A FUZZY ANALYSIS OF SUICIDE
BY FARMERS

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Starvation deaths and suicide by farmers is on a rampant increase because of various reasons. Reports of distress among farmers coming from the different states are causing much concern, and an extreme manifestation of such distress occurs in the form of suicides in farmers (EPW, July 2002). Reports relating to farmers' distress in the media indicate the loss of crops, fall in prices, the burden of heavy debts and inability to earn enough to meet family requirements as some of the main reasons that cause the farmers to take such dire steps. However at the background of such suicides lie the changed market scenario, forces of commercialization and the failure of village institutions. Another unfortunate outcome is the bad image that has been created on the psyche of the farming community and their entrepreneurial abilities. Thus one needs a full investigation of the situation giving enough weightages to the feelings and mental states of the farmers that has caused them to take such an extreme action. Thus we approach the problem by building an appropriate fuzzy model by taking mainly the major factors for their suicide and arrive at the hidden patterns for its cause.