



Announcement



33rd Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India)

9-11 October 2025

Venue
SKUAST, Srinagar, J&K

Organized by
Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), New Delhi
in collaboration with
**Shere-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and
Technology-Kashmir, Srinagar, J&K**

About the Association

The Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA) is a prominent professional organization dedicated to advancing research, education, and policy analysis in agricultural economics and related fields. Established in 1987, AERA serves as a platform for researchers, policymakers, academicians, and practitioners to collaborate and contribute to the development of the agricultural sector. The association focuses on addressing the economic challenges faced by agriculture, including productivity, sustainability, market dynamics, rural development, and food security. The Association was one of the key hosts of the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists in 2024.

AERA is known for its flagship publication, the *Agricultural Economics Research Review* (AERR), a peer-reviewed journal that publishes high-quality research articles, policy analyses, and reviews on various aspects of agricultural economics. Through this journal and its regular conferences, workshops, and seminars, the association promotes the dissemination of knowledge and innovative solutions to pressing agricultural issues.

The association also emphasizes capacity building by providing training and networking opportunities for young researchers and professionals in the field. Its initiatives aim to bridge the gap between research and policy implementation, ensuring that evidence-based solutions are effectively integrated into decision-making processes.

AERA plays a vital role in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and contributing to the sustainable development of agriculture, rural livelihoods, and food systems, both in India and globally.

About the University

The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) is one of the best universities, located in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India. SKUAST-K serves as a centre of excellence for education, research, and extension in agricultural sciences, horticulture, veterinary sciences, forestry, and allied fields.

The university's mission is to address the region's agricultural challenges and enhance the livelihood of farmers through innovative and sustainable practices.

With its state-of-the-art infrastructure, research stations, and highly qualified faculty, SKUAST-K focuses on promoting region-specific research to cater to the unique agro-climatic conditions of Jammu and Kashmir. Its programs emphasize modern farming techniques, organic agriculture, and the conservation of biodiversity, ensuring the development of sustainable agricultural systems.

In addition to its academic contributions, the university plays a pivotal role in rural development through farmer training programs, workshops, and community outreach initiatives. It has significantly contributed to the agricultural economy of the region, helping farmers improve productivity and market access. By blending traditional knowledge with modern science, SKUAST-K continues to be a beacon of progress in agricultural education and innovation.



Conference President



Dr Samarendu Mohanty

Dr Samarendu Mohanty is a distinguished agricultural economists who has held key positions at the International Potato Center (CIP) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). At CIP, he was holding the position of the Asia Regional Director at International Potato Center (CIP), a global organization that seeks to enhance food security, well-being, and gender equity for poor people in root and tuber farming and food systems. At IRRI, he was the head of the Social Sciences Division, where he contributed significantly to rice research and policy development to improve productivity and sustainability in the rice-based systems. Doctorate from the University of Nebraska, Dr Mohanty is recognized for his expertise in agricultural economics, policy analysis and food security. He is recipient of several awards, including most prestigious World Food Prize Foundation 2024 World Rice Industry Award.

About the Conference

The conference will have technical sessions, poster sessions, symposia, panel discussions, Dr GK Chadha Memorial lecture and mentorship sessions. There are best presentation awards for papers presented during the technical sessions as well as for poster presentations. Following are the topics of various sessions:

Technical Sessions

- Innovating agribusiness: empowering startups and enhancing trade for sustainable agriculture future
- Empowering women in agriculture: bridging gaps and advancing gender equity in farming and agribusiness
- Climate resilient agriculture: strategies for adapting to changing climate and ensuring food security

Symposia

- Enabling policies for agricultural prosperity
- Agri-food innovations for rural transformation (with National Academy of Agricultural Sciences)

Panel Discussion

- Navigating the future of agricultural economics and policy research : balancing growth, sustainability and innovation

Dr GK Chadha Memorial Lecture

- Will be delivered by a distinguished agricultural economist

Mentorship sessions

- Three sessions will be organized for students and young professionals on ‘writing good journal articles’ and discussions will be held on ‘improved research methodologies’ for their research proposals

Papers are invited for the Technical Sessions and innovative ideas for Symposia and panel discussion. Last date for submission is **30th June 2025**.

Outlines for Technical Sessions

Theme 1: Innovations in Agribusiness: Empowering Start-ups and Promoting Agricultural Exports (Convener: Dr Elumalai Kannan, Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development (CSR), School of Social Sciences (SSS)-III, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi)

The increase in economic growth, rise in per-capita income, changes in dietary pattern and rapid urbanization create challenges and provide opportunities for transforming food systems at the global, national and local levels. The challenge is integration of farmers with markets so that they can make the agricultural sector vibrant. The opportunity is for making investments in development of value chains that are profitable and sustainable for all actors in the chain. The agribusiness sector is very dynamic and it can link the farmers with consumers directly by reducing the number of intermediaries. The consumers’ demand for food has been changing from traditionally-cooked staples to processed, packaged and store-bought ready-to-eat food items. The changes in composition of diets provide opportunities to all agricultural entrepreneurs (farmers, input suppliers, processors, distributors and retailers) to innovate, develop products and provide services.

In India, the policy environment has become conducive for the growth of agribusiness firms / agricultural start-ups since the launching of “Startup India” program in January 2016. The program encourages firms to innovate, develop strategies, add value and build resilience along the value chain. Two sectors, viz. food and beverages, and agriculture appeared in the top 10 sectors in terms of number of start-ups as on December 2020. The agricultural start-ups are spreading across different domains of agriculture and are equipped with innovation and technology. The evidence also shows that investments in value chain development, and favourable domestic and trade policy regimes boost export of agricultural products. There are, however, challenges faced by agribusiness firms / agricultural start-ups in innovating and providing solutions to agricultural problems. It is important to critically evaluate the effectiveness of these innovative solutions meant for increasing farmers’ income, reducing

input cost, addressing the marketing problems, reducing transaction cost and minimizing post-harvest losses. There is also need to develop typology of agri-startups along the lines of innovation, sectoral focus, investment, employment and backward-forward linkages, among others.

Financing of value chain actors (farmers, input suppliers, traders, processors, FPOs, distributors and retailers) remains an important constraint faced by the start-ups. Although government funding of activities has expanded overtime, private-sector investment is required to supplement public funding. In this context, it is important to assess the quantum of private-sector investment in agricultural value chains; analyse whether public funding crowd-in private sector investment; find areas/sectors that attract most investment; and identify policy gaps or better regulatory and policy environment for encouraging private-sector investment. The role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in strengthening agricultural value chain remains a less-researched area.

The performance of agricultural value chains depends on the performance of other sectors such as physical infrastructure, power, logistics and water supply. These off-farm part of food system has potential for generating employment, especially for women and youth, increasing productivity and improving farmers' income. The research on participation of women in both farm and off-part of value chain is still limited. Research is also required for understanding the inter-linkages between farm and off-farm part of food system.

Technology and agribusiness innovations (including new product, service and business model) tend to reduce cost, improve income and encourage entrepreneurship in value chains. Emerging technologies such as big data analytics, machine learning, internet of things (IoT), drones and blockchains are currently being applied in select regions and select segments of agriculture. These technologies help to make informed decision-making for actors along the value chains, but require huge initial investments. The empirical evidence on application of these technologies in India's agricultural and allied activities, and the extent of benefits shared by different farm-size groups and other value chain actors need to be generated. The factors hindering scaling-up the use of these technologies also need to be identified.

Marketing of agricultural products has undergone a paradigmatic shift in recent times with emergence of online platforms (e-commerce) for selling and buying of fresh and processed agri-products. The e-commerce shortens the length of value chains and connects with the consumers directly. However, studies on the use of e-commerce in agricultural products are limited. The effect of policy and regulatory framework on the participation of different stakeholders including farmers requires in-depth analysis.

Since early-1990s, when trade liberalization started, the global value chain (GVC) altered the agricultural production structure of countries in the world. The GVC combines the dispersed production, processing, marketing and distribution activities through multiple national supply chains wherein value is added to the product at each step. It is important to analyse the extent of participation of agribusiness firms / agri-start-ups in agricultural GVC; examine whether participation in GVC promotes agricultural exports; study export composition of products including whether they are: raw materials, semi-finished or finished products; and analyse the effects of participation in GVC on income and employment.

Contributors are encouraged to address the following themes:

1. Innovative Business Models in Agribusiness
 - o Agri-tech start-ups and their impact on agricultural value chain
 - o Digital platforms for farmers' empowerment
 - o Financial innovations and access to capital for agribusiness/start-up
2. Technological Advancements in Agribusiness
 - o Role of AI, IoT, and blockchain in agriculture
 - o Smart farming technologies for export-quality produce
 - o Precision agriculture and its implications for global trade
3. Policy and Ecosystem Support
 - o Government initiatives to promote agribusiness start-ups
 - o International trade agreements and their impact on agri exports
 - o Role of incubators and accelerators in fostering agribusiness entrepreneurship
4. Sustainability and Agribusiness
 - o Sustainable practices in agricultural production and processing
 - o Innovations in reducing post-harvest losses
 - o Certifications and standards for global export markets
5. Case Studies and Success Stories
 - o Successful start-ups in agribusiness and lessons learned
 - o Export-driven agribusiness ventures
 - o Collaborations between public and private sectors

Theme 2: Empowering Women in Agriculture: Bridging Gender Gaps and Advancing Gender Equity in Farming and Agribusiness (Convener: Dr Smita Sirohi, Principal Scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi)

Agriculture is a critical sector for economic growth, food security, and rural development worldwide. The women constitute a significant proportion of the agricultural workforce, yet they often face systemic barriers that limit their access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making roles. These gender disparities undermine the potential for inclusive and sustainable agricultural systems. The addressal of these gaps is essential for achieving meaningful rural and agricultural transformation, improving food security, building resilience to climate change, and reducing poverty.

In rural India, recent years have seen a significant increase in female-workforce participation due to factors such as diversification into high-value crops, adoption of non-crop activities, and launching of government initiatives like the Jal Jeevan Mission. These programs have reduced the time women spend on household chores, enabling them to contribute more to farm work. The male migration to urban areas and the shift towards farm mechanization have further contributed to the feminization of agriculture. The aspirations for better livelihoods and increased investments in education and health sectors are pushing the rural women into the workforce, creating both challenges and opportunities.

This call for papers seeks to explore innovative strategies, evidence-based solutions, and transformative approaches to empower women in agriculture, bridge gender disparities, and

promote equity in farming and agribusiness. By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and knowledge sharing, this initiative aims to contribute to policy development, grassroots interventions, and academic research that support gender equity.

The primary objectives of this initiative are:

1. Analysis of the current challenges and gender-based inequalities being faced by women in agriculture and agribusiness
2. Identification of best practices, policy frameworks, and programs that have successfully addressed these gaps
3. Highlighting the role of technology, education, and innovation in empowering women in agriculture sector
4. Proposing actionable solutions for advancing gender equity across agricultural value chains.

Submissions are invited on, but not limited to, the following themes:

1. Female Participation in the Rural Workforce: Examining the primary drivers behind the recent increase in female participation in the rural workforce.
2. Social and Cultural Dimensions: Addressing societal norms, stereotypes, and barriers that hinder women's participation in agriculture.
3. Gendered Access to Resources: Examining women's access to land, credit, technology, and markets in agriculture.
4. Policy and Legal Frameworks: Analyzing the impact of policies, laws, and governance systems on gender equity in agriculture.
5. Technology and Innovation: Leveraging digital tools and emerging technologies to empower women farmers.
6. Climate Resilience and Sustainability: Women's role in promoting climate-smart agriculture and sustainable farming practices
7. Capacity Building and Leadership: Strategies for fostering leadership and entrepreneurship among women in farming and agribusiness.
8. Inclusive Value Chains: Enhancing women's participation across agricultural supply chains and agribusiness ventures.

Theme 3: Climate Resilient Agriculture: Strategies for Adapting to Changing Climate and Ensuring Food Security (Convener: Dr Suresh Kumar, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Economics), ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana)

The food and nutrition insecurity and climate change pose two of the greatest development challenges of our time. During 2011 and 2020, the human activities, mainly the release of greenhouse gases, have driven global warming, with rise in surface temperatures of 1.1 °C above the pre-industrial levels (1850-1900). During 2010 and 2019, the greenhouse gas emissions increased, highlighting the disparities in energy consumption, land-use, and lifestyles across

regions. The impacts of climate change are evident in extreme weather events worldwide, leading to negative effects on food and water security, public health, and economic stability, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations who contributed least to the current climate change. The expected increase in both occurrence and intensity of droughts and floods, along with their potential impacts on crop yields and livestock, is especially worrisome. The adverse effects of climate change pose significant risks for developing countries reliant on climate-sensitive livelihoods and lacking adaptation capacity. Among different sectors, the agricultural sector is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its dependence on natural systems, facing challenges like rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, increased salinity, and extreme weather events. The food production systems are prone to systemic disruptions, as severe climate events can significantly affect supply chains.

India ranks seventh among the countries most severely affected by extreme weather events linked to climate change. The smallholders and landless farmers are highly vulnerable to climate change and its increasing variability, and are facing numerous obstacles (e.g., poor access to market, credit, modern inputs, and other associated institutions), hindering the adoption of CRA (climate resilient agriculture) technologies).

It is essential to promote climate resilient agricultural (CRA) technologies, which are critical for ensuring a stable food supply, nutritional security, reduction in natural resource depletion, mitigation of climatic risks, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, enhancement in biodiversity and thereby sustaining agricultural systems in the diverse agro-climatic regions. Furthermore, the incorporation of traditional knowledge with modern technologies can boost CRA's productivity, resilience, and carbon sequestration. However, the full potential of CRA remains largely untapped, hindered by various obstacles that encompass socioeconomic factors, cultural barriers, gaps in awareness and information, as well as challenges related to market access, infrastructure, institutional and policy supports.

The theme offers a significant opportunity to foster cross-learning, addressing barriers to their adoption by sharing latest advancements and solutions in climate smart agriculture. The theme aims to address critical challenges such as food security, biodiversity preservation, and mitigation of soil degradation and climate change.

Submissions are invited on, but not limited to, the following themes:

- Climate Risk Management: Strategies for risk assessment, forecasting of biotic and abiotic risks/stresses, and adaptation.
- Challenges and Bottlenecks (e.g., technical, social, economic, institutional and policy) in adoption of climate smart agricultural technologies.
- Socioeconomic Impacts: Impact of climate resilient technologies/ practices/approaches (e.g., climate resilience crop varieties, soil and water conservation measures, crop diversification, agroforestry, weather advisories, contingency plans, credit, insurance, etc.) on crop productivity and production, livelihoods, gender equity and community resilience.
- Policy and Governance: Role of policies and economic incentives (e.g., carbon credits, subsidy) and institutional innovations and governance (FPOs, collective action and participatory approaches) in out-scaling of CRA practices.
- Emerging Technologies: Role of AI, IoT, and other technologies in CSA implementation

- Climate Finance and Investment: Mechanisms to fund and scale CSA initiatives.
- Case Studies: Success stories and lessons learned from implementing CSA in various domains.

Submission Guidelines

- Papers must be original, unpublished, and aligned with the theme and objectives of the call. While submitting the paper, please certify that that paper has not been published elsewhere.
- Authors are encouraged to use evidence-based approaches, case studies, and practical examples to support their arguments.
- Abstracts should not exceed 200 words, and full papers should be between 4000-5000 words, including tables, figures and references.
- Submissions should follow [specified citation style] formatting guidelines.

Target Audience

- Academics, researchers, and students
- Policymakers and government officials
- Practitioners and development professionals in agriculture and gender equity
- Non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups
- Industry leaders and entrepreneurs in agribusiness

Dates to Remember

- Last date for submission of abstract and full paper is **30th June 2025**
- Acceptance of paper to be issued from **1st August 2025**

**Submit the abstract and full paper to
Email: ceditoraerr@gmail.com**