



Farmer suicides and the agrarian crisis in India – dancing to Globalization
Eminent journalist P. Sainath to speak on Oct. 4th in the Univ. of Minn.

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In Vidarbha, a region of central India about half the size of Minnesota, the number of farmer suicides has been increasing from two a day in June to about three a day today. Similar crises have been unfolding across the country over the past decade. Activists and policy-makers agree, and now even the Indian government acknowledges, that the current crisis threatens the very existence of rural communities. A reporter who has tirelessly covered the crisis and highlighted the not-so-hidden hand of globalization is visiting Minnesota from Oct 3rd to 7th 2006.

Palagummi Sainath started his career as a journalist in 1980 with the United News of India (UNI) before working for ten years at the *Blitz*, a leading weekly of its time. As the economic reforms of 1991 began to play out, he traveled across ten of the poorest drought-stricken districts, filing 84 columns over an 18-month period. Many of these were included in his book, *'Everybody loves a good drought'*, published in 1996. His writings and analyses have been instrumental in the revamping of drought management programs, improvements in programs for indigenous people and other policy changes. Through his work, Sainath is reforming the media's attitude towards the under-reported issues of rural India.

On Oct 4th 2006, Sainath will give a talk on ***'Nero's Guests: Globalization and the Age of Inequality'*** at 6:30 PM in Room 425 of Blegen Hall, Univ. of Minnesota. Sainath will be touring rural Minnesota on 5th, 6th and 7th of Oct hosted by various farming families and communities across Southern Minnesota.

His visit to Minnesota is made possible by the support of the Land Stewardship Project and the Institute for Global Studies, Univ. of Minnesota.

About AID and AID-MN:

The Association for India's Development (AID), Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization committed to sustainable development in India and supports projects in areas of education, community health, sustainable livelihoods and environmental issues to empower poor and marginalized communities. The Minnesota chapter of AID was started in 1999 and has since supported more than 14 projects across India. We host talks by activists, journalists, film makers, among others, to provide a platform for the local community to interact with the visitors and to know about about the ground realities and ongoing efforts.