



Announcement

Agricultural Economics Research Association (India)

25th Annual Conference, 2017

DOUBLING FARMERS' INCOME: OPTIONS AND STRATEGIES



Organiser

ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management
Hyderabad-500030, Telangana



About the Association

The Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), registered as a society in 1987, currently has 824 life members, 110 ordinary members, 115 institutional members and 25 honorary life members from India and abroad. The mandate of the Association is to promote quality research in agricultural economics on contemporary agrarian problems for informed policy decisions. AERA has been regularly publishing the journal 'Agricultural Economics Research Review' (AERR) twice a year since 1988. *Agricultural Economics Research Review* has been rated high by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India. To encourage Young Professionals, the AERA also publishes abstracts of Master's and Doctoral theses in AERR. The Association has been successfully organizing its annual conference on contemporary and emerging agrarian issues, the proceedings of which are published as a special conference number of the *Agricultural Economics Research Review*.

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About the Conference

Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) is organizing its 25th Annual Conference on “**Doubling Farmers’ Income: Options and Strategies**” at NAARM, Hyderabad (Telangana). The main emphasis of this Conference is to understand and examine the issues in estimation of income, constraints, options and strategies for doubling farmers’ income in the country.

Conference Theme: Doubling Farmers’ Income: Options and Strategies

Unequivocally, agricultural growth is not keeping pace with the growth in other economic sectors. It is lagging far behind than that of the manufacturing and service sectors. The share of agriculture in GDP has fallen steeply over years but overall dependence on agricultural sector for livelihood remains quite high. About 40% of farm households have a desire to exit agriculture but they remain in it because of limited opportunities outside it. It is disheartening that farmers are not getting due credit for their contribution towards making the country self-sufficient in food production in spite of the fact that farmers’ incomes are very low.

It is with this backdrop, the Government of India has set a policy target of doubling farmers’ income by 2022. The paradigm shift from production to income has implications in evolving strategies, identifying options and exploring innovative institutional mechanisms. It requires a new strategy at the national level and implementation plans at ground level. Several options may be available for increasing farmers’ incomes. Some included: (1) increase crop area through intensification, (2) bridge yield gaps and raise yields, (3) reduce cost of cultivation and improve production efficiency, (4) promote agricultural diversification towards more remunerative commodities, such as horticulture, livestock and fish, (5) increase prices of food commodities, (6) promote primary and secondary value addition, packaging and branding, (7) consolidate farmers through institutional innovation to take advantage of economies of scale and sharing risk, (8) reducing the transaction cost by improving the supply chain, and (9) create job opportunities outside agriculture sector. The task is not easy to execute any option. It requires complete revamping and re-orientation of agri-food system, and strengthening of infrastructure and institutions in terms of new production systems, and farmers’ access to remunerative markets, credit, inputs, information and technologies. There are number of instances within India which demonstrate that farmers with limited land are attaining significantly higher incomes than those with similar 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 south and Southeast Asian countries where landholdings are small and policy focus is more on farmers’ income security than production.

The paper writers may discuss one or more of the following issues.

1. How far farmers’ income is below the average per capita income of the country? What constitutes farmers’ income and what are its determinants?
2. What are the impacts of ongoing programmes like National Food Security Mission, RKVY, micro-irrigation, soil health card, crop insurance, organic farming etc. that aim at

income augmenting and how far have they been effective? What are the factors behind not realising the anticipated income improvements under these programmes?

3. Diversification towards horticulture and animal production is considered a pathway for enhancing farmers' incomes. Paper writers may explore patterns, impacts and determinants of diversification.
4. Cost reduction is one of the options for enhancing incomes. How the natural resource endowment influences the cost of production and how to reduce costs of production can be the focus of the papers?
5. Use of technology can be a game changer in enhancing productivity or reducing costs. How far available technologies can be adopted further and how bridging yield gaps can enhance farmers' incomes? Can biotechnology offer scope in this regard?
6. Inputs including labour, mechanisation play an important role in enhancing incomes and reducing costs, by operating in the appropriate zone of the production function and on the right point on production possibility frontier. Credit facilitates working capital fund and investments. These aspects need detailed analysis by the authors.
7. Rainfed areas are home for majority of our people and in spite of serious efforts the adoption of dry land technologies did not reach the desired levels. What are the issues behind developing and transferring technologies in dry land areas? What deters their adoption? What is the impact of such technologies on incomes?
8. Evidences on how institutional innovations, such as farmer producer organization, contract farming, cooperatives, self-help groups help farmers in reducing their transaction costs and raising their incomes?
9. Markets are the binding constraints for realising better prices and hence, higher incomes. e-NAM offers hope but full implementation may elusive in the short run. Papers can discuss innovative market interventions in different states in enhancing price realisation.
10. Dependence of majority labour force on agriculture continues even as the share of agriculture declines to 15 per cent. In this context, papers should bring out evidence on what type of rural non-farm sector activities succeeded and what are the future activities that would be in demand.
11. What could be the role of agribusiness and agri-entrepreneurship in enhancing farmers' incomes? How value-addition, agri-processing and post-harvest technologies will contribute to the farmers' incomes?
12. Infrastructure and human capital are crucial for enhancing productive capacity for farm or non-farm activities. Often, one or the other item of infrastructure becomes binding. Empirical studies on impact of infrastructure on income need to be explored.

The above outline is indicative and the papers should be empirical rather than being mere descriptive. The focus should be to arrive at possible solutions for enhancing incomes significantly.

Last Date and Mode of Submission of Papers

The papers should be submitted by Email (aeraindia@gmail.com) latest by **31st August, 2017**. One hard copy should also be sent by post to AERA Office (F-4, A Block, NASC Complex, Pusa, DPS Marg, New Delhi-110 012). The length of paper should not exceed 15 pages, including tables, figures, annexures, etc. The abstract of the paper in 200-250 words should be submitted on a separate page. The papers received by the due date only shall be considered for publication in the Conference Issue of *Agricultural Economics Research Review* either as a full paper or in Abstract form, as recommended by the Review Committee.

Dr R.T. Doshi Foundation in consultation with the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) awards two prizes for the best and second best papers presented during the Conference. All the accepted papers are considered for presentation and facilities for power point presentation will be made available at the Conference Venue.

Venue of Conference

ICAR – National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad 500030, Telangana, India

About ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad

The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at Hyderabad, in 1976, to address issues related to agricultural research and education management. In the initial years, the Academy primarily imparted foundation training to the new entrants of the Agricultural Research Service of ICAR. Subsequently, its role expanded to include research, capacity building of senior professionals of national and international NARS in agricultural research and education management, and policy and consultancy support to NARS.

The Academy also renders services for building IP portfolios like patents and geographical indications to various stakeholders including farmers and scientists. Keeping in view the increasing national and global need to integrate agriculture with agribusiness for raising rural incomes, and the increased emphasis on the creation, dissemination, application and exchange of knowledge in this vital area, the Academy has recently initiated post graduate education programmes and set up an Agribusiness Knowledge Centre.

Conference President

Dr P.G Chengappa, ICAR National Professor and former President, Agricultural Economics Research Association

Chairperson, Organizing Committee

Dr. R. Kalpana Sastry, Director, NAARM, Hyderabad

Organizing Secretary

Dr. Srinivas Kondapi, Principal Scientist, Research Systems Management, NAARM, Hyderabad