



A FARMER'S SAY >
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What to bear in mind as a farmer

As a farmer, you are self-employed and the progress of your farm largely depends on the management decisions you make. Issues keep cropping up on the farm without warning, many of which need immediate attention.

This means that you should not keep away for too long from your farm unless you have an efficient farm manager. "The best manure on a farm is the sole of the farmer's boot," goes an old wise saying among farmers. It emphasises the importance of regular supervision of the farm.

Minimise losses

Find time to check every now and again what is happening to your crops and to your livestock. The walking you do during farm inspection is by itself a form of manure.

You have to keep records even if they indicate losses and declining profits. It is your responsibility to come up with new innovations to ensure that losses are minimised. It is you to ensure that the farm gets all required inputs. This means there has to be money reserved for the purpose.

Make decisions

If there are no savings at all, it is you to decide where to borrow the money from and on what terms.

If you are known to be credit worthy you may easily get some farm inputs like fertilisers, feeds, pesticides, and herbicides from suppliers and pay later after selling your farm produce.

Remember you are not just an entrepreneur; you are also the manager and controller on whom major decisions depend.

It is you and the members of your family to face the consequences of your mistakes. This is the reason you should involve your spouse and grown-up children, if any, in the management of the farm.

Gain knowledge and skills

Two heads are better than one, much as you are the leader of the homestead. There ought to be a sense of common ownership of the enterprise among all household members.

This calls for transparency especially with regard to the farm's income and expenditure records.

Ensure that they all get opportunities to attend farming seminars offered by agricultural programmes like Naads to gain new knowledge and technical skills.

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