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shake off.

The preliminary report, submitted to the government in March, suggests that the govern-

a Farmers are resorting to suicide because of the debt-cycle in which they find themselves as they struggle to cope with high-risk farming methods way beyond their risk-taking capacity

Two drought years in a rain-fed area, low minimum support prices and the high cost of genetically-modified seeds, fertilisers and pesticides have trapped them in a vicious debt-cycle

ment look at organic farming as a tool for poverty-reduction. "Organic farming will minimise costs and therefore minimise

risks for farmers," said Galletti.

While returning to traditional farming methods like organic fertilisers and regenerating seeds will reduce agricultural costs, the bigger problems of marketing and, in the case of organic produce, certification, need special attention, Galletti acknowledged. For this, IFAD is working out modules to help farmers get higher value for their produce.

"We want them to diversify into high-value products like livestock and horticulture. We will also suggest the involvement of private players, and using a contract farming approach that is pro-farmer," said Galletti.