

Farming – why help is so much needed

Farming in India, despite accounting for 14% of India's GDP, is in crisis. Helping farmers and growers is mission critical for us. Many farmers and growers commit suicide each year and many widows do not receive compensation (often as high as 60% of widows in some states) and the surviving spouse is pressurised into repaying mountains of debt. In 2014, 5650 farmers in India killed themselves and more than 20,000 housewives took their lives, and the rate – more than 20 per 100,000 people average – is higher in Tamil Nadu where the cause of suicide is often farming related. **Most of our farmers and growers try to make a living on less than half an acre of land and so it is important that we continuously show them how to improve yield and quality to give them a chance of a sustainable living. Providing training to the village women in the current farming environment is essential.**