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on

**Changing Market Environments
and Supply Side Constraints in
Indian Agriculture**



Agricultural Economics Research Association (India)

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CONTENTS

Preface	(iii)
Contract Farming and its Implications for Input-supply, Linkages between Markets and Farmers in Karnataka <i>N. Nagaraj, M.G. Chandrakanth, P.G. Chengappa, H.S. Roopa and Pramod M. Chandakavate</i>	307
Farmers' Perception on Risks in Fruits and Vegetables Production: An Empirical Study of Uttar Pradesh <i>Jabir Ali and Sanjeev Kapoor</i>	317
Spatial Price Integration and Price Transmission among Major Fish Markets in India <i>P. Shinoj, B. Ganesh Kumar, R. Sathiadhas, K.K. Datta, Muktha Menon and Shiv Kumar Singh</i>	327
Whether Commodity Futures Market in Agriculture is Efficient in Price Discovery ? — An Econometric Analysis <i>R. Salvadi Easwaran and P. Ramasundaram</i>	337
Domestic Fish Marketing in India – Changing Structure, Conduct, Performance and Policies <i>B. Ganesh Kumar, K.K. Datta, P.K. Joshi, P.K. Katiha, R. Suresh, T. Ravisankar, K. Ravindranath and Muktha Menon</i>	345
Determinants of Group Performance of Women-led Agro-processing Self-help Groups in Kerala <i>Lina Joy, A. Prema and S. Krishnan</i>	355
A Novel Agribusiness Model for Backward Linkages with Farmers: A Case of Food Retail Chain <i>K.P. Mangala and P.G. Chengappa</i>	363

Contd....

Contents contd....

Trends in Private and Public Investments in Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure in India <i>M.S. Jairath</i>	371
Investments in Irrigation Projects — An Impact Analysis <i>S.L. Kumbhare and Madhurima Sen</i>	377
Rural Credit Delivery in India: Structural Constraints and Some Corrective Measures <i>K.J.S. Satyasai</i>	387
Farm-economics of Genetically Improved Carp Strains in Major Asian Countries and Carp Seed Price Policy Model <i>Praduman Kumar, Madan M. Dey and Nagesh K. Barik</i>	395
Dynamics of Institutional Agricultural Credit and Growth in Punjab: Contribution and Demand-Supply Gap <i>R.S. Sidhu, Kamal Vatta and Arjinder Kaur</i>	407
Precision Farming Technology, Adoption Decisions and Productivity of Vegetables in Resource-Poor Environments <i>R. Maheswari, K.R. Ashok and M. Prahadeeswaran</i>	415
Analysis of Marketing of Fish Fingerlings and Environmental Awareness Level of Fishermen in Dakshin Dinajpur District of West Bengal <i>Tuhin Narayan Roy</i>	425
Abstracts of Papers	433
Author Index	467
Guidelines for Submission of Papers/Abstracts	468

Preface

Indian agriculture is undergoing a rapid transformation with rising per capita income and urbanization, increasing population and changing consumers' tastes and preferences. Global market environment and integration with global economy are offering several opportunities and posing challenges to agricultural growth and market development. In this context, the behaviour of supply side constraints in Indian agriculture needs a critical appraisal. Development of viable strategies and approaches for ensuing adequate and efficient supply of inputs and services for accelerated agricultural growth are going to be quite challenging.

Keeping the above scenario in view, the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) (AERA) has chosen the theme, "Changing Market Environments and Supply Side Constraints in Indian Agriculture" for its XVIth Annual Conference being organized jointly by Amity School of Rural and Agriculture Management (ASRAM), Lucknow and Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), New Delhi during 21-23 November, 2008. The sub-themes identified for discussion during the Conference are: (i) Changing marketing scenario covering the topics innovations in agricultural marketing, trends in agricultural retailing, commodity markets and futures markets, success of various formats, public-private partnership, policy support and requirements and their implications for mitigating supply side constraints; and trends in profitability of agriculture, farmers' incomes, and terms of trade; (ii) Agricultural inputs and services covering issues like availability, role in productivity enhancement, gaps in input supply and demand, required innovations for better technology adoption, extension education; future demand for support services based on the emerging trends and strategies for meeting the gap; (iii) Investment and subsidies covering areas of public and private investments, subsidies on inputs supply and services, changing profile of investment portfolio; (iv) Institutional mechanism for delivery of inputs and services covering topics like contract farming, linkages between markets and farmers, risk sharing, etc.; and (v) Technology status dealing topics like new emerging technologies, their adoption and impact on income, employment and food security.

There has been an overwhelming response from the researchers for the Conference and the Association appreciates and acknowledges the interest shown by the researchers in the Conferences. Proceedings of Conference include 14 full-length papers and 68 papers in the form of abstracts. The publishing of only abstract, however, is in no way, a reflection on the quality of the research paper.

The Association is grateful to the authorities of Amity School of Rural and Agriculture Management, Lucknow, for consenting to host the XVIth AERA Conference and providing all the logistic support.

The Association is thankful to Dr. R. T. Doshi Foundation, Mumbai, for the encouragement being given by it to the researchers in the area of agricultural economics by awarding prizes for two best presentations during the AERA Conference and two best research articles published in *Agricultural Economics Research Review* in the previous year.

The financial help received from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Mumbai, for publishing research papers in the Conference Issue of *Agricultural Economics Research Review* is gratefully acknowledged. The Association highly appreciates the continuous support from NABARD for undertaking this professional agriculture-related activity.

Thanks are also due to Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for providing continuous financial support to Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) towards publication of regular issues of *Agricultural Economics Research Review*.

The Office Bearers of AERA and Members of the Editorial Board of *Agricultural Economics Research Review* have contributed in several ways. I take this opportunity to thank all of them for the help and cooperation extended by them. I am particularly grateful to Dr S.S. Acharya, President, AERA and former Director, Indian Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, for providing guidance and consenting to deliver Presidential Address at XVI AERA Conference. I also gratefully acknowledge the untiring efforts of Dr Mruthyunjaya, National Director, NAIP; Dr Praduman Kumar, former Professor of Agricultural Economics (IARI) and Managing Editor, AERA; and Dr V.C. Mathur, Head, Division of Agricultural Economics (IARI), New Delhi, for their contributions to the development of *Agricultural Economics Research Review*. I am thankful to Dr B.S. Aggarwal for his efforts in language editing and overall presentation of articles and to Mr. Vijay Kumar for his help to bring the Proceedings in time.

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 their organizations for deputing them to the XVIth AERA Conference.

P.K Joshi
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