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Maize (*Zea mays* L.) was one of the first plants cultivated by farmers between 7000 and 42 10,000 years ago, with evidence of maize as food coming from some archaeological sites in Mexico where some small corn cobs, estimated to be more than 5000 years old, were found in caves. Other theories describe maize as originating in the region of in the high lands of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru as evidenced by the presence of popcorn in South America (FARA 2009). The spread of maize from its center of origin in Mexico to various parts of the world has been 47 remarkable and rapid with respect to its evolution as a cultivated plant and as a variety of food 48 products. It can be grown successfully in variety of soils ranging from loamy sand to clay loam. However, soils with good organic matter content having high water holding capacity with neutral 50 pH are co The cultivation of maize in India is characterized by inter-cropping i.e. along with and in 54 pulses, vegetables and oil seeds areas of 1temperatures 58 as high as 35°C. Maize is an inferior grain which is used both as food and fodder. Because of its 59 worldwide distribution and relatively lower price maize has industrially nonfood products such as starches, acids, albased fuels. Its stalk is fed to cattle. Among cereals in increased maize prices and has 64 provided incentives to increase maize acreage. Both maize dry-milling and wet-milling methods 65 of producing ethanol generate a variety of economically valuable by - products, the most 66 prominent of which is distillers' dried grains with soluble, which can be used as a feed ingredient 67 for livestock. 68

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Overall Economics Strategy of Maize 70

Maize is one of the most versatile emerging crops having wider adaptability under varied 71 agro-climatic conditions. It is an important cereal crop in world after wheat and rice. The 72 importance of the crop lies in its wide industrial applications besides serving as human food and 73 animal feed. As the demand for the crop is growing globally due to its multiple uses for food, 74 feed and industrial sectors new production technologies offer great promise for increasing 75 productivity to meet the growing demands of consumers. It is cultivated in nearly 150 m ha in 76 about 160 countries having wider diversity of soil, climate, biodiversity and management 77 practices that contributes 36 % (782 m t) in the global grain production. 78

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has the highest productivity (9.8 t ha⁻¹) which is double than the global average (4.92 t ha⁻¹), 84 whereas, the average productivity in India is 2.43 t ha⁻¹. It gives highest average grain yield (30.5 85 Qt/ha) as compared to major cereals such as wheat (19.0 Qt /ha) and rice (25.9 Qt/ha). The status 86 maize enjoys as one of the highest yielding among world's major crops. Also when compared to 87 other crops, the economics of maize cultivation is lowest. It is estimated that in 2012, the total 88 world production of maize was 875,226,630 tons, 27 with the United States, China, and Brazil 89 harvesting 31%, 24%, and 8% of the total production of maize, respectively (Nongnooch 2013). 90

Indian strategy of Maize 91

The maize is cultivated throughout the year in all states of the country for 92 various purposes including grain, fodder, green cobs, sweet corn, baby corn, 93 popcorn in peri-urban areas. The predominant maize growing states that contribute 94 more than 80 % of the total maize production are Andhra Pradesh and 95 Telangana(20.9 %), Karnataka(16.5 %), Rajasthan(9.9 %), Maharashtra(9.1 %), 96 Bihar(8.9 %), Uttar Pradesh (6.1 %), Madhya Pradesh(5.7 %), Himachal 97 Pradesh(4.4 %). Apart from these states maize is also grown in Jammu and 98 Kashmir and North-Eastern states. Hence, the maize has emerged as important 99 crop in the non-traditional regions i.e. peninsular India as the states like Andhra 100 Pradesh and Telangana which ranks 5th in area (0.79 m ha) has recorded the 101 highest production (4.14 m t) and productivity (5.26 t ha⁻¹) in the country. In 102 India, maize is the third most important food crops after rice and wheat. 103

Maize contributes nearly 9 % of total food production. India was the largest 104 producer of maize in the world, with 1406000 MT during the year 2011. The country ranks sixth 105 in maize production with 3.39% share in total work production.

India has increased its share in the cereal products in the international market. The country has exported 28, 25,610.60 MT of 107 given cereals to the worlds for the worth of Rs. 4,037.50 crores during the year 2014 - 15. The 108 major export destinations are Indonesia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Nepal during 2014 - 15 109 (Ephraim, 2009).

Strategy of Maize in Telangana 118

The role of agriculture sector in the state economy is very significant. It produces 30 119 percent of the income and 78 % of the working population is dependent directly and indirectly on 120 agriculture and mostly dependent on rainfall. Monsoon and seasonal conditions play a major role 121 in the agricultural production. ^[10] The contribution of agriculture and livestock under primary sector 122 to the state Telangana is the twelfth largest state in India in terms of area.

Gross Domestic 123 Product for the year 2012-13 is 13.67 per cent (BES of Andhra Pradesh, 2012-13). ^[5] Telangana is 124 one of the large maize producing states in India. ^[5] In Telangana, maize is cultivated in all the 125 districts (except Hyderabad) in both the Kharif and Rabi seasons. ^[5] The total maize production 126 doubled in the state within the past ten years (DES, 2014). ^[5] The maize production in the state has 127 been largely influenced by increasing demand from the feed industries and various industrial 128 uses (Ranjit Kumar et al., 2014). ^[5] Major maize growing districts in Telangana are Karimnagar, 129 Warangal, Nizamabad, Mahaboobnagar, Khammam and Medak. ^[5] Area and production of maize 130 have