assess its implications on the agriculture sector, and pinpoint areas requiring policy refinement.

**Dr. Tarun Shridhar, Director General, ICFA**, chaired the discussion and underscored ICFA's role in facilitating high-impact discussions, offering policy insights, and strengthening industry-government collaboration. By convening experts and stakeholders, ICFA aims to contribute to informed policymaking, ensuring that the budget effectively supports sustainable agricultural growth.



## *Session Proceedings*

### **1. *Makhana Sector & Rural Economic Growth - Enhancing Value Chains and Market Access for Niche Agricultural Products***

**Ambassador C. Rajasekhar (R)** and **Mr. Suman Kumar Singh, Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Corporation Limited** highlighted the critical role of the Makhana Board in promoting cultivation, processing, and trade of makhana, which is a staple in Bihar alongside sattu, chuda, and dahi. Given makhana's strong export potential, they stressed the need to evaluate whether the Board is structured effectively to maximize its impact. They pointed out a noticeable reduction in makhana size and changes in taste across states over time, suggesting that ICFA explore strategic collaborations to enhance market reach, drive value addition, and strengthen domestic and international positioning.

### **2. *Long-Term Budget Planning for Agriculture - Transitioning from Annual Allocations to a Five-Year Vision***

**Mr. MJ Saxena, Managing Trustee, Ayurvet Limited** advocated for a shift from an annual budgetary framework to a five-year structured plan, ensuring long-term policy continuity and sustainable agricultural development. He highlighted two key concerns, the Judicial assessment processes often delay policy implementation, slowing down agricultural progress and digital connectivity among farmers remains limited, restricting access to critical financial and technical resources. To bridge these gaps, he urged ICFA to push for inter-ministerial coordination to synchronize agricultural initiatives across government departments. He also emphasized that a significant portion of agricultural funds remains underutilized due to inefficient execution strategies.

### **3. *Expanding India's Agri-Export Potential - Strengthening Trade Policies for Global Market Access***

**Ms. Sharmila Oswal, Founder, Basillia Organics Pvt.Ltd.** shared insights from a recent meeting in New York, where discussions on the formation of the Makhana, Turmeric, and Millets Boards took center stage. With global demand for makhana surging, she underscored India's leadership as the largest producer, highlighting export-driven revenue generation opportunities for both state and central governments.

However, she raised concerns over India's organic farming industry gradually shifting operations to countries like Vietnam, Dubai, and Uganda. To counteract this trend, she emphasized the need for regulatory reforms, stronger industry participation in policy discussions, and initiatives to retain India's competitive advantage in the global organic sector.

### **4. *Agrochemical Industry & GST Concerns - Balancing Farmer Affordability with Industry Growth***

**Mr. Sanjay Chaudhary, Vice President, Indogulf Cropsciences Ltd.** addressed the pressing challenges faced by India's agrochemical sector, particularly the 18% GST on agrochemicals, which significantly increases costs for farmers.



He highlighted that while crop protection innovations are advancing rapidly in the USA, Europe, and China, India continues to lag behind in R&D investments. He advocated for policy interventions to reduce reliance on imports and strengthen domestic agrochemical production and enhanced R&D funding to drive indigenous innovations in sustainable crop protection technologies as well as establishing a collaborative platform for industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers to create a roadmap for agrochemical advancements.

## **5. *Reviving Agricultural Exports and Strengthening the Organic Farming Ecosystem***

**Mr. Utsav Mishra, Director, Ernst & Young**, raised concerns about the sharp 50% decline in India's export sector, significantly affecting the agricultural economy. He also highlighted the slow growth of the natural and organic farming industry, citing a lack of research, awareness, and standardized guidelines. Discussing the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), he pointed out registration challenges, OTP complexities, and difficulties in adopting natural farming due to the absence of external inputs.

To address these issues, he urged ICFA to play a proactive role in revitalizing exports and strengthening the organic farming ecosystem. He emphasized that certification remains a major bottleneck, as natural farming currently follows organic farming standards, making the process cumbersome. He recommended promoting the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) to simplify certification, bridge regulatory gaps, and create a more accessible framework for farmers.

## **6. *Enhancing Research and Budget Allocation for Agriculture***

**Mr. Rajaram Tripathi, National General Secretary, All India Farmers Alliance** strongly advocated for greater investment in agricultural research, infrastructure, and farmer support. He highlighted concerns regarding underfunding of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and agricultural boards focused on medicinal plants, which limit their capacity to provide necessary support to farmers.

Discussing budget allocation trends, he noted that while the agricultural budget has seen an increase, the pace of increment has slowed down compared to other sectors. He emphasized that agriculture remains the backbone of India's rural economy, and policies should reflect the sector's long-term priorities with structured budgetary support.

## **7. *Strategic Water Management for Agricultural Sustainability - Leveraging State Models for National Policy Implementation***

**Dr. M.S. Glory Swarupra, Director General, National Institute for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises** highlighted Telangana's water augmentation model as a successful framework that other states could adopt for improving water resource management. She emphasized the significant impact of Mission Kakatiya, a major water conservation project that focuses on desilting and restoring 6,000 ponds, leading to a 6–10% improvement in inland aquaculture, increased employment, and enhanced protein availability for landlocked states.

She also stressed the importance of District Industry Centers (DICs) and Export Facilitation Centers (EFCs) in every state, which support businesses in streamlining export documentation and global market access. Additionally, she recommended leveraging International Cooperation Schemes,

enabling organizations like ICFA to collaborate with MSMEs and agricultural enterprises for global trade expansion and international conferences.

## **8. Ensuring Inclusive Agricultural Development in Remote and Tribal Areas**

**Prof. M. Moni, Former Director General, National Informatics Centre** expressed concerns that agricultural initiatives are not reaching remote and tribal communities, leaving many farmers without the necessary support and resources. He emphasized the need for a pilot program in

100 aspirational districts to ensure that agricultural resources, training, and assistance are effectively disseminated to marginalized farmers.

He stressed the importance of targeted policies and outreach programs to bridge the gap between government schemes and last-mile delivery, ensuring that even the most underserved farming communities benefit from agricultural development. According to him, inclusive growth in the sector requires a focused approach, where tailored interventions reach those who need them the most.

## **9. Improving Livestock Management for Sustainable Farming**

**Mr. Satish Babu Gadde, Farmer** emphasized that stress-free grazing is essential for maintaining livestock health and productivity. He pointed out that ensuring animals have unrestricted access to quality grazing areas not only improves their well-being but also enhances milk yield, meat quality, and overall sustainability in animal husbandry. According to him, better grazing management practices can lead to healthier livestock, reduced dependency on external feed, and improved economic returns for farmers engaged in dairy and animal husbandry.



# ***Recommendations for Policy and Strategic Growth***

## ***Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through Budgetary and Policy Interventions***

### **1. Agri-Infrastructure & Market Linkages**

- Establish dedicated agricultural infrastructure funds for cold chains, storage, and logistics.
- Strengthen the Makhana Board to streamline production, processing, and exports.
- Promote agri-tourism to boost rural economies and create employment opportunities.

### **2. Long-Term Policy Framework**

- Shift from annual budget allocations to a five-year structured agricultural development plan.
- Enhance multi-ministerial coordination for seamless execution of agricultural initiatives.

### **3. Digital & Financial Inclusion**

- Expand Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms for seamless farmer support.
- Scale up e-NAM digital marketplaces to ensure better price discovery for farmers.

### **4. Boosting Agricultural Exports**

- Streamline export policies to reverse declining trade trends.
- Establish Export Facilitation Centers (EFCs) in every state to support agribusinesses.
- Enhancing R&D in Agriculture Increase funding for Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to improve farmer training and advisory services.
- Develop a robust research ecosystem for natural and organic farming standardization.

### **5. Climate-Resilient Agriculture**

- Promote the Telangana Model for water conservation across states.
- Expand micro-irrigation and soil health initiatives to improve productivity.

### **6. Reducing GST on Agrochemicals**

- Reduce GST on agrochemicals from 18% to an affordable tax bracket.

### **7. Strengthening Farmer Welfare & Inclusive Growth**

- Launch pilot programs in 100 aspirational districts for last-mile agricultural support.

### **8. Expanding Support for Livestock & Allied Sectors**

- Improve grazing management systems to enhance livestock productivity.

### **9. Ensuring Optimal Budget Allocation for Agriculture**

## ***Conclusion : Strengthening Agricultural Policy for Long-Term Growth***

**Dr. Tarun Shridhar, Director General, ICFA**, reiterated that agriculture extends beyond crops to include livestock, fisheries, and marine resources, which contribute over 30% of the sector. He emphasized that targeted investments, research funding, and infrastructure development are key to achieving a robust and sustainable agricultural ecosystem.



## ICFA Corporate Members



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