



29th Annual Conference

Of

**Agricultural Economics Research Association
(AERA), India**

**“Public Policies and Agricultural
Transformation in India”**

(27-29th October, 2021)



Organized by

**Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology
(OUAT)**

Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751003



About the Conference

The 29th Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), India will be held on the broad theme “Public Policies and Agricultural Transformation in India” at the Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT) Bhubaneswar, Odisha during **27-29 October, 2021** with the pre-conference workshop scheduled on 26 October 2021. Prof. D K Marothia, Former Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) will be the Conference President.

About the Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), India

The Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA) India, a registered society, came into being in 1987, and as on date has more than 1000 life members, 110 ordinary members, 122 institutional members and 33 honorary life members across the globe. The Association contributes towards improving quality of research in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development through its highly NAAS rated journal namely Agricultural Economics Research Review. Besides, the Association regularly organizes annual conference on various contemporary issues and contributes to the policy discourse on agrarian issues. The Association is widely recognized for its professional contributions and credibility.

Conference Theme: Public Policies and Agricultural Transformation in India

Technologies and policies initiated during the 1960s have transformed India from a

food-deficit to a food-surplus country and pushed up agriculture on the path of commercialization. A transition from subsistence to commercial system can be understood both from product and factor-side. The product commercialization is reflected in increasing surplus production, diversification towards high-value food commodities, rising share of export in output, etc. From factor-side, the commercialization may be understood as the adoption of modern inputs such as seeds, fertilizers pesticides, irrigation and power use. Such transitions offer opportunities to unleash the potential of agriculture by addressing the emerging challenges through technological, institutional and policy interventions.

Transformation of agriculture is also reflected in shifting agenda of agricultural development from production to income, food to nutrition, deficit to surplus management, and input-intensive to knowledge-intensive strategies. Further, the ongoing efforts aim to make agriculture competitive, efficient, profitable and sustainable so as to achieve the goals of doubling farmers' income by 2022, becoming a US\$5 trillion economy by 2024-25, and accomplishing sustainable development goals by 2030. Achieving such ambitious goals require a paradigm shift in the policy space.

Public policies assume critical role in providing enabling ecosystem for accelerating ongoing agricultural transformation. Public policy has been conceptualized in variety of ways and broadly can be understood as a course of action created/enacted, typically by a government in response to public real-world problems. In agriculture, it assumes

as a lead role in improving irrigation and market infrastructure, developing technologies, framing guidelines for sustainable resources use, and providing conducive business environment for attracting investment in agriculture. The paper-writers may focus on following issues:

- Agriculture is supposed to contribute at least US\$ 1 trillion to achieve the target of US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2024-25. This requires agriculture to grow at a significantly higher rate than in the past. In this context it is important to identify the key sources of agricultural growth, and the enabling conditions for the same. Moreover, it is also important to understand policy implications of higher income growth on the production portfolio, resource use, food basket, and sustainability of natural resources.
- Public policy is essentially about the structure of technical and institutional environments that shape individual (farm and non-farm stakeholders) and group choice sets/alternatives (e.g FPOs or community management of inputs and production). In case of all-natural resource (NRs) based policies, the technical environment provides the tool and knowledge which define how a natural resource is used and how the techniques are applied. The institutional environment defines who can control the resource and how the technique is applied (trade-off interest between individual and society). The papers can analyze the current policies related to NRs may be analyzed in terms of balancing or unhinging technical and institutional environments. Such analysis may provide ideology (a shared system of meaning and comprehension), efficiency and objective truth rules of the game pertaining to public policy problems.
- New farm laws aim at creating an ecosystem for transparent, efficient, and competitive agricultural markets and attracting private investment in agriculture. What are the critical conditions for successful implementation of the new laws?
- To what extent the existing price policy has served the purpose of supporting farmers and consumers? Towards this, the direct and indirect effects of price policy on farmers' welfare and agricultural economy may be critically reviewed and analyzed.
- Public distribution system (PDS) has played an important role in enhancing the food security. In view of the changing consumption pattern, and policy discourse from food to nutrition security, it is essential to look into the likely shape of the PDS system. The issues such inclusion of the nutri-cereals in PDS, likely coverage of beneficiaries under National Food Security Act, and direct cash transfer may be deliberated.
- The ongoing structural transformation of rural employment necessitates acceleration in farm mechanization to address the problem of labour

scarcity. What is the impact of ongoing government schemes on farm mechanization? Case studies on successful start-ups and app-based custom-hiring services can be brought out.

- How the pattern of efficiency and the associated profits in various production systems have been evolving? An assessment of the policy interventions such as input supply mechanisms, technology advancements, conservation practices, risk management strategies, and public-private partnerships needs to be undertaken. Foresight analysis on policy support to the changing production system is an important area that needs to be explored.
- Enabling market functionaries are critical to manage agricultural production systems. Towards this it is important to look into the facilitative roles of infrastructure, information and institutions. Post-harvest wastage of agricultural products and by-products is a big issue, and paper-writers can focus on case studies on minimization of harvest and post-harvest losses.
- Value addition is essential to benefit from the global value chains. In this context, it is imperative to look into the efficiency of the agro-processing sector, and the associated institutional arrangements and public policy supports. The Government of India announced Agricultural Export Policy 2018 with the aim to double the agricultural exports by 2022-23. Can the target be achieved? What

are the potential commodities for export? What are the key concerns that need immediate attention to achieve the target?

- Subsidy is an important component of public policies. How existing subsidy structure and mechanism can be tweaked to make agriculture sector more competitive and sustainable? What is the feasibility of shifting from input-based subsidy to area-based subsidy through direct cash transfer? Case studies on direct income transfer scheme to farmers (PM-KISAN) can be conducted to inform policy planners about feasibility of reforming subsidy disbursement mechanism.
- A huge outlay is announced for the MSME sector to rejuvenate economic growth. While the credit uptake is yet to be observed, how shall the agriculture sector be linked with the enterprises to benefit through this credit? What are the potential raw/processed commodities to be focused?
- Extensive efforts are being made to improve water use efficiency in agriculture by promoting efficient technologies like micro-irrigation. Although area under micro-irrigation is rising, it is still at meager level with regional concentration. What are the learnings from potential and progressive states in adoption of micro-irrigation and how the micro-irrigation fund shall be allocated among these states? What are the prospects of scaling up community based micro-irrigation in canal command area?

- Despite huge public investment on surface irrigation infrastructure, the share of canal in gross irrigated area is steadily declining. Studies on strengthening institutional structure of irrigation water distribution and management can be taken up.
- India has succeeded in its climate change mitigation efforts in recent times. Yet, agriculture is argued to contribute substantially to greenhouse gas emission. What technological solutions have been developed and how far they are adopted at field level? In what ways the agriculture's contribution to greenhouse gas emission should be brought down?
- The COVID-19 has amplified the use of digital technologies especially for e-commerce and mobile banking. How these should be used in agriculture? Case studies of such innovations are welcome.
- Macro policies also influence agriculture sector, especially investment by the private sector. How macro policies, especially interest rates, exchange rate, money supply, export policies, etc., are attracting private investment, creating enabling agri-business environment for agricultural transformation?

Date for Submission of Papers

Paper-writers are requested to follow 'Author's Guidelines' (attached and also available at www.aeraindia.com) and submit their papers before July 31, 2021 at ceditoraerr@gmail.com clearly indicating that this paper is for the 29th AERA Conference 2021. The conference paper

submission deadline has been extended till 30th August 2021.

An Odisha Specific Special Session on theme **“Nutrition and Livelihood of small and marginal farmers of Odisha”** will be organized during the conference, for which lead papers, poster presentations and paper presentations are invited on the following sub-themes and will be published as a Souvenir which will be inaugurated during the conference.

Theme for Odisha Specific Special Session:

- The Odisha Agriculture, Status, challenges and strategies to strengthen climate-resilience and livelihood security, Technologies for productivity enhancement, resource conservation and income generation, to achieve Nutritional and Livelihood security.
- Policies and options especially for small and marginal farmers of Odisha.
- Importance of Nutri-cereals of Odisha, the role of Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) for achieving Livelihood and nutritional security for Small holders of Odisha, focusing on increasing area, productivity and market access.

Conference Venue

The conference will be organized at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar in **both offline and online mode.**

About the University

The Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) was established in Bhubaneswar in 1962. It is the second oldest agricultural university in the country. This sole farm-varsity of the State is dedicated to teaching, research, extension of all agricultural and allied sciences. The University has 11 constituent colleges and separate wings for research and extension services. The University has made significant contribution in the areas of crop improvement/ crop production/ natural resource management/ crop protection/ post-harvest technology in agriculture and allied sectors like Veterinary/ Fishery and Forestry Sciences. It has generated appropriate location specific technologies through its research network, adoption of some of which has significantly contributed to increasing the agricultural production keeping pace with the population growth of the State. Under the crop improvement programme the University has released 154 high yielding crop varieties suitable for different agro-ecological situations of the State. The University has 8 Regional Research and Transfer Technology Stations (RRTTS), 4 Regional Research and Transfer Technology Substations (RRTSS), 52 All India Coordinated and Networking Research project and several adhoc project to carry forward research programmes and 31 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) with various extension programmes for effective transfer of technology to the farmers' field.

Bhubaneswar, the Temple City

Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha, is known for its architecture and ancient temples. It is also a Buddhists and Hindu pilgrimage destination. The 10th century

Lingaraj temple, dedicated to Shiva, has been described as "the truest fusion of dream and reality." The surface of the 55-meter high Lingaraj temple is covered with carvings. Sculpture and architecture fused elegantly to create a perfect harmony. The best times to visit are between October and March. Asokan inscriptions still stand testimony of the great Kalinga War. Having merged its intriguing past so uniquely with its modern aspirations, it forms an integral link in the Golden Triangle that incorporates the holy city of Puri (Jagannath Temple) and Konark (Sun Temple). The twin cave groups of Khandagiri and Udayagiri are evidence of the region's antiquity, dating to the 2nd century BC or the early Jain monastery. Modern Bhubaneswar is a well-planned city with wide roads and many gardens and parks. The plan was made by Otto H. Koenigsberger, a German town planner. Though part of the city has stayed faithful to the plan, it has grown rapidly over the last few decades and has made the planning process unwieldy. Besides, one will get enraptured by a myriad of tourist attractions in and around Bhubaneswar ranging from monuments of ancient history, breathtaking temple architecture and Buddhist sites, art and craft villages, museums, artefacts and Nandankanan Zoological Park that never cease to amaze. One can enjoy the cruise in Chilika Lake and Irrawaddy dolphin site at Satapada and visit golden beaches at Puri and Konark.



New Look of the Puri Jagannath Temple



The Exquisitely Designed Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar

How to Reach?

Bhubaneswar is well connected to rest of the country through air, rail and roads.

Air: **Bhubaneswar Airport** is well connected to most of the major cities of India.

Train: Bhubaneswar is the divisional headquarters of East Coast railways. It is situated on the main line from Kolkata to Chennai and is well connected by train service for major Indian cities.

Road: Bhubaneswar is situated on the National Highway No.16 that runs between Kolkata and Chennai. It is 480km from Kolkata, 445km from Visakhapatnam, 32km from Cuttack, 64km from Konark, 62km from Puri

130km from Chilika Lake (Barkul), 184km from Gopalpur-on-sea.

Note: The conference will be conducted both on offline and virtual mode in cloud meeting, the meeting ID, passcode and programme schedule will be shared with the registered participants for joining the conference and presenting the papers.

Details of Registration (INR)

Category	AERA Members (Offline)	AERA Non-Members (Offline)	AERA Members (Virtual)	AERA Non-Members (Virtual)
Scientists/ Academicians	5500	6200*	1700	2400*
Students	3000	3700*	500	1000**
Accompanying Person	4500	4500	-	

***INR 700 and **INR 500 is towards Annual Membership of AERA (India).**

The **last date** of registration along with proof of Registration fee is **15th September, 2021** for Offline Mode.

For Virtual mode, last date of registration is 1st October, 2021.

Kindly fill the registration form attached at the end of the brochure and send it along with the payment receipt to aeraouat2021@gmail.com on or before the last date.

Accommodation

Participants shall have to pay for their accommodation. The accommodation will be arranged on request in the university guest houses/nearby hotels on first come first serve basis. The rates for university guest house are Rs 400 per person (AC-Normal) and Rs 800 per person (AC-VIP room). The tentative rates of accommodation per night shall range between INR 1000 to 2000 (Shared economy); INR 2000 to 4000 (Economy hotels); and INR 4000 to 6000 (Deluxe hotels). Some of the hotels in Bhubaneswar are Ginger, Hotel Presidency, Hotel Swosti Premium, Hotel

Swosti Grand, Hotel Keshari, Panthanivas, Bhubaneswar, Hotel Suryansh, Hotel Padma, Hotel Shree Vineeth's, Hotel Puspak, Hotel Arya Palace etc.

Bank Details

Name of the Account: Organising Secretary 29th AERA Conference

Account Number: 40148657867

IFSC: SBIN0003341

Bank Name: State Bank of India

Branch: OUAT Campus, Bhubaneswar-751003

Conference President

Prof. D K Marothia, Former Chairman, The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices.

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- Dr. Ram Singh, Professor & Head School of Social Sciences, CPGS, CAU, Meghalaya.

National Organizing Committee

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- Dr. Ram Singh, Professor & Head School of Social Sciences, CPGS, CAU, Meghalaya.

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REGISTRATION FORM

29th Annual Conference of

Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), India

Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar(27-29October 2021)

“Public Policies and Agricultural Transformation in India”

1.	Name (Mr/ Miss/ Mrs/Dr)	:	
2.	Designation	:	
3.	Institution Affiliation	:	
4.	Mailing address	:	
	a) E-mail Id	:	
	b) Mobile No.	:	
5.	Name & Relation with the Accompanying Person (if any)	:	
6.	Type of Registration	:	
	a) Category (Scientist/Student)	:	
	b) Attending Online/Offline	:	
	c) AERA Member (Yes/No)	:	
	d) Amount Paid	:	
7.	Registration fee	:	
	a) Cheque/Draft/RTGS/NEFT, etc details(including Date of Transaction and send the proof along with this form)	:	
If attending Offline, Please fill the details below			
8.	Accommodation required (Yes/No)	:	
9.	Details of Arrival	:	
	a) Mode of travel (flight no. for air travel)	:	
	b) Date & expected time of arrival	:	
10.	Information on departure	:	
	a) Mode of travel	:	
	b) Date & expected time of departure from the venue	:	
11.	Food Preference (Vegetarian/ Non-Vegetarian)	:	
Place & Date.....			Signature

Conference Bank Details

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