

**REVITALIZING POLICIES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY
ALLEVIATION IN SOUTH ASIA
(India Component)**

FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT

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by the:

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Revitalizing Policies for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation in South Asia (India Component)

I. Introduction

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) started a policy research and outreach project in South Asia in order to identify key policy issues that need immediate policy attention and elevate these issues to the top of the development agenda. The major objective of this Initiative is to design program interventions that will ensure national and household food security, while changing the existing procurement, storage and distribution policies relating to food grains towards greater efficiency and sustainability. The USAID-Delhi office along with other donors contributed to this initiative. This report summarizes accomplishments during August-September 2002 and planned activities towards the end of the year 2002.

II. Activities

During the reporting period the following major activities were undertaken in order to achieve the goals of the project:

1. The promised study on “ The Reforms in the Indian Food Security Complex: procurement, stocking and distribution.” has been launched in collaboration with the Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) and IGIDR. The study is progressing well and the lead persons in the study have participated in the technical workshop on the subject.
2. With regard to the visitors exchange program, we have already invited the lead researchers of the study to come to Washington D.C. to work with Ashok Gulati and speed up its completion.

Besides these, the following associated activities under the SAI were also carried out:

3. Ashok Gulati presented a paper at the World Bank and IFPRI titled “Globalization and the Smallholders: A Review of Issues, Approaches and Tentative Conclusions” on July 18, 2002.
4. S. Babu presented a paper on “Development of preliminary action plan for the development of the agro-processing sector of the State of Andhra Pradesh”. This was undertaken at the request of the Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh and with several round

consultation with the senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture; agricultural universities, department of agriculture including the Minister for Agriculture. The preliminary action plan synthesizes the existing agro-processing strategies prepared by livestock, horticulture, and fisheries sectors and identifies key actions for implementation. This will form the basis of developing a full-fledged agro-processing policy framework for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Planned Activities (November – December, 2002)

5. A workshop on “Agricultural Diversification in South Asia has been organized in collaboration with Royal Government of Bhutan and National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (RGoB-NCAP) to be held in Bhutan from November 21-23, 2002. Forty-five participants from six South Asian countries are expected to attend. About fourteen papers will be presented and discussed.
6. A workshop on “ Trade Policy, WTO and South Asian Agriculture” has been organized in collaboration with RGoB and the World Bank to be held in Bhutan from November 24-27, 2002. More than forty participants from five south Asian countries are expected to attend. Fifteen papers will be presented and discussed.

Detailed report on the outcome of these workshops will be reported during the next quarter.

III. Conclusion

The activities proposed under the South Asia Initiative funded by USAID are progressing as planned. Several other activities described in the project proposal are currently underway, draft paper/reports are being prepared.

Lead researchers have already been invited to come to IFPRI, but due to institutional constraints some of the lead researchers cannot come to IFPRI before December 2002/January 2003. In order to complete the work planned and meet all commitments, no cost extension has already been requested by the letter written on October 13,2002.