

## INFACT's initiatives

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Farmers platform (Karshakavedi)</b>
<b>Summary</b>	Karshakavedi is a platform of farmers, initiated by INFACT, during 1996-97. It is a wider forum of farmers, with more members and coverage of area, and has assumed the nature and role of a movement of small farmers.
<b>Objectives</b>	Focuses on organizing and sensitizing farmers for their rights and duties to strengthen sustainable agriculture.
<b>Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acting as pressure group of small farmers to protect their interests and influence decision making in favour of the small farmers, at different levels.</li> <li>▪ Sensitizing the decision makers of the State and other stakeholders through submitting petitions and memoranda, and organizing demonstrations, public meetings, workshops, press releases, public rallies, etc.</li> <li>▪ Advocacy – lobbying and legal actions are other involvements</li> </ul> <p>Karshakavedi initiated a monthly magazine called “Bhoomi Malayalam” to express and represent the voice of farmers, and disseminate their experiences and the results of their experiences.</p>
<b>Important learnings</b>	<p><b>Positive results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some of the leaders could acquire clarity in their objectives</li> <li>▪ Outlets could be opened for selling farmers products</li> <li>▪ Improved the skills and widened the knowledge base of the members</li> <li>▪ Improved the economic position of the farmers</li> <li>▪ Initiated a new way of thinking among farmers</li> <li>▪ Magazine initiated by Karshakavedi strengthened group activities and facilitated dissemination of information relating to sustainable farming and experiences of the farmers.</li> <li>▪ The Karshakavedi provided a model for starting other farmers’ movements like INFAM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Negative results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Most leaders and members lacked adequate clarity on the concepts and objectives of the movement.</li> <li>▪ INFACT also failed to equip the leaders.</li> <li>▪ Introduction of other religious oriented farmers movements (like INFAM) weakened Karshakavedi, and as a result membership got reduced from more than 5,000 to only 500.</li> </ul>
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