

There are various occurrences inside India that exhibit that farmers with limited land are attaining significantly higher profit than those with a comparable land endowment. However, such instances are few and scattered. There is a need to document such successful examples to draw lessons for wider replication. We can also learn lessons from the south and southeast Asian countries where landholdings are small and policy focus is more on food, fodder skill, and income security than production. Comprehensively, we can divide various strategies that could help us in enhancing the economic viability of agriculture at small and marginal farmer levels and also ensuring the ecological sustainability of agriculture. In this conference, we seek contributions on various sub-themes as below:

Theme-1 : Innovative agricultural practices at the field level in agriculture and allied sectors

Theme-2 : Role of institutions in Agriculture

Theme-3 : Food and livestock security issues in agriculture

Theme-4 : Government schemes and their impact on agriculture

Theme-5 : New initiatives in agricultural marketing/ Agribusiness & Post-Harvest Management (PHM)

4. Last Date and Mode of Submission of Papers:

Authors should submit their paper abstract through e-mail to adrtconf2020@isec.ac.in. All the shortlisted abstracts will be printed in the Conference Proceedings. However, the extended revised version of selected best papers will be compiled to be published in edited Book by SPRINGER/ ELSEVIER/ ROUTLEDGE.

Important Dates:

The last date for submission of Abstract (500 words) of the papers : 5th March 2020

Notification of the selected abstracts : 9th March 2020

The last date for submission of extended abstracts (1500 words) of the papers for printing in the Conference Proceedings : 20th March 2020

5. Venue of Conference:

Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru,

6. Logistics:

The authors of the selected abstracts will be provided local hospitality and accommodation during the conference days.

7. Registration Fee:

There will be no registration fee for the paper presenters and others will be charged @ Rs. 2500/-. Accommodations will be conveyed at the nominal rates.

8. Organizing Committee:

1. The Director,
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INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE Bengaluru

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING ECONOMIC VIABILITY AND PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Date of Conference: 26-28 March 2020



Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC)
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1. About Organization

The Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) is an All India Institute for Interdisciplinary Research and Training in the Social Sciences, set up in 1972 by Professor V K R V Rao. It is the biggest among the 27 institutions bolstered by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The Institute is registered as a Society under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, to create a blend of field-oriented empirical research and advances in social science theories leading to better public policy formulation. ISEC is represented by the Board of Governors and the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka is the President of ISEC Society.

Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC) is one among 9 Centres in the ISEC. The ADRTC was established as Agro Economic Research Unit (AERU) funded by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MOA&FW) Government of India and it is one among 3 AERUs and 12 Agro Economic Research Centres (AERCs). Since its inception in 1972, the Centre has been providing ceaseless strategy inputs to the MOA&FW. Keeping in view the Agenda and Vision of the Institute the ADRTC staff has been providing policy feedback at Union and State level. The faculty of ADRTC focusses on researchable issues in agriculture and rural development and also engage in building capacity among young researcher, academia and policy makers.

2. About the Conference

The ADRT Centre is organizing Three Days *National Conference* on "*Strategies for Enhancing Economic Viability and Sustainability of Indian Agriculture*" at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, Karnataka. The focal point of the Conference shall be - to comprehend and assess the livelihood issues in Indian agriculture and allied activities; innovative agricultural practices; food and livestock security issues; and impact of Government schemes and programmes towards achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income and accomplishing the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) agenda set by the Government of India.

3. Conference Theme

Successful incursion of Green Revolution made India not only self-sufficient in food but also helped in exporting agricultural commodities, like rice, other cereals and animal products like milk products, buffalo meat etc. Despite India producing surplus food, new difficulties keep undermining the nation as ever-increasing population and its rising demand for arable land to ensure food, fodder, water, and income securities of farming population. In spite contracting share of the agricultural sector in the economy (13 %), a larger part of the workforce (about 50 %) keep relying on agriculture for their livelihood. Around 70 per cent of India's poor individuals live with low purchasing power in rural areas and about 60 per cent of the cultivated area is under rainfed cultivation.

The foremost section of farming community is under small and marginal holdings, a majority of whose size of operational farms are exceptionally low which makes their sustainability truly hard. Almost 80 per cent of the holding size is less than 2 hectares and 90 per cent of them are exclusively dependent on rain for crop cultivation. In a conventional farming system, cost of cultivation and risk of crop failure are high to the point that cultivators can't recuperate even the paid-out cost. Daily earnings of farmers are not adequate to get their day-to-day needs. India's National Commission on Farmers revealed that around 40 per cent of farm households want to switch out of agriculture but they remain in it because of limited opportunities outside. This reflects the enormity of the current agricultural crisis and the challenge confronting the nation.

One can see the surplus production and widespread hunger coinciding at the national level. General low intake of pulses, vegetables, fruits, fats and oils, eggs, meat, and fish are liable for the widespread occurrence of Protein-Energy Malnutrition (PEM) and chronic energy deficiency (CED). As per literature, around 23 to 70 per cent of the rural population in different parts of the nation is experiencing PEM, while chronic energy deficiency affects 17 to 54 per cent of the individuals. Child malnutrition rates in India are still high even when you compare

with Sub Saharan Africa. The predominance of poverty and low-and fluctuating-income levels limit a major chunk of poor to enter a diversified diet and consequently unfavourably influence the balanced diet.

Progress in agriculture, economic and ecological well-being of farm families is indistinguishably associated with achieving the goal of a hunger-free India. On account of the fact that more than 700 million people live in villages and their principal source of livelihood is agriculture which comprises of crop and animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries, agro-processing, and agri-business. Therefore, the accelerated progress in enhancing farmers' livelihood is conceivable through increased productivity, better price realisation, higher profitability, and consequently better sustainability that will be best safety nets against hunger and poverty. Increasing yield of crops shall ensure livelihood security of farmers only through better profitability of their fields which is conditional to better price realization of their crops. It is incredibly crippling to take note that farmers are not getting due for their increased production as they fail in bargaining power in the market and end up getting lower price whenever there is bumper crop especially in crops not covered through the premium of MSP.

The change in perspective from production to income has implications in evolving strategies, recognizing alternatives and exploring innovative institutional mechanisms. Both the State and Union Government have concocted different innovative schemes and programs to connect with the small and marginal farmers of the country over a period. In addition, the Government of India has set a target to doubling the farmers' income by 2022 yet their accomplishment is not impressive. It requires a new strategy at the national level and implementation plans at ground level. Several options may be available for increasing farmers' livelihood security, but it is not easy to execute such options. It requires complete revamping and re-direction of the agri-food system and strengthening of marketing infrastructure and financial institutions in terms of new production systems, and farmers' access to remunerative markets, credit, inputs, information, and technologies.