



Progression of Farmer Producer Organisations in India

SUBODH AGARWAL^{1*} and S K GOYAL¹

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana 125 004, India

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ABSTRACT

Present study was carried out to examine the status and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations across the states in India based on the secondary data collected for the periods 2015–16 to 2020–21. It was found that SFAC and NABARD promoted 3044 FPOs registered in the country. NABARD supported 2168 FPOs (71.22%) and remaining 876 FPOs (28.78%) have been supported by SFAC. Madhya Pradesh has the largest number/share of FPOs accounting to 10.15% of the total FPOs registered throughout the country. The FPOs promoted by SFAC increased at the compound growth rate of 15.22% and those promoted by NABARD increased at the rate of 1.34% per annum. At the country level, the average number of farmers per FPO are found to be 582. In addition, about 50% of the total farmers who are members of FPOs belong to five states, namely Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The region-wise study revealed that central region has the highest average number of FPOs (194.67) promoted by SFAC and the average number of FPOs promoted by NABARD were found highest in southern region (634.5). The variability and CAGR was highest in north-eastern region (39.77% and 26.43%) and eastern region (9.58% and 6.17%) promoted by SFAC and NABARD, respectively. In line with the policy framework of the Govt. of India, the State Governments may introduce appropriate flexible policy to scale up FPO promotion so as to become a self-sustaining commercially viable business enterprise of the farmers' particularly of small producers.

Keywords: Compound growth rate, Farmer Producer Organisation, NABARD, SFAC

India's agriculture is said to be rich, but the small and marginal farmers are still poor. Small and marginal farmers constitute the largest group of cultivators in Indian agriculture. About 85% of farmers are small and marginal with land holding of fewer than 2 ha. In 2011, the Government of India was designated as the nodal agency for facilitating the promotion of FPOs under two schemes of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana namely, the National Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters and Integrated Development of 60,000 pulse villages in rural areas. The focus of these two schemes was to enhance the overall productivity of vegetables and pulses and provide market linkage to small producers through the formation of FPOs (SFAC 2013). Since then, SFAC has also been mandated to promote FPOs under other programmes such as the National Food Security Mission, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Coconut Development Board, etc [SFAC, Annual Report (2017–18)].

The formation of Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) can increase the probability of farmers getting remunerative prices. The concept of Farmer Producer Companies which is in its inception must be nourished by the Government

and agricultural institutions so that the small and marginal farmers could reap the benefits of empowerment, livelihood, and elevation of standard of living (Kakati and Roy 2018).

FPOs offer a possible new pathway to successfully deal with challenges especially that of accessing wider markets. Overcoming the constraints imposed by the small size of their individual farms, FPO members are able to leverage collective strength to access credit and technology, reduce transaction costs, tap high value markets and enter into partnerships with private entities on more equitable terms. They are seen as an important risk mitigation device to overcome the constraints faced by the farmers, especially small producers seeking benefit from growing market opportunities in developing nations. With the above backdrop, the study is undertaken to examine the status and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations across the states in India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study is exclusively based on secondary data collected for the period 2015–16 to 2020–21. The data regarding the number of FPOs registered and the number of farmers linked to FPOs were collected from the Annual Reports of Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) which is promoted by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers

¹Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana. *Corresponding author email: subodh.agarwal47@gmail.com

Welfare, Govt. of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The data of the state-wise number of FPOs promoted by SFAC for the period 2015–16 to 2020–21 was collected from SFAC and data of state-wise number of FPOs promoted by NABARD for the period 2017–18 to 2020–21 was collected from NABARD.

Statistical methodology: For presentation of state-wise share, the percentage distribution of each state has been calculated for the number of FPOs registered and number of farmers linked to FPOs. To illustrate the per state number of FPOs promoted by SFAC and NABARD, the average has been used. To find out the distribution over the years standard deviation (SD) and coefficient of variation (CV) have also been used.

Coefficient of Variation (CV) = $\frac{\sigma}{\bar{X}} \times 100$, σ = SD, $\bar{X}$ = Mean

To measure the state-wise and region-wise growth performance in terms of number of FPOs promoted by SFAC and NABARD, compound growth rates were calculated using the following exponential growth model:

$$Y = ab^t$$

where, Y, number of FPO; t, time variable (independent variable); a and b, constant and trend value/slope parameters to be estimated, and r (compound growth rate), $(b - 1) \times 100$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Status of Farmer Producer Organisations in India: The status of Farmer Producer Organisations in India is presented in Table 1. In India, the Farmer Producer Organisation is a legal entity comprising primary agriculture producers, handicrafts, horticulture, forestry, etc. Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has been recognised as the nodal agency by the Indian Government to promote FPOs. Different state departments and central level agencies are involved in the act of mobilising the primary producers into producer organisations under various schemes like Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Vegetable Initiative for Urban Cluster (VIUC), etc. Government of India has launched a new central sector scheme titled Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs) on February 19, 2020 with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs in the country with budgetary provision of ₹6865 crore. Under this central sector scheme with funding from Government of India, formation and promotion of FPOs are to be done through the implementing agencies (IAs) (GOI 2020–21).

NABARD and SFAC are the major central level institutions involved in promoting FPOs in India. Out of the total 3044 FPOs registered in the country, 2168 FPOs, i.e. 71.22%, have been supported by NABARD and the remaining 876 FPOs, i.e. 28.78% are supported by SFAC as on October 31, 2020.

The state-wise analysis shows that Madhya Pradesh has the largest number/share of FPOs, i.e. 309 out of a total 3044 FPOs, which accounts for 10.15% of the total FPOs

registered throughout the country followed by Karnataka (280 FPOs, 9.19%), West Bengal (238 FPOs, 7.82%), Maharashtra (224 FPOs, 7.35%), etc. Starting from the lowest sharing, Tripura and Goa have the lowest FPOs (4 FPOs, 0.13% each), followed by Delhi (5 FPOs, 0.16%), Nagaland (7 FPOs, 0.23%), Arunachal Pradesh (10 FPOs, 0.33%), etc. SFAC promoted the largest number of FPOs in Madhya Pradesh with 149 FPOs (17%), followed by Karnataka with 121 FPOs (13.81%), Maharashtra with 105 FPOs (11.98%), etc. Out of total FPOs promoted by NABARD, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of FPOs (170 FPOs, 7.84%), followed by Madhya Pradesh (160 FPOs, 7.38%), Karnataka (159 FPOs, 7.33%) etc. Manaswi *et al.* (2018) also reported that the growth of FPOs across country and regions has not been uniform with more than 50% of total mobilised farmers belonging to four states namely Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

The number of farmers registered with FPOs was to the tune of 17.74 lakh as of October 31, 2020. The total number of farmers linked to FPOs promoted by both SFAC and NABARD together are highest in Madhya Pradesh (208594, 11.76%), followed by Karnataka (201905, 11.38%), West Bengal (169724, 9.57%), Maharashtra (144791, 8.16%), etc. In addition, about 50% of total farmers who are members of FPOs belong to five states, namely Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The number of farmers registered with FPOs promoted by SFAC was highest in the state of Madhya Pradesh (138844, 15.92%), followed by Karnataka (125662, 14.41%), Maharashtra (105093, 12.05%), West Bengal (92255, 10.58%), Rajasthan (59662, 6.84%), Uttar Pradesh (56962, 6.53%), Odisha (38605, 4.43%), etc. The number of farmers who are members of FPOs promoted by NABARD was highest in Tamil Nadu (122783, 13.62%), followed by West Bengal (77469, 8.59%), Karnataka (76243, 8.46%), Madhya Pradesh (69750, 7.74%), Rajasthan (56927, 6.32%), Kerala (53329, 5.91%), Uttar Pradesh (45781, 5.08%), etc.

It is pertinent to note that NABARD promotes the most significant number of FPOs. However, the extent of mobilization of farmers is more by SFAC that enabled FPOs as indicated by the average number of members per FPO. Manaswi *et al.* (2018) also reported that largest number of FPOs is promoted by NABARD but SFAC linked larger number of farmers to FPOs.

State-wise average number of farmers linked to FPOs: The number of farmers per FPO is of paramount importance to the performance and easiness of running the FPOs. It has been observed that FPOs with relatively higher members/beneficiaries may face numerous problems in smoothly disposing of the organisation's services. The minimum no. of membership depends upon the legal form of the producer organisation. For example, 10 or more primary producers can incorporate a producer company under section 581C of the Indian companies act 1956 (the same provisions are retained in the 2013 act). There is no restriction on the maximum number of memberships. Small and marginal farmers participate in FPOs to improve their access to credit,

Table 1 State-wise number of FPOs registered and farmers linked in India

State	SFAC		NABARD		Total	
	FPO	Farmers	FPO	Farmers	FPO	Farmers
Andaman and Nicobar	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	03 (0.14)	307 (0.03)	03 (0.10)	307 (0.02)
Andhra Pradesh	12 (1.37)	12557 (1.44)	95 (4.38)	46567 (5.16)	107 (3.52)	59124 (3.33)
Arunachal Pradesh	4 (0.46)	4270 (0.49)	6 (0.28)	969 (0.11)	10 (0.33)	5239 (0.30)
Assam	15 (1.71)	10831 (1.24)	40 (1.85)	14280 (1.58)	55 (1.81)	25111 (1.42)
Bihar	38 (4.34)	36423 (4.18)	118 (5.44)	39855 (4.42)	156 (5.12)	76278 (4.30)
Chhattisgarh	26 (2.97)	29436 (3.37)	57 (2.63)	24741 (2.74)	83 (2.73)	54177 (3.05)
Delhi	4 (0.46)	3535 (0.41)	1 (0.05)	10 (0.00)	5 (0.16)	3545 (0.20)
Goa	2 (0.23)	1810 (0.21)	2 (0.09)	104 (0.01)	4 (0.13)	1914 (0.11)
Gujarat	25 (2.85)	22438 (2.57)	117 (5.40)	36718 (4.07)	142 (4.66)	59156 (3.33)
Haryana	23 (2.63)	14081 (1.61)	50 (2.31)	25740 (2.85)	73 (2.40)	39821 (2.24)
Himachal Pradesh	8 (0.91)	7703 (0.88)	51 (2.35)	10731 (1.19)	59 (1.94)	18434 (1.04)
Jammu and Kashmir	2 (0.23)	9944 (1.14)	13 (0.60)	1548 (0.17)	15 (0.49)	11492 (0.65)
Jharkhand	10 (1.14)	12009 (1.38)	135 (6.23)	44743 (4.96)	145 (4.76)	56752 (3.20)
Karnataka	121 (13.81)	125662 (14.41)	159 (7.33)	76243 (8.46)	280 (9.20)	201905 (11.38)
Kerala	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	132 (6.09)	53329 (5.91)	132 (4.34)	53329 (3.01)
Lakshadweep	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.05)	50 (0.01)	1 (0.03)	50 (0.00)
Madhya Pradesh	149 (17.01)	138844 (15.92)	160 (7.38)	69750 (7.74)	309 (10.15)	208594 (11.76)
Maharashtra	105 (11.99)	105093 (12.05)	119 (5.49)	39698 (4.40)	224 (7.36)	144791 (8.16)
Manipur	8 (0.91)	6450 (0.74)	8 (0.37)	2956 (0.33)	16 (0.53)	9406 (0.53)
Meghalaya	3 (0.34)	2990 (0.34)	9 (0.42)	1459 (0.16)	12 (0.39)	4449 (0.25)
Mizoram	1 (0.11)	1700 (0.19)	16 (0.74)	3266 (0.36)	17 (0.56)	4966 (0.28)
Nagaland	2 (0.23)	3000 (0.34)	5 (0.23)	1379 (0.15)	7 (0.23)	4379 (0.25)
Odisha	41 (4.68)	38605 (4.43)	100 (4.61)	54159 (6.01)	141 (4.63)	92764 (5.23)
Punjab	7 (0.80)	6288 (0.72)	70 (3.23)	8435 (0.94)	77 (2.53)	14723 (0.83)
Rajasthan	50 (5.71)	59662 (6.84)	143 (6.60)	56927 (6.31)	193 (6.34)	116589 (6.57)
Sikkim	30 (3.42)	16265 (1.86)	4 (0.18)	856 (0.09)	34 (1.12)	17121 (0.97)
Tamil Nadu	13 (1.48)	15070 (1.73)	170 (7.84)	122783 (13.62)	183 (6.01)	137853 (7.77)
Telangana	22 (2.51)	29268 (3.36)	68 (3.14)	23115 (2.56)	90 (2.96)	52383 (2.95)
Tripura	4 (0.46)	3142 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	4 (0.13)	3142 (0.18)
Uttar Pradesh	56 (6.39)	56962 (6.53)	116 (5.35)	45781 (5.08)	172 (5.65)	102743 (5.79)
Uttarakhand	7 (0.80)	6004 (0.69)	50 (2.31)	17628 (1.96)	57 (1.87)	23632 (1.33)
West Bengal	88 (10.05)	92255 (10.58)	150 (6.92)	77469 (8.59)	238 (7.82)	169724 (9.57)
Overall	876 (100)	872297 (100)	2168 (100)	901596 (100)	3044 (100)	1773893 (100)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to respective total. *Source:* GOI, 2020a, GOI, 2020b, SFAC and NABARD as on October 31, 2020.

storage, output and input markets and their bargaining power *vis-à-vis* traders. Households associated with FPOs have a higher level of income, consumption and investment, and a lower incidence of indebtedness (Singh and Vatta 2019).

The data on state-wise average numbers of farmers linked to FPOs are presented in Table 2. At the country level, the average number of farmers per FPO is found to be 582. Tripura state has the highest number of farmers per FPO with 785 members, followed by Jammu and Kashmir (766), Tamil Nadu (753), Karnataka (721), West Bengal (713) etc. Punjab state has the lowest number of farmers

per FPO with 191 members, followed by Mizoram (292), Himachal Pradesh (312), Meghalaya (371), Jharkhand (391) etc. Further, the average number of farmers per FPO is more in FPOs promoted by SFAC than FPOs supported by NABARD in all the states except Kerala. In Kerala state, there is no FPO formed/promoted by SFAC. For the country, the average number of farmers per FPO promoted by SFAC is found to be 995, whereas this figure is 415 in the case of FPOs promoted by NABARD. Formation and promotion of FPOs is the first step for converting Krishi into Atmanirbhar Krishi. This will enhance cost effective

Table 2 State wise average number of farmers linked to FPOs as on October 31, 2020

State	SFAC	NABARD	Total
Andaman and Nicobar	0	102	102
Andhra Pradesh	1046	490	552
Arunachal Pradesh	1067	161	524
Assam	722	357	456
Bihar	958	337	489
Chhattisgarh	1132	434	653
Delhi	883	10	709
Goa	905	52	478
Gujarat	897	313	416
Haryana	612	514	545
Himachal Pradesh	962	210	312
Jammu and Kashmir	4972	119	766
Jharkhand	1201	331	391
Karnataka	1038	479	721
Kerala	0	404	404
Lakshadweep	0	50	50
Madhya Pradesh	931	435	675
Maharashtra	1000	333	646
Manipur	806	369	588
Meghalaya	996	162	371
Mizoram	1700	204	292
Nagaland	1500	275	625
Odisha	941	541	657
Punjab	898	120	191
Rajasthan	1193	398	604
Sikkim	542	214	503
Tamil Nadu	1159	722	753
Telangana	1330	339	582
Tripura	785	0	785
Uttar Pradesh	1017	394	597
Uttarakhand	857	352	414
West Bengal	1048	516	713
Overall	995	415	582

Source: GOI 2020a and GOI 2020b

production and productivity, and higher net incomes to the member of the FPO. Also, improve rural economy and create job opportunities for rural youths in villages itself. This was the major step towards improving farmers' income substantially (GOI 2020–21).

In most states, the Department of Horticulture is the coordinating resource institution by SFAC for the promotion of FPOs and mobilisation of farmers, which also houses an information and support centre for FPOs. Due to the high association of farmers with Horticulture Department, the average number of members in the FPOs made by SFAC is more than the FPOs promoted by NABARD.

Region-wise and state-wise variability and growth of FPOs promoted by SFAC and NABARD over the years: Region-wise average numbers of FPOs promoted by SFAC and NABARD over the years are presented in Table 3. At the country level, central region has the highest average number of FPOs (194.67) during 2015–16 to 2020–21 promoted by SFAC, followed by southern region (132.83), western region (108.67), etc. Further, the average number of FPOs during the said period promoted by NABARD is more than FPOs supported by SFAC in all the regions. The average number of FPO promoted by NABARD was found highest in southern region (634.5), followed by eastern region (446.25), central region (383.25), etc. The least average number of FPOs came out to be in north-eastern region by both the promoting agencies, i.e. SFAC (25.17) and NABARD (74.25).

The variability and CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) in number of FPOs promoted by SFAC was found to be highest in north-eastern region (39.77% and 26.43%). The second highest variability and CAGR in number of FPOs promoted by SFAC was estimated in southern region (36.33% and 25.63%), etc. The lowest variability and CAGR in number of FPOs promoted by SFAC was found in northern region (13.05% and 7.25%).

In case of NABARD promoted FPOs, the eastern region reported highest variability (9.58%) and annual compound growth rate (6.17%) in number of FPOs promoted. Next in line is northern region having variability of 8.75% and CAGR of 5.17%. Southern region witnessed negative growth in number of FPOs promoted by NABARD (-0.94%).

State-wise growth rate analysis indicate that in India, the FPOs promoted by SFAC increased at the compound growth rate of 15.22% per annum during 2015–16 to 2020–2021 (Table 3). Sikkim state witnessed the highest growth rate of 85.88%, followed by Karnataka (39.50%), Himachal Pradesh (38.50%), Chhattisgarh (37.84%), etc. Tripura reported the lowest growth in FPOs formation (4.2%), followed by Meghalaya (5.10%), Jharkhand (5.23%), Tamil Nadu (5.32%) etc. The states like Delhi, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Punjab and Uttarakhand experienced no increase in information of FPOs during this period.

In case of FPOs promoted by NABARD, Arunachal Pradesh state witnessed the highest growth rate of 71.18%, followed by Jharkhand (23.73%), Andaman and Nicobar (17.61%), Manipur (15.14%) and Kerala (7.11%). In Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand states, the growth in FPOs during the period from 2017–18 to 2020–21 decreased as is evident by the negative growth rates of 5.33%, 2.82%, 7.79%, 4.14%, 0.54%, 0.06% and 1.94%, respectively. Maharashtra (0.17%), Gujarat (0.69%) and Uttar Pradesh (1.40%) showed the lowest growth in FPOs promoted by NABARD.

It has been seen that farmer belonging to the FPOs get additional benefits ranging from 40–60%. Farmers are getting inputs at a lower price and higher realisation for selling (Chintala 2021). The growth in number of FPOs

Table 3 Region-wise and state-wise variability, and growth in number of FPOs promoted by SFAC and NABARD over the years

State	SFAC				NABARD			
	Mean	SD	CV (%)	CAGR (%)	Mean	SD	CV (%)	CAGR (%)
<i>Northern region</i>								
Delhi	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.43	173.21	NA
Haryana	21.17	1.79	8.45	7.06	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	5.17	1.41	27.37	38.53	53.25	1.30	2.44	-1.70
Jammu and Kashmir	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50	0.50	4.00	3.35
Punjab	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.25	1.30	1.90	1.62
Rajasthan	42.83	5.59	13.04	7.52	143.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overall	82.17	10.72	13.05	7.25	327.25	1.50	0.46	0.28
<i>North-eastern region</i>								
Arunachal Pradesh	2.33	0.89	38.33	10.41	2.25	2.17	96.23	71.18
Assam	8.50	5.85	68.80	6.92	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manipur	4.83	1.95	40.33	27.89	5.75	1.30	22.59	15.14
Meghalaya	3.00	0.45	14.91	5.10	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.67	0.45	67.08	0.00	15.25	0.43	2.84	1.96
Nagaland	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	2.17	173.21	NA
Tripura	3.83	0.00	0.00	4.20	0.75	0.43	57.74	NA
Overall	25.17	10.01	39.77	26.43	74.25	6.50	8.75	5.17
<i>Eastern region</i>								
Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	-	-	2.50	0.50	20.00	17.61
Bihar	27.00	7.83	29.00	16.74	109.25	6.22	5.69	5.14
Jharkhand	8.67	1.10	12.64	5.23	81.50	30.93	37.95	23.73
Odisha	35.50	4.92	13.86	14.64	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sikkim	20.50	12.42	60.57	85.88	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	72.00	11.37	15.79	12.67	149.00	1.73	1.16	0.81
Overall	75.00	22.96	30.61	8.05	446.25	42.74	9.58	6.17
<i>Central region</i>								
Chhattisgarh	19.33	6.94	35.91	37.84	56.25	1.30	2.31	-0.54
Madhya Pradesh	127.00	12.22	9.62	11.39	160.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	41.33	11.19	27.08	14.75	115.50	2.87	2.49	1.40
Uttarakhand	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.50	0.87	1.68	-1.17
Overall	194.67	43.93	22.56	13.41	383.25	1.89	0.49	0.18
<i>Western region</i>								
Maharashtra	87.17	13.89	15.94	11.26	118.00	0.71	0.60	0.17
Gujarat	19.50	2.17	11.12	12.91	116.00	1.00	0.86	0.69
Goa	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overall	108.67	21.06	19.38	11.22	236	1.41	0.60	0.42
<i>Southern region</i>								
Andhra Pradesh	6.50	3.21	49.37	33.72	103.00	4.64	4.50	-3.33
Karnataka	95.17	17.04	17.90	39.50	177.25	11.23	6.34	-5.12
Kerala	0.00	0.00	-	-	111.75	11.69	10.46	7.11
Tamil Nadu	11.50	1.10	9.53	5.32	169.75	0.43	0.26	-0.06
Telangana	19.67	0.89	4.55	6.07	72.50	2.60	3.58	-2.50
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.25	0.43	173.21	NA
Overall	132.83	48.26	36.33	25.63	634.50	8.35	1.32	-0.94

in the country is an indication of farmer's choice towards newer and efficient production systems. Supporting this, the Government of India has also announced a target of incorporating 10000 FPOs by 2023, which can cater to the larger farmers and land area as well. In the same direction, state governments have also proposed a dedicated state legislation to establish and regulate state FPOs in the near future, thus adding more impetus. States like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka already having lions' share in terms of the number of FPOs and number of farmers impacted have already proposed to set up and support FPOs specific to crops grown by state farming communities.

In addition to the above, crop or region-specific clusters formed across the country along with, CBBOs [Cluster Based Business Organizations] will further improve the collective efforts as their establishment is intended to bring professional expertise and technical resources closer to the FPO. This will necessarily weed out unnecessary delay in availing critical inputs and decision-making at the farmer's end. The congenial ecosystem is a must for development of Producer Organizations (POs) because they have to deal with the most vulnerable part of agri-value chain, which starts from the farm and goes on till processing and the far-away markets. As majority of the marginal and small farmers are facing a great suppression by the middle men/commission agents for remunerative price and profitable income, FPO could be an ultimate solution to the problem.

It is concluded that growth of FPOs across the states in India has not been uniform. Madhya Pradesh has the largest number/share of FPOs accounting to 10.15% of the total FPOs registered throughout the country, followed by Karnataka (9.19%), West Bengal (7.82%), Maharashtra (7.35%), etc. Further, about 50% of total farmers who are members of FPOs belong to five states, namely Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. Tripura state has the highest number of farmers per FPO with 785 members, and Punjab state has the lowest number of farmers per FPO with 191 members. A support from the policy makers in running the FPO will be a great boon to the farming community. The farmers must encourage

their children to involve more in agriculture to induce a loving spirit and passion for agriculture.

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