



28th Annual Conference
Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), India
16-18 December 2020

Conference Outline

About the Conference

The 28th Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), India will be held **on 16-18 December 2020** at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, Karnataka. Dr T Haque, former Chairman, Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices will be the Conference President.

Conference Theme: “Future of Indian Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities”

Indian economy is undergoing rapid transformation, as manifested in increasing per capita income, growing urbanization, and dietary diversification. This offers enormous opportunities to unleash the potential of agriculture. However, there exist numerous challenges in making agriculture remunerative, efficient, competitive and sustainable. Resources for agricultural production are expected to be stressed in future. With climate change and globalization, the management of risk and uncertainty in agriculture has aggravated. The required growth in agricultural production conforming to the growth in demand will therefore has to come from sustainable improvements in productivity and innovative production systems. Keeping this in view , papers are invited for presentation and discussion in the conference on the following issues:

- How food consumption pattern will look like and how the projected demand can be met? Emphasis should be given on setting production targets and devising appropriate production and marketing strategies to meet the growing demand. Foresight analysis on future agricultural production system is an important area to be explored.
- The pathways and linkages between agriculture and nutrition need to be unraveled. Assessment of technological and policy interventions such as bio-fortification, dietary-diversification, government programs promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture and their impact in enhancing nutrition levels need to be studied.
- How agriculture can be made more productive and efficient? The transitions in input use pattern may be examined and future demand for inputs (seed, feed, fertilizer, credit) as well as investment needed to create required infrastructure and capital formation may be assessed.
- Mapping depletion of natural resources, particularly land and water; and assessment of their adverse impacts on the farm economy and ecology merit attention for future growth of agriculture. The potential of practices such as precision farming, organic farming, natural farming and integrated nutrients management in preserving and enhancing soil fertility may be assessed. Various technological, institutional and policy measures to improve soil health and water use efficiency and promoting sustainable agriculture need to be attempted.

- Specific case studies on combating air and water pollution and energy scarcity through technologies and management practices may be undertaken with an objective of making agriculture efficient, profitable and sustainable.
- Mapping various ecosystem services and their valuation for the evidence-based feedback to policymakers to devise systems of payment for ecosystem services need attention. Case studies may be written to highlight the role of ecosystem services.
- How cropping pattern can be realigned with market demand and availability of resources? What are the opportunities and challenges of diversification towards livestock, fisheries and high value crops? The existing capacity and future requirement of storage, processing and transport infrastructure need to be assessed to reduce the food wastage.
- The institutional innovations such as Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO), APLM Act, e-NAM and price deficiency payment scheme that have been in existence for quite some time can be evaluated for their efficiency, inclusiveness, sustainability and replication. Emphasis may be given on how to modernize value chains for inputs as well as outputs.
- How globalization will unfold and how it will affect Indian agriculture? Studies may explore export opportunities for different commodities, and the trade-off between economic gains and environmental sustainability.
- The implications of changing rural labor markets on agriculture may be explored and case studies on institutional innovations like custom hiring centers, provision of App-based farm machinery services to assist mechanization in agriculture are to be assessed
- The size of land holding is expected to further decline in future. Role of frontier technologies, such as precision agriculture, protected cultivation, vertical farming and hydroponics, peri-urban agriculture will significantly contribute in increasing incomes and conserving resources. Studies may critically analyze the opportunities and constraints of adopting frontier technologies.
- The proof of concept studies on use of advance techniques like remote sensing, machine learning, artificial intelligence, internet of things (IOTs), etc., in addressing complex agricultural problems in cost-effective and efficient manner are to be documented.
- The success stories of agri-tech business startups and agri-tech parks in making agriculture sector more knowledge-intensive may be highlighted.
- Studies may attempt to assess the investment requirement and explore potential areas of fostering investment in agriculture. The contributors may critically examine the reasons of low-level of investment in agriculture and develop a framework of an enabling environment for greater private sector participation in input and output markets. Trade-off between investment and subsidies may be analyzed. The effects of new modes of delivering subsidies like ‘direct cash transfer’ and income support schemes like PM-KISAN need greater understanding.
- Some of the above issues may be examined in the light of COVID 19 episode: measures undertaken to alleviate the effect of lockdown, changing landscape of agriculture, agricultural technology, delivery systems, markets and value chains? The impact of various schemes announced by the Government to reinvigorate agriculture in post Covid period may be evaluated.

Date for submission of papers

The last date for submission of papers is 30th September 2020.

Paper-writers are requested to follow ‘Author’s Guidelines’ available at www.aeraindia.com and submit their papers through e-mail at ceditoraerr@gmail.com by clearly indicating that the paper is for the 28th Annual Conference of AERA.