**ANNEXURE II**

**ADDITIONAL ISSUES - I**

1. Upscale irrigation infrastructure in the country.
2. Converting straw, bagasse, bio-mass into ethanol and converting bamboo waste into bio CNG. This will lead to reduction in import bill. Farmers can be encouraged to grow corn which can be converted into bio-mass and ethanol. Flexi engines are already available in the market.
3. Liquid soluble fertilizers should be eligible for subsidy.
4. Mr. Jambhekar in Pune has developed a system for converting press mud from sugar mills into organic phosphate and potash. There is a lot of scope to export organic agri-produce.
5. Bamboo should be promoted since it leads to produce several by-products such as cloth, compressed wood etc. It can be grown on bunds and wastelands.
6. Attention also needs to be paid to creating infrastructure for promotion of honey, milk, fisheries, poultry, ducks, fodder and soybean etc.
7. In order to reduce cost of cultivation on account of energy, solar pumps should be installed to power electric feeders that are exclusively for agriculture and energise drip-irrigation facilities. Cold storages that run on solar energy should also be encouraged (Thermax is reported to have developed new technology, various technologies available should be examined).
8. Import substitution should be thought of for commodities such as wood, agarbatties, palmoil etc.
9. Innovative ideas from all state governments/other stakeholders should be invited to create a bank of ideas.
10. Stable trade regime for agri-commodities must be ensured and import duties clamped when required.
11. Stalls selling fresh fruits and vegetables appropriately branded (Mother Dairy model) may be set-up at airports, railway stations etc.
12. Sourcing of pineapple from the Northeast and flowers from Sikkim should be tied-up for efficient domestic and export market.
13. Seed companies should set aside a part of their profits for research.
14. Strengthening of procurement of agri-produce through different models.

**ADDITIONAL ISSUES - II**

1. Enhance investments in agriculture and bridge infrastructure gaps along the entire chain of agriculture production system.
2. Restore the traditional irrigation systems comprising tanks, reservoirs, ponds etc. Soil conservation structures like check dams have proved very useful in Gujarat. Ground water recharge requires focussed attention.
3. Ensure power connectivity to all the villages and provide dedicated feeder lines for agriculture.
4. Dairy and livestock sectors need emphasis. Livestock based cropping systems are highly appropriate in rainfed systems.
5. Identify the challenges relating to e-NAM and the steps that are required to make it popular & acceptable among farmers and other stakeholders. Examine as to why the state governments are not taking desired level of interest in this very useful initiative.
6. Promote post-harvest Pledge Loan System. Identify the reasons for it not being popular among farmers and bankers, and draw up action plan for its adoption.
7. Strengthen ware house storages, cold storages, reefer vans etc.
8. The extension system in the country has broken down and needs to be revitalized. What are the ways to strengthen the same?
9. Adoption of sustainable agriculture production system like organic farming. However, examine the same in the context of ensuring the nation’s food security.
10. Making India a world feeder in respect of various agri-commodities.
11. Examine also whether the Indian farmers can be encouraged to go to African countries where land is offered on long term lease for cultivation. Identify the policy support required.
12. Diversification of agriculture. Identify crops which are low yielders and low income generators and which one would be the most optimal substitutes, for these to enhance farmers’ income.
13. Promote food processing & agro-processing.