

FARM SUICIDES TRENDS IN INDIA

Year	Total Farm Suicides (Farmers & Agri Labourers)	Source
2013	11772	NCRB ADSI annual reports
2014	12360	NCRB ADSI annual reports
2015	12602	NCRB ADSI annual reports
2016	6667+200 (?), from just 5 states (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana + Tamil Nadu)	Please check the table below for further details

The states which have had largest number of farm suicides for several years now include: Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Chattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat etc.

For 2016, the NCRB's ADSI report is still awaited. Compilations from media reports are always a matter of under-reporting. Even within the NCRB reporting, there is much hiding of data that happens under newer and newer categorisations being adopted, as analysed and presented eloquently by analysts like P Sainath here:

<http://www.frontline.in/social-issues/the-slaughter-of-suicide-data/article7495402.ece> .

The reported data of ***around 6867 farm suicides for 2016 is mainly from 5 states***, as recent statements made in the State Legislature (Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra), or as numbers cited by Opposition (Tamil Nadu) or from compilation of media reports in the case of Telangana. This is 55% of 2015's numbers, from just 5 states. **It is worth noting that even here, except for MP, the figures could be only of farmers/cultivators and not agricultural workers, who are also counted into farm suicides.**

Information from states like Punjab which have witnessed a high number of suicides in 2016-17, or Odisha where the matter of farm suicides has been a big public debate for months now, or Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh etc., which are usually in the list of largest farm suicide states, is not available from any reliable source.

The Government claimed in the Supreme Court that suicides are on the decline. With the available information, we contest this. While in Karnataka, there appears to be a small decline, in MP there appears to have been an increase.

Just 5 states' information seems to indicate nearly 6867 farm suicides, that too in a year when many states had tided over the drought crisis that was experienced in the earlier 2 years. It is also submitted that even a slightly declined number is unacceptable.

DATA ON FARM SUICIDES IN 2016 AND 2017

2016	1982: Madhya Pradesh	http://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/for-madhya-pradesh-police-farmers-don-t-die-of-debt/story-OkdSxVDZo4HNroylLsvbgJ.html	This report was based on an Assembly Statement.
	Maharashtra: 3063 or 3052	http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/in-maharashtra-despite-good-rain-and-government-schemes-farmer-suicides-down-by-just-5-in-2016/story-7xeKiTrxGn8vPwzdoh85LL.html ; http://www.firstpost.com/india/early-400-farmers-in-maharashtra-committed-suicide-in-january-this-year-says-report-3381760.html	
	848: Karnataka (11 months of 2016-17)	http://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/cover-story/with-no-profit-in-sight-state-farmers-stare-at-losses/articleshow/58098935.cms ; http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/successive-droughts-a-main-reason-for-frequent-bouts-of-farm-suicides/article17763648.ece	
	774: Telangana	Rythu Swarajya Vedika's compilation from local media reports	Usually, this is under-reporting. In Telangana, the number for just August and September 2016 was 134 as per this media report: http://everylifecounts.ndtv.com/telangana-farmers-total-ruin-2500-suicides-indias-youngest-state-6029
	200(?): Tamil Nadu	http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/tamil-nadu-farmers-protest-delhi-edappadi-palaniswami-mk-stalin/1/935964.html	As per Opposition. We have information that compensation was paid to 87 persons

2017	155: Telangana	Rythu Swarajya Vedika compilation from media reports	
	390 in Jan.2017 alone: Maharashtra	http://www.firstpost.com/india/early-400-farmers-in-maharashtra-committed-suicide-in-january-this-year-says-report-3381760.html	
	51: Karnataka	http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/successive-droughts-a-main-reason-for-frequent-bouts-of-farm-suicides/article17763648.ece	

The following is from a FirstPost report, about Maharashtra:

Statement Showing number of farmers suicide in State of Maharashtra 2001 - 2016					
Year	Total no.Cases	Eligible no.of cases	Ineligibl e no. of cases	Pending no. of cases for Enquiry	Ex gratia payment made to no. of farmers
2001	62	32	30	0	32
2002	122	79	43	0	79
2003	180	106	74	0	106
2004	640	347	293	0	347
2005	609	367	242	0	367
2006	2376	1037	1339	0	1037
2007	2076	841	1235	0	839
2008	1966	759	1207	0	759
2009	1605	592	1013	0	592
2010	1741	622	1119	0	621
2011	1518	637	881	0	637
2012	1473	732	741	0	732
2013	1296	665	629	2	665
2014	1981	1250	641	90	1228
2015	3228	1841	903	484	1818
2016	3052	1621	1167	264	1619
01-Feb	390	108	57	225	107
Total	24315	11636	11614	1065	11585

The following is about Madhya Pradesh from a HT correspondent:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Neeraj Santoshi** <neeraj.santoshi@gmail.com>

Date: 14 April 2017 at 15:36

Subject: farmer suicide data

To: Sachin Kumar Jain <skj.vikassamvad@gmail.com>

Box: Number of suicidal deaths of farmers

Year	suicidal deaths
2001	1372
2002	1340
2003	1445
2004	1638
2005	1248
2006	1375
2007	1263
2008	1379
2009	1395
2010	1237
2011	1326
2012	1172
2013	1090
2014	826
2015	1290
2016*	1982

(Data from 2001 to 2014 is from state crime records bureau. Data for 2015 is from NCRB and includes suicides by agricultural labourers as well, data for 2016 is from state assembly records from February 1, 2016 to mid-February 2017)

In last one year, 1982 farmers and farm labourers have committed suicide in MP, from February 2016 to mid-February 2017. During last nearly one year, of 9187 people committed who suicide in MP, over 21 % (1982) were from agriculture sector-farmers and farm labourers. This translates into one person committing every hour and one farmer every five hours in the state over last one year. This came to light after data on suicides HT compiled the data submitted in the state assembly this month coupled with the data shared in the House in December and July sessions last year.

In 2015, MP reported 1290 suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers due to varied reasons, according to the latest NCRB data on accidental deaths and suicides in India (ADSI) released in December last year. The bulk of the farmers suicides were committed were by marginal (154), small (289) and medium farmers (134). The reasons for the farmer suicides, according to the NCRB data, were attributed to farming related issues, crop failure, inability to sell their agricultural produce, inability to repay loans and other factors like poverty, property disputes, marriage related issues, family problems and illness.

The issue of the farmer suicides also rocked the winter session of the state assembly held in December, with state government admitting, perhaps for the first time in recent years that some farmers committed suicide in the state because of "frustration due to loan overburden". State government admitted that between 2013 and 2015 in Bundelkhand's Sagar division, four farmers committed suicide because of frustration due to loan overburden and two people committed suicide due to depression on account of unemployment.

The following is the picture for Karnataka, from a Bangalore Mirror story.

SUICIDES REPORTED AMONG FARMERS		
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
122	1,478	848