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## About the Association

**Agricultural Economics Research Association (India)**, a registered society which came into being in 1987, has on date more than 580 life members, 50 ordinary members, 90 institutional members and 15 honorary life members from all over the country and abroad. The mandate of the Association is to promote the study of agricultural economics in particular and socio-economic problems in general. The Association has been regularly publishing a six-monthly research Journal “*Agricultural Economics Research Review*” since 1988. Besides refereed research articles, abstracts of M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses in agricultural economics are also published in the Journal. The Association has been successfully organizing national conferences regularly on topical policy issues, the proceedings of which are published. The Association undertakes sponsored research studies also. Over the years, the Association has attained a wide visibility and professional credibility. The official journal of the Association, namely, *Agricultural Economics Research Review* has been highly rated (3 points out of maximum 4) by National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi.

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## **Recommendations**

### **XV Annual AERA Conference, 2007**

The XV Annual Conference of Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) was held during 25-26 October, 2007 at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) under the Presidentship of Dr S.S. Acharya, former Director, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur and former Chairman, CACP, Government of India. The theme of this conference was “Agribusiness Opportunities: Requirements and Road Map”.

Following recommendations were made at this Conference:

1. A shift from ‘agriculture’ to ‘agribusiness’ being viewed as an essential pathway to revitalize Indian agriculture, it has become necessary to redefine agriculture as ‘the science and practice of activities relating to production, processing, marketing, distribution and trade of food, feed and fibre’.
2. A road map which takes the country forward on a higher growth path and also helps in increasing the incomes of farmers and farm women should be drawn.
3. Legal and regulatory framework must be put in place for the development of agribusiness.
4. More investment should be made in public infrastructure to facilitate market linkages and induce private investment in cold chains and food processing.
5. Appropriate measures should be evolved for a regular supply of electric power, so that information on production and post-harvest technology and management practices, prices and markets could be retrieved and transmitted.
6. Strong linkages should be developed between agricultural production and markets so that challenges emerging from liberalization and globalization in agriculture and agri-food markets could be met.
7. Institutional mechanisms that improve smallholders’ access to credit, insurance, technology and support services should be strengthened.

8. Policies should be formulated to bring transparency in contract farming arrangements which are emerging in a big way in India. Rules should be simple and should safeguard the interests of both farmers and firms.
9. The government should create a policy environment that will strengthen backward and forward linkages in the Indian horticulture sector.
10. India being the second largest producer of inland fish, strategies should be evolved to overcome the problems of cluster development of trout farms, establishment of hatcheries, feed mills, mobile aqua clinics, and public-private partnerships. The government should take initiatives like providing incentives to establish ornamental fish production units in the North-Eastern region. It would help in attracting private investment and generating additional employment opportunities in this industry. Public-private partnership should be encouraged through establishment of ornamental fish production units in different parts of the country to make the ornamental fishery sector more vibrant and remunerative.
11. Commercial goat farming being an emerging agri-business opportunity, the government should establish scientifically managed goat farms so that good quality breeding stock could be made available to this sector. For availing opportunities in the export market, food safety standards should be developed.
12. Infrastructure for various sanitary and phytosanitary measures should be established to help improve Indian competitiveness in the international market of agricultural products.
13. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should act as facilitators and extension workers for accessing both technology and credit facilities for the development of agri-business in different parts of the country so as to capture national and international markets in agri-products.
14. A better policy support for price and efficient marketing system should be evolved to encourage farmers to grow more cash crops under the umbrella of assured price policy and technology dissemination.
15. Efforts should be made to augment productivity of cash crops in different states to meet the present and future demand. There is an urgent need to have public interventions in marketing and technology dissemination to increase production and reduce unit cost of production.

## Acknowledgements

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The Office Bearers of AERA and Members of the Editorial Board of AERR have contributed in several ways. I take this opportunity to thank all of them for the help and cooperation extended by them

Cooperation was also sought from the learned scientists in evaluating the papers received for presentation at this Conference. I am grateful to all the reviewers for the support extended by them.

I also thank all the authors who have contributed their excellent pieces of research work for presentation at this Conference. Thanks are also due to their organizations for deputing them to the XV AERA Conference.

**P.K. Joshi**

Secretary

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