

PD-ABY-482

**REVITALIZING POLICIES FOR FOOD SECURITY
AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN SOUTH ASIA**

6th Quarterly Report
March – May 2003

Submitted to the:

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
New Delhi, India

by the:

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
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June 2003

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Revitalizing Policies for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation in South Asia

I. Introduction

The South Asia Initiative (SAI) of IFPRI is progressing very well in addressing its objectives of poverty alleviation and food security issues of South Asian countries through effective research, policy communication and capacity strengthening. As a follow-up to the set out objectives, the following activities have been undertaken during March 1st to May 31st 2003.

India

1. PAANSA meeting for the India group
2. Policy Dialogue with the Chief Minister of Punjab, India
3. Brainstorming session with Center for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) on Grain Management and Subsidy Rationalization in Chandigarh, Punjab
4. Brainstorming session with Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) on Agricultural Diversification in Punjab
5. Priority setting workshop on Agricultural Policies for the 21st Century – From Vision to Action in Andhra Pradesh
6. A Workshop on the “Dragon and the Elephant”: A new initiative for the Comparative Economic Study in India and China

Bangladesh

1. Brainstorming session with Bangladesh Agricultural Economists Association (BAEA) on Bangladesh agriculture and food security system
2. Brainstorming session with Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) on issues related to Bangladesh Agriculture and meetings with several important stakeholders ranging from secretaries of Agriculture, Food, Finance, P.M’s office, NGOs like the head of Grameen Bank

Pakistan

1. Meeting with the Planning Commission
2. PAANSA meeting in Pakistan
3. Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)-IFPRI collaborative seminar on issues in Pakistan’s Agriculture

Sri Lanka

1. Trade Liberalization and Poverty Alleviation, Policy Analysis Training Workshop in Sri Lanka

India

1. PAANSA meeting in India

The PAANSA meeting of the India group was held on March 24th, 2003. Twelve out of nineteen PAANSA members and 5 special invitees attended the meeting. Dr. Joachim von Braun, Director General of IFPRI, also participated in the meeting. List of PAANSA members, special invitees, and the agenda is attached.

Ashok Gulati opened the meeting by welcoming all. After he stated the objective of SAI in terms of quality research, capacity strengthening and, policy communications, he briefed the group on the progress made towards achieving these objectives during 2002.

He explained that this meeting is to take stock of research activities initiated, workshops and trainings conducted, policy dialogues held, and to see what lessons can be drawn from these activities, and what new issues should be considered for further research.

Joachim von Braun, Director General of IFPRI, expressed his appreciation for the work that has been done so far under the South Asia Initiative. Based on the consultations he then summarized that the following major points for further research:

- 1. Importance of retail industry and implications for smallholders.** He mentioned that the retail industry chain has come in a big way in Latin America as well as in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, and is driving the way farm production and post harvest activities are arranged. In this context it would be interesting to see how South Asia is performing.
- 2. The food safety issues, especially SPS.** There is a need to understand how to implement the certification process in South Asian countries like India, which is dominated by smallholder agriculture.
- 3. WTO issues.** The Doha development round of negotiations is likely to be very controversial in terms of the initial positions taken by different countries. It would be interesting to systematically analyze various scenarios for negotiations. These scenarios may be in terms of different ways of reducing agricultural support in the OECD countries and their implications on different groups of developing countries with diverse interests.
- 4. Emerging global issues of agriculture and its relevance to India.** Bio-technology and bio-safety issues are being debated at global level and it may be worth doing some research on these issues in the South Asian context.

This was followed by detailed discussion; the following points were brought out by the participants for further discussion and research:

Vijay Vyas, Member of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister

Vyas discussed the institutional dimensions of the reform process. He specifically emphasized the role of diversification and suggested IFPRI to do some research on credit constraints

during the process of diversification. In this connection, it would be useful to see the role of the self-help groups in removing credit constraints, and gaining access to credit markets, especially for smallholders.

G. K. Chadha, Vice Chancellor of JNU

Chadha reiterated the importance of institutions and indicated the need to carry out research on the efficacy of the existing institutions, and also to look into the new innovative institutions in the backdrop of the new emerging economic environment in the country.

For example, with trade liberalization and economic reforms, institutions like future markets need to be put in place. Passing a law will not suffice; we also need to look at the institutions for grading and standards, risk management (insurance etc.), warehouse receipt system, and dispute settlement. Some research needs to be done on how institutions evolve overtime and become less or more relevant with the changing economic environment.

G. S. Bhalla, Professor Emeritus, Center for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU

Bhalla emphasized the importance of institutions and suggested that we should also have a look at the land institutions including tenancy, land ceilings and land rights.

S. Mahendra Dev, Director, CESS

Dev emphasized the need to study institutions in water management, agriculture, and credit.

Radhakrishna, Director IGDR

Radhakrishna brought the increasing role of the private sector in non-farm tribal products especially in a state like Madhya-Pradesh. He emphasized the critical need to re-examine the role of the corporate sector with a view to encourage their participation in agriculture and rural development. He also emphasized the need to do research on inequalities in various regions as well as in rural and urban areas, and the need to do more work on agricultural diversification as well as agro-processing. He also pointed out the importance of effective policy communication that will be needed to change policies in India.

Kirit Parikh, Member of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister

Parikh emphasized the need to examine the constraints that the existing institutions are imposing in various fields of agriculture and rural development and how those constraints can be removed.

Continuing on the theme of institutions, **Joachim von Braun**, suggested that the key research question in the area of institutions is to look at the efficiency aspects. That is how institutions can cut down transaction costs and bring about greater transparency and accountability such that the relevant economic activities are more efficient and sustainable.

Sompal, Member of the Planning Commission

Sompal brought out the importance of food security and the need to move away from production availability to economic access. He emphasized that unless the purchasing power of the rural poor is raised, household food security cannot be achieved. But given the fact that the employment elasticity is 0.16 to GDP, how to increase employment and thereby the

purchasing power of the rural poor is a major challenge. He asked if IFPRI could launch research on how to tackle household food security. On the issue of trade, Mr. Sompal also mentioned that the promised access to developed country markets has not taken place even after the signing of the Uruguay round agreement. This is largely due to the distorted policies of the OECD countries. Under such a scenario, what can IFPRI offer in terms of research to strengthen the bargaining power of India and to have access to developed country markets? On the issue of technology, Mr. Sompal emphasized the need to recognize that the growth in total factor productivity in agriculturally developed states like Punjab and Haryana has become negative. Under such circumstances what sort of research and development strategy should India follow to raise the total factor productivity?

On the issue of nutrition and the need for bio-fortification, Mr. Sompal emphasized the need to have proper bio-safety regulations in place before approving any such major changes.

He also talked about a number of other issues, which IFPRI may like to consider for research. These issues range from research on wasteland developments, marketing institutions, competitiveness of different crops in different regions, fertilizer subsidy, and storage policy including micro-storage.

Usha Barwale, Joint Director, Research Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company

Barwale emphasized the need for biotechnology research and institutional issues under which technologies can flourish.

Punjab Singh, Former Secretary, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Singh emphasized the need for long-term investments in infrastructure and education. He asked if IFPRI can do research on the returns to such investment, and emphasized the need for a dissemination kit for technology propagation in the country.

Some members also emphasized the importance of training needed in the region on issues related to trade policies. Other members emphasized the importance of agricultural support policies of developed countries, especially the US and EU and what policy implications it would have for a country like India.

They also emphasized the need to start some work on institutional reforms related to markets, credit and natural resource management etc.

In concluding remarks Ashok Gulati thanked them all for the very useful discussion and appreciated the input from all. He promised to take the suggested research topics on priority basis and also to start some research work on:

- Institution related issues, especially the vertical integration process of Farmers-Firms-Fork linkages,
- The need for institutional and policy reforms that help increase the rural income of smallholder farmers and contribute to reduce poverty
- The constraints of smallholders for integration with a focus on credit

- Expanding work on agricultural diversification to high value products, and the process of value addition in the post-harvest stage.

Meeting with Dr. Manmohan Singh, Member of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House, and former Finance Minister, March 25, 2003

After a detailed discussion on different topics for high priority policy research, Dr. Singh highlighted the need for research on the following topics:

- Trade negotiations
- Edible oil imports
- Reexamination of edible oil policy
- Irrigation investment, input subsidies
- Food security at national and household level

Dr. Gulati informed him that:

- Some research has already been initiated on edible oil, which is looking at tariff and trade policy issues. The work is progressing very well and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- IFPRI is also collaborating with Dr. Anwarul Hoda, at ICRIER in conducting research study on trade negotiations, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year.
- A book on input subsidies by Ashok Gulati and Sudha Narayanan came out at the beginning of this year, which may be useful for policymakers and researchers.

It was also promised that IFPRI would like to undertake research on food security issues at national and household level in collaboration with local institutions in due course, and may hold a conference on this theme next year.

2. Policy Dialogue with the Captain Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab and his selected colleagues, March 27, 2003

The IFPRI delegation met the CM of Punjab with his selected colleagues from the State Assembly and the Government of Punjab.

The Chief Minister gave an overview of the performance of Punjab agriculture and posed questions related to agricultural diversification, involving agro-processing industries, vertical linkage of farm and firms, and contract farms in the Indian context.

The IFPRI team discussed these issues with the Chief Minister and his team and broadly came to the following conclusions:

- The taxation structure for food processing industry will have to be streamlined, so that agro-processors will find it attractive to invest in the state;
- The government should work towards facilitating the legal environment for implementing the contract farming;

- The land lease market should be freed up; and
- Receive a commitment from the big business in person.

Joachim von Braun promised the CM that IFPRI is willing to work with the state of Punjab on the issues of agriculture, diversification, grain management, and input subsidies rationalization for the next 2-3 years.

The CM in turn welcomed this involvement and promised all possible help from the Government of Punjab.

Informal discussion continued over dinner at the CM's residence.

3. Brainstorming session with Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) on Grain Management and Subsidy Rationalization in Punjab, March 27-28, 2003

IFPRI team comprising of Dr. Joachim von Braun, Dr. Ashok Gulati, and Dr. Shengan Fan, Senior Research Fellow at IFPRI along with Prof. G. K. Chadha, Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, visited Chandigarh. A brainstorming session was held at CRRID. Issues related to (1) grain management and (2) input subsidies rationalization in Punjab were discussed. The session was attended by 50-60 people from Punjab including the Deputy Chairman of the Punjab State Planning Board.

Dr. Rashpal Malhotra, Founder-Director of CRRID, pointed out in his opening remarks that Punjab will have to learn new rules of grain management as the nation moves from overall deficit of grain to surplus.

Prof. Kalkat, Former Vice Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University
He pointed out that grain quality has to remain high as surplus emerges and consumers become more quality conscious. Past experience has shown that most 5-year plans overestimated the demand forecast. As a result not much attention was given to build enough storage space. Much of the food grain stocks, therefore, are lying in the open which adversely affects the quality of grain. But now the situation seems to have changed rapidly and proper planning for creating long-term storage will have to be given high importance.

S.S. Johl, Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Board, explained that today's supply is exceeding demand not as much due to increased production but more due to decreasing growth in demand. While it is perfectly expected from high-income groups, it is somewhat perplexing to see this happen even amongst low-income groups. There is a need for the government to undertake welfare programs to generate demand for food at least amongst low-income groups. Nevertheless for proper planning of grain management it would be critical for the government to lay down its rules of the game in a transparent way. He raised a question: Will the government allow export of food grain for the next ten years even when there is a drought at home? These questions have to be responded to if we want private sector

involvement in grain trade. He pointed out that the participation of the private sector in grain management hinges on the continuity of stable policy regime.

Dr. Joachim von Braun also pointed out that the time seems to have come for the private sector to play a major role in grain management. For this to happen in an efficient and sustainable manner it is important to put marketing institutions in place so that the risk to the private sector is minimized. Further, the government will have to reduce or stop subsidized operation in grain markets with a view to providing a level playing field to the private sector.

Dr. Ashok Gulati discussed how surplus grain production and its management in Punjab is closely linked to the regime of input subsidies. So long as there is free or highly subsidized water and electricity, farmers will keep on getting the wrong signals to produce more rice. This must change if Punjab agriculture has to be put on sustainable track and towards high value agriculture. The issue of subsidies however cannot be dealt just by increasing the prices of those inputs. It requires institutional reform of the input supplying agencies such as the state electricity and irrigation department. This would help to minimize the inefficiency and the burden on farmers.

This was followed by detailed discussion from the floor for more than 2 hrs.

4. Brainstorming session at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) on Agricultural Diversification, March 28, 2003

Dr. Aulakh, Vice Chancellor of PAU welcomed the IFPRI delegation and gave a background of the University.

The Vice Chancellor explained that Punjab is relatively a small state in the Indian context but much of its area, 85%, is under cultivation. It has a problem of cereal, milk, and poultry surpluses, and therefore, it is continuously looking for markets within and outside India. By western standards the farm size is not large, with larger landholding being less than 4 hectares. This leads to high transaction cost especially when the agriculture output has to be processed.

Joachim von Braun emphasized that the small farms are not necessarily obstacles to the development of Punjab agriculture. If it is combined with investment in education, infrastructure, and institutions like contract farming, Punjab can easily increase its rate of growth. What is needed is a good environment where domestic and foreign investors feel inclined to invest.

The opening remarks were followed by discussion on agricultural diversification in Punjab. Towards the end both parties PAU and IFPRI showed keen interest to collaborate on issues related to agricultural diversification in Punjab.

**5. Andhra Pradesh Priority Setting Workshop, April 15-16, 2003
Agricultural Policies for the 21st Century – From Vision to Action:**

IFPRI in collaboration with Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University held a policy research priority-setting workshop for Andhra Pradesh. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Arjun Singh, Indian Minister for Agriculture and Chaired by Mr. Chandra Babu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. There were 80 researchers, policymakers, and media present. Suresh Babu gave opening remarks and presented an overview on Challenges facing Indian agriculture. The workshop discussed the agricultural challenges that Andhra Pradesh is facing and will continue to face for the rest of the 21st Century if action is not taken. This priority-setting workshop was to jump start this action. There were presentations and discussion on the public distribution of food grains and how the private sector can be involved in food grain marketing and its impact on household food security. There was a dialogue on the reforms for agriculture inputs with a specific focus on the fertilizer and seed sector and pesticide policies and regulations. Since Andhra Pradesh's marketing infrastructure poses challenges to agriculture growth, there was much talk on how to improve this infrastructure. To learn from Andhra Pradesh and to see how the reforms can be improved, there was presentation and discussion on Andhra Pradesh's forward-acting irrigation reforms. This session also discussed what we don't understand about these new reforms and therefore, what research is needed to fill the knowledge gaps. There were also presentations and discussions on Andhra's Pradesh power sector and the reforms needed for enhancing agriculture, the use of agriculture diversification for export promotion, and agro-processing. Since Andhra Pradesh still suffers from drought and famine, time was spent on understanding why this still occurs. Finally, there were group discussions on the agricultural action plan for Andhra Pradesh. A detailed agenda is attached.

“The Dragon and the Elephant: A comparative Study on Economic and Agricultural Reforms in China and India”

Jointly organized by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), March 25-26, 2003

Inaugurated by Prof. Manmohan Singh, Member of Parliament, Leader of Opposition and Former Minister of Finance, Government of India

On his opening remarks Prof. Singh, emphasized that this initiative is very timely and critical as both countries are going through a phase of economic liberalization and will strongly influence the behavior of the world market. These two countries can learn a lot from each other especially on strategies towards reducing poverty and reforming smallholder agriculture. The lessons can be shared widely with other developing countries especially in South and South East Asia where smallholder agriculture dominates.

Dr. Joachim von Braun pointed out the importance of the way China started reforming with agriculture through changes in land tenure system is important for India to note. It is also very important for India to note the role of the non-farm sector, especially town and villages enterprises for generating employment opportunities in the rural areas

Heavy investment in rural infrastructure is perhaps a precondition for attaining high agricultural growth and alleviating poverty, which is clearly indicated by IFPRI research on India and China. With both countries acceding to WTO it would be very interesting to see how China chalks out its strategy in trade negotiations. If China and India put their weight in favor of developing countries it can very well change the complexion of trade negotiations.

The inaugural session was followed by a two-day detailed workshop, more than 15 papers were presented in 9 separate themes.

- Topic 1: Land institutions, policies, and reforms
- Topic 2: Domestic marketing reform
- Topic 3: Rural diversification
- Topic 4: Rural non-farm sector
- Topic 5: Water resources, irrigation reforms and food security
- Topic 6: Are anti-poverty programs pro-poor?
- Topic 7: Rural public investment
- Topic 8: Agricultural research, technology, and IPR
- Topic 9: WTO, trade liberalization, and food security

The workshop was a great success, it was agreed to hold the next meeting in China towards the end of this year.

The workshop proceeding is being revised and reviewed for possible publication. Detailed agenda and participants list is attached.

Bangladesh

March 29-April 1, 2003

1. PAANSA Meeting in Bangladesh

Dr. Joachim von Braun and Dr. Ashok Gulati arrived in Bangladesh on March 29, 2003. They had a meeting with Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

A dinner brainstorming session on Bangladesh agriculture, hosted by Mr. M. Syeduzzaman, former Finance Minister of Bangladesh was held. Several important stakeholders attended the session.

They also met with Mr. Khairuzzaman Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Food, Mr. Zakir Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and Dr. Abdul Bayes professor of Economics, Jahangirnagar University and other government officials, WFP and USAID representatives in Bangladesh (list attached).

2. Brainstorming session at Bangladesh Agricultural Economic Association (BAEA)

About 100 researchers, government officials, and university professors attended the meeting. M.A. Sattar Mandal made a presentation on BAEA activities, and the Bangladesh agriculture and food situation.

Joachim von Braun gave a presentation on issues of globalization and IFPRI's Strategy. Ashok Gulati made a presentation on IFPRI's South Asia Initiative and Bangladesh.

Detailed discussion was held on these topics and related issues.

3. Brainstorming Session at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

Dr. Syeduzzaman, former Finance Minister of Bangladesh and about 40 researchers, policy analysts, and government officials attended the meeting. Dr. Asaduzzaman, Research Director of BIDS, along with other researchers gave a presentation on priority issues in Bangladesh agriculture. Dr. Quazi Shahabuddin, Director General of BIDS, also made a presentation on issues related to trade liberalization and food security in Bangladesh.

Joachim von Braun gave a presentation on Global Issues and IFPRI's Strategy. Ashok Gulati made a presentation on IFPRI's South Asia Initiative and Bangladesh. Discussion followed on the presentations and the priorities for agricultural development in Bangladesh.

Mr. Syeduzzaman emphasized the need for a strategic agriculture and poverty reduction policy framework, which should deal prominently with high value agriculture (livestock, fish, horticulture etc.). These policies have to give direction for

the future and dislodge the countries from rice and wheat dominated agriculture. It should also talk about the role of biotechnology and the issues of biosafety.

After a detailed discussion, potential and high priority research areas where IFPRI can contribute for the development of Bangladesh agriculture are identified as follows:

- Trade Liberalization and Food Security issues
- High value agriculture including agro-processing and agri-business
- Processed food
- Public distribution system
- Biofortification and diet quality; and
- Regional food grain stock
- Governance issues
- Rural-urban linkages

IFPRI delegation promised to start some collaborative research with Bangladesh research institutions on some of the above mentioned high priority issues.

Pakistan

April 2, 2003

1. Meeting in the planning Commission

This meeting was chaired by Mr. Shahid Amjad Chaudhury, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. The meeting was attended by several secretaries and heads of different organizations such as the Agricultural Prices Commission.

Mr. Chaudhury opened the meeting by welcoming IFPRI's delegation and by appreciating IFPRI's past work in Pakistan. He also expressed keen interest to collaborate with IFPRI in a number of high priority issues facing the Government of Pakistan.

He pointed out the following high priority issues for discussion and research:

Support Price System: There is a support price system for three major crops: Wheat, Cotton and Sugar Cane. The major question in a changing economic environment, when trade is liberalized, is whether support prices should continue? If yes, what should be their level? What factors should go into the determination of support prices? Mr. Chaudhury emphasized the importance of resolving this issue in the context of equity and efficiency implications.

Wheat Markets: Pakistan has turned from net importer to net exporter of wheat. But because of the crash in the world prices exports are becoming very difficult without an explicit subsidy. Should Pakistan subsidize exports, and if so, how are they tenable in the long run?

Wheat and edible oils: Pakistan has become a major importer of edible oils and therefore there is a re-thinking of what should be the oilseed policy in Pakistan, especially when Wheat and Canola can be substituted in the same season.

The dairy sector: Milk production has increased substantially but access to processing plants remains constrained. Can there be intermediate technology for milk processing and value addition in dairy sector? How can one develop a good processing dairy industry that can cater to smallholders?

Efficient use of Water: How to increase productivity of water by ensuring maximum output per unit of water is another challenge that the Government of Pakistan is facing, which requires research on institutional and pricing reforms in irrigation sector.

In addition, Mr. Chaudhury discussed that Pakistan has started off with corporate agriculture but its implication in terms of efficiency and equity are not yet clear. Can IFPRI work on these issues that results in vertical coordination between the farms-firms.

He also discussed trade issues: There is an issue of accessing developed country market for agricultural products. The Uruguay round agreement that Pakistan has entered into allows Pakistan to give only freight subsidy for exports, whereas, several developed countries are giving high domestic support as well as export subsidies. Under such a scenario is it in the interest of Pakistan to liberalize imports and exports of agricultural commodities? Can IFPRI's research help Pakistan in setting appropriate standards, taking the increasingly important issues of SPS into consideration?

He also conveyed that the Government of Pakistan has created a WTO cell to deal with issues related particularly to agriculture. But developing a negotiating strategy remains a challenge.

Joachim von Braun conveyed that it would be a pleasure for IFPRI to work on issues of importance in Pakistan. He emphasized the following major areas:

On pricing policy issues, it is important to see how domestic price policy can be dovetailed with international trade policy.

He also emphasized the need to look into the issues of development box vs. multi-functionality box against the backdrop of agriculture negotiations in WTO.

In the areas of agriculture diversification and agro-processing, it is critical to evaluate the legal environment and efficacy of contract farming.

The need to see certain things that are affecting the food budget, is reduction of food subsidies leading to cut in food budget? Are the poor children adversely affected? Can school feeding programs be better than other safety nets?

These opening remarks were followed by a discussion for about two hours and it was agreed that the Government of Pakistan (through Planning Commission) and IFPRI should work together to identify high priority issues and launch research in collaboration with Pakistan institutions.

Mr. Chaudhury specifically pointed out that if IFPRI can help interms of international expertise the cost of local resources would be borne by the Government of Pakistan.

Other similar meetings in Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) followed this meeting where Dr. Badruddin Soomro, the Director General of PARC, chaired the meeting.

Thereafter two meetings were held at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), which was chaired by Dr. A. R. Kemal, the director of PIDE and with the Agriculture Prices Commission (APC) chaired by Dr. Abdul Selam, the chairman of APC.

3. PIDE – IFPRI Brainstorming Seminar on “Key Issues in Pakistan Agriculture with focus on Trade Liberalization, Market Reforms and Food Security”

April 3, 2003

Dr. Sikander Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for Food Agriculture and Livestock inaugurated the seminar.

In his inaugural address the honorable minister welcomed IFPRI’s initiative to work with Pakistan on the issues related to Pakistan’s agriculture and pointed out the following issues.

Agriculture growth in Pakistan has been about 3.5% during last decade. Pakistan’s agriculture has good potential in high value products. Although the production has been going reasonably well there are high post harvest losses due to lack of wide spread agro-industry. Majority of the framers are small and therefore the surpluses remain small. It is a challenge to devise such institutions, which can increase the scale of surplus, cut down transaction cost and feed into the agro processing. There are several other issues ranging from low water use efficiency to subsidy rationalization, which deserve research on high priority.

Dr. A.R Kamal, Director of PIDE, highlighted that although the growth of agriculture has been satisfactory in Pakistan, poverty ratio has gone up during the last 10-15 years. This is a paradoxical situation and needs better research to understand what is happening in Pakistan’s agriculture and what policy options would be appropriate to reduce poverty significantly.

Dr. Qureshi, former Director of PIDE also gave a presentation on the role of IFPRI’s past research and how useful it has been in policy formulation in Pakistan.

Joachim von Braun gave a presentation on key issues related to Pakistan's agriculture and food sector and what IFPRI can do in this regard, especially on trade, market and food security issues.

This was followed by a presentation by Ashok Gulati on IFPRI's South Asian Initiative and work plan for Pakistan.

Dr. Munir Ahmed, Senior Research Economist at PIDE also gave a presentation on Priority issues on Pakistan's Agriculture.

The seminar was a big success. Both parties showed keen interest to collaborate and contribute towards a better performance of Pakistan's agriculture.

Sri Lanka
April 21-25, 2003

SAI Training Workshop: Analysis of Trade Liberalization for Poverty Alleviation

The Council for Agricultural Policy Research (CARP), the World Bank Institute (WBI), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) jointly organized and conducted a 5-day workshop addressing methodologies used for analyzing the impact of trade liberalization policies on poverty alleviation. Forty academic researchers, policy makers and university professors from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the workshop. The workshop specifically reviewed trade liberalization policies and major analytical challenges in South Asia and the methods used for analyzing regional trade arrangements, distortions, and support levels, price volatility, targeted interventions, risk management, and domestic reforms. Two international and six regional experts served as resource persons, who presented lectures. In addition to lectures, 8 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka gave presentations regarding sensitive trade commodities in their country. The papers and presentations used from this workshop will be uploaded onto IFPRI's website and a reader will be compiled by end of July.

Implementation of Policy Research Study

Impact of Liberalization Policies on Food Security and Poverty in Nepal

The research studies initiated in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka funded by USAID-Delhi office and USAID-ANE Bureau are coming to completion. The lead researchers of these studies are planning to visit IFPRI between July and September 2003. Final results of these studies will be presented at a seminar at IFPRI. The reports will be finalized incorporating the comments from the seminar. We plan to finalize these studies by the end of September 2003 and submit final reports to the respective donors.

Conclusion

As mentioned in our fourth quarterly report, we are still waiting for the no cost extension request approval. Our original request was up to April 2003 but due to delays from our collaborators/lead researchers in coming to Washington D.C. to work on finalizing the study we request a no cost extension up to September 30, 2003. The research work and payment to collaborators are on hold until we receive official approval; we appreciate your timely response on this.

Also attached are the press clippings related to the events and activities of the reporting period.

**Joachim von Braun and Ashok Gulati
Workshops, Seminars, and Field visits in South Asia
India, Bangladesh and Pakistan
(March 19 to April 5, 2003)**

INDIA

March 24, 2003

Meeting with Dr. Vijay Kelkar

Dr. Vijay Kelkar
Adviser to Finance Minister
Ministry of Finance
Gov't of India

Meeting with Dr. Ashok Lahiri

Dr. Ashok Lahiri
Chief Economic Adviser
Dept. of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Finance
Gov't of India

PAANSA Meeting (India Team), IHC, New Delhi

March 25, 2003

JNU-IFPRI Workshop on "The Dragon and the Elephant: A Comparative Study of Economic and Agricultural Reforms in China and India", India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

Meeting with Dr. Mohan Kanda
Dr. Mohan Kanda
Secretary of Agriculture
Government of India
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi

March 26, 2003

Meeting at USAID, New Delhi
Dr. David Heesen
Deputy Director
Regional Urban Development Office for South Asia
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
American Embassy

Dr. Walter E. North
Director

March 27, 2003

Brainstorming session at Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID)

Mr. Rashpal Malhotra

Founder-Director

Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID)

Meeting with the Honorable Chief Minister of Punjab and other senior officials of the Government of Punjab (to be confirmed; subject to availability of the chief minister)

Dinner hosted by CRRID

PAU-IFPRI Consultative Workshop

Introduction

Kirpal Singh Aulakh, Vice Chancellor, PAU

Joachim Von Braun, Director General, IFPRI

Ashok Gulati, Director, MSSD, IFPRI

Discussion on issues Facing Punjab: The Challenge of Diversification, Agro processing and Contract Farming

Visits to the Fields

BANGLADESH

March 29, 2003:

Meeting with Mr. Ayub Quadri
Mr. Ayub Quadri
Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Secretariat Building 4, 4th Floor
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Meeting with Mr. Zakir Ahmed Khan
Mr. Zakir Ahmed Khan
Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Secretariat Building 7, 2nd Floor
Dhaka, Bangladesh

March 30, 2003:

Meeting with Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui
Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui
Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister
Prime Minister Office
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Meeting with Mr. Douglas Casson Coutts, WFP Representative

Mr. Douglas Casson Coutts
WFP Representative
World Food Programme

Meeting with Dr. Charles Uphaus of USAID and colleagues
(Timothy Anderson, Shahidur Bhuiyan and Allen Flemming)

Dr. Charles Uphaus
Director, Office of Economic Growth, Food & Environment
USAID/Bangladesh

March 31, 2003

Meeting with Ms. Sushila Zeitlyn of DFID
Ms. Sushila Zeitlyn
Sr. Social Development Adviser
British High Commission
Visit the Bangladesh Agricultural Economists Association (BAEA)

BAEA Seminar

Briefing - BAEA Activities
Bangladesh Agriculture and Food Situation

Presentation by Dr. M. A. Sattar Mandal

Agriculture under Globalization

Presentation by Joachim von Braun, Director General, IFPRI

IFPRI's South Asia Initiative

Presentation by Ashok Gulati, Director, MSSD, IFPRI.

Visit Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

BIDS-IFPRI Brainstorming Meeting

Priority Issues in Bangladesh Agriculture Presentations by Md. Asaduzzaman, Research

Director, BIDS/ Rushidan Islam Rahman Research Director, BIDS/ Sajjad Zohir,
Senior Research Fellow, BIDS

Issues related to Trade Liberalization and Food Security in Bangladesh Presentation by
Quazi Shahabuddin, Director General, BIDS

Global Issues and IFPRI's Strategy Presentation by Joachim von Braun, Director
General, IFPRI

IFPRI's South Asia Initiative and Bangladesh Presentation by Ashok Gulati, Director,
MSSD, IFPRI.

April 1, 2003:

Meeting with Prof. Momtaz Uddin

Prof. Momtaz Uddin

Member, GED, Planning

Ministry of Planning

PAKISTAN

April 2, 2003:

Program developed by Dr. Sarfraz Qureshi

Dr. Sarfraz K Qureshi
Islamabad

Meeting with Dr. Shahid Amjad Chaudhry,
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Policy Makers

Presentation by Joachim von Braun

Briefing on Agricultural Research System at Pakistan Agricultural Research
Council (PARC)

Visit to Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)

Meeting with Dr. A. Salam of Agriculture Prices Commission

Dr. Abdul Salam
Chairman, Agriculture Prices Commission

April 3, 2003: PAKISTAN

PIDE-IFPRI Brainstorming Meeting

Welcome Address by Director PIDE

“Contribution of IFPRI Research on Policy Making in Pakistan”

By Dr. Sarfraz K. Qureshi
Former Director PIDE

What IFPRI's overarching plans are on Pakistan agriculture especially on trade, markets
and food security Presentation by Joachim von Braun, Director General, IFPRI

IFPRI South Asia Initiative and work plan in Pakistan Presentation by Ashok Gulati,
Director, MSSD, IFPRI

Priority Issues on Pakistan Agriculture

By Dr. Munir Ahmed, Senior Research Economist PIDE

SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE

Policy Analysis and Advisory Network for South Asia (PAANSA)

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*Agricultural Policies for the 21st Century – From Vision to Action: Centenary Commemoration
of the Birth of Honorable Charan Singh, April 15-16, 2003
Jointly organized by ANGRAU and IFPRI*

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday April 15

- 9:00-10:30 **Opening Ceremony**
 Introductory Remarks
 *Honorable V. S. Sobhanadreeswara Rao, Minister of Agriculture,
 Andhra Pradesh*
- Keynote Address**
 Honorable N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh
- Keynote Address**
 Honorable Ajit Singh, Central Minister for Agriculture, India
- 10:30-10:45 **Agricultural Policies for 21st Century and Overview of Challenges**
 *Suresh Babu, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research
 Institute*
- 10:45-11:00 Tea/ Coffee
- 11:00-11:35 **Agricultural Vision for Andhra Pradesh: Translating into Action**
 *Dr. I.V. Subba Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural
 University*
- 11:35-1:10 **Food Security and Food Grain Marketing**
 Public Distribution: Output Pricing Policy
 S. Mahendra Dev, Director, Center for Economic and Social Studies
- Current Status and Future Challenges for Private Sector Participation
 in Grain Trading in Andhra Pradesh**
 Gautham Pingle, Senior Faculty, Administrative Staff College of India
- Household Food Security in Andhra Pradesh**
 *R.Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development
 Research*
- 1:10-2:30 Lunch

- 2:30-4:15 **Agricultural Inputs in Achieving Food Security**
 Fertilizer Sector Reforms
 C.H. Hanumantha Rao, Chairman of the Center for Economic and Social Studies and Former Member of the Planning Commission
- Seed Sector Reforms*
 Janaiah Aldas, Visiting Research Fellow, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research
- Pesticide Policies and Regulations - What Needs to be Done?*
- 4:15-4:30 Tea/Coffee
- 4:30 – 5:05 **Market Infrastructure: Challenges and Future Approaches**
 Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University

Wednesday April 16

- 9:00-10:10 **Irrigation Sector**
 Irrigated Sector Reform Challenges
 Jasween Jairath
- Irrigation Organizations - The Andhra Experiment and Lessons*
- Irrigation Sector Reforms in Andhra Pradesh - Past Experience and Future Research Needs*
 T. Hanumantha Rao
- 10:10-10:45 **Andhra Pradesh's Power Sector Reforms for the Past Decade**
 T.L. Shankar, Advisor, Energy Group, Administrative Staff College of India If not available then Vinod Vyasulu
- 10:45-11:00 Tea/Coffee
- 11:00-12:10 **Agricultural Diversification and Export Promotion**
 Livestock, Poultry, and Fisheries Development: What has Andhra Pradesh Done?
- 12:10-1:15 Lunch
- 1:15-1:50 **Andhra Pradesh's Agroprocessing Strategy: Constraints and Challenges**

Suresh Babu

1:50-2:25

Why does Drought and Famine Still Daunt Andhra Pradesh?

Policies for Dry-land Agriculture

*M.V. Rao, Former Vice-Chancellor, Acharya N.G. Ranga
Agricultural University*

2:25-2:45

Tea/Coffee

2:45-4:15

Agricultural Action Plan for Andhra Pradesh
Group Discussions

4:15-5:00

Closing Ceremony

Closing Comments

Hon. V.S. Sholdanadeeswara Rao

Words of Thanks

Dr. I.V. Subba Rao

Words of Thanks

Dr. Suresh Babu

JNU-IFPRI WORKSHOP

on

**“The Dragon and the Elephant: A Comparative Study of Economic and
Agricultural Reforms in China and India”**

at

**India Habitat Centre
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003, India**

March 25-26, 2003

Tentative Program

Jointly Organized by:



Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi -110067, India
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TENTATIVE PROGRAM

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2003 (Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre)

- 0800-9:00 AM** **Registration**
- 9:00 - 9:50** **Welcome/Opening Remarks**
- JNU/IFPRI/Chief Guest**
- 9:00-9:05 G. K. Chadha, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India
- 9:05-9:30 Manmohan Singh, Member of Parliament, Leader of Opposition and
Former Minister of Finance, Government of India
- 9:30-9:45 Joachim Von Braun, Director General, International Food Policy Research
Institute (IFPRI), USA
- 9:45-9:50 Ashok Gulati, Director, Markets and Structural Studies Division, IFPRI, USA

SESSION 1 & 2

Chairpersons: C. H. Hanumantha Rao / Scott Rozelle/ Mohan Kanda

- 9:50-10:45** **Land Institution, Policies and Reforms**
- 9:50-10:10 “Land Institutions, Policy and Reforms in India”
Ravi Srivastava, N.C. Saxena & Sukhadeo Thorat
- 10:10-10:30 “The Chinese Land Tenure System: Practice and Perspective”
Yao Yang
- 10:30-10:45 Discussants: T. Haque / Charan D. Wadhva/ De Bhaswar Moitra
- 10:45-11:15** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:15-1:00** **Sequencing Marketing Reforms**
- 11:15-11:35 “Market Reforms in Indian Agriculture”
Vijay Vyas
- 11:35-11:55 “Sequencing and the Success of Gradualism: Emperical Evidence from China’s
Agricultural Reform”
Scott Rozelle and Jikun Huang
- 11:55-12:10 Discussants: R. Radhakrishna / Funing Zhong / Hardeep Singh

- 12:10-1:00 Open Discussion
- 1:00-2:15 LUNCH**
- SESSION 3 & 4**
Chairpersons: Sompal / Peter Hazell
- 2:15-3:10 Rural Public Investment**
- 2:15-2:35 “Rural Public Investment in India”
Sukhadeo Thorat, G. S. Bhalla and Ramesh Chand
- 2:35-2:55 “Reforms, Investment, and Poverty in Rural China”
 Shenggen Fan
- 2:55-3:10 Discussants: Prem Vashishtha / Scott Rozelle
- 3:10-4:45 Agricultural Research Technology and IPR**
- 3:10-3:30 “Agricultural Research and Technology—Status, Impact and Contemporary Issues”
Dayanatha Jha and Suresh Pal
- 3:30-3:50 “The Reform of Agricultural Research System and Intellectual Property Rights Protection in China”
Keming Qian, Philip Pardey, Bonwoo Koo
- 3:50-4:05 Discussants: Bibek Debroy/ Jikun Huang
- 4:05-4:45 OPEN DISCUSSION
- 7:00 PM WELCOME DINNER – (Rock Gardens, India International Centre)**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2003 (Causarina Hall, India Habitat Centre)

SESSION 1 & 2
Chairpersons: Y. K. Alagh / Jikun Huang

- 9:00-9:55 Water Resources, Irrigation Reforms and Food Security**
- 9:00-9:20 “India: Water Resources, Irrigation Reforms and Food Security”
Ramaswamy Iyer and K. V. Raju
- 9:20-9:40 “Future Prospects for Water and Food in China and India: A Comparative Assessment”

Mark Rosegrant and Ximing Cai

9:40-9:55 Discussants: Tushaar Shah

9:55-12:00 Are Anti-Poverty Program Pro-Poor

9:55-10:15 “Anti-Poverty Programmes in India: Are They Pro-Poor?”
Kirit Parikh and Mahendra Dev

10:15-10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45-11:05 “Anti-Poverty Efforts in China: Success and Lessons”
Linxiu Zhang and Shenggen Fan

11:05-11:20 Discussants: Jing Zhu/ Sudipto Mundle

11:20-12:00 OPEN DISCUSSION

12:00-1:15 LUNCH

SESSION 3 & 4
Chairpersons: S.P. Gupta / Keming Qian

1:15-2:10 Agricultural Diversification

1:15-1:35 “From Plate to Plough: Agricultural Diversification in India”
P.K. Joshi and Ashok Gulati

1:35-1:55 “The Contribution of Diversification to China’s Rural Development:
Implications of Reform for the Growth of Rural Economy
Funing Zhong and Jing Zhu

1:55-2:10 Discussants: V.M. Rao / Shenggen Fan

2:10-3:35 Rural Non-Farm Sector

2:10-2:30 Rural Non-Farm Sector in Indian Economy: Growth, Challenges and Future
Direction”
G. K. Chadha

2:30-2:50 “China’s Rural Labor Market Development with Implications to Gender and
Rural Development”
Linxiu Zhang, Scott Rozelle and Jikun Huang

2:50-3:05 Discussants: Peter Hazell / Sheila Bhalla

3:05-3:35 OPEN DISCUSSION

- 3:35-4:05** **COFFEE BREAK**
- SESSION 5**
Chairpersons: Arvind Virmani /Jing Zhu
- 4:05-5:30** **WTO, Trade Liberalization, and Food Security**
- 4:05-4:25 “Agricultural Trade Liberalization Poverty and Food Security:
The Indian Experience”
Anwarul Hoda and C. S. Sekhar
- 4:25-4:45 “The Likely Impacts of China’s WTO Accession on its Agriculture”
Jikun Huang and Scott Rozelle
- 4:45-5:00 Discussants: C.H. Hanumantha Rao / Keming Qian
- 5:00-5:30 OPEN DISCUSSION
- 5:30-6:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION**
“What Do We Learn From The Experience in Agricultural Reforms”
Chairperson: C. H. Hanumantha Rao
Panelists: Peter Hazell, Vijay Vyas , Hardeep Singh and Jikun Huang
- 6:00-6:30 OPEN DISCUSSION
- 6:30 PM** **CONCLUDING SESSION**

**JNU-IFPRI Workshop on
“The Dragon and the Elephant: A Comparative Study of Economic and
Agricultural Reforms in China and India”**

India Habitat Centre
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003, India
March 25-26, 2003

Tentative List of Participants

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*South Asia Initiative Workshop, Analysis of Trade Liberalization for Poverty Alleviation,
Council for Agricultural Research Policy, IFPRI, World Bank Institute, April 21-25,
2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Agenda

Monday April 21

8:30-9:00 **Registration**

9:00-10:00 **Welcome**

Chair: Herath Gunasena, Director General, Council for Agricultural Research
Policy

Suresh Babu, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research
Institute

Opening Speech

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Sri Lanka

10:00-10:15 **Tea/Coffee**

10:15-11:15 **Trade Liberalization in South Asia – An Overview**

Chair: Herath Gunasena

*Ram Upendra Das, Research Associate, Research and Information System for the
Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries*

11:15-1:15 **Analyzing the Policies of South Asia – A Methodological Review**

Chair: S. Mahendra Dev, Director, Center for Economic and Social Studies

Garry Pursell, Consultant, South Asia Policy Research and Economic
Management Group, World Bank

1:15-2:15 **Lunch**

2:15-4:15 **Analyzing the Trade Policies of South Asia – A Methodological Review -
continued**

Chair: S. Mahendra Dev

Garry Pursell

4:15-4:30 **Tea/Coffee**

4:30-5:30 **Trade Issues in Sensitive Commodities: Wheat (Pakistan)**

Akhter Mahmood, Pakistan

7:00-10:00 **Dinner Reception**

Tuesday April 22

9:00-10:45 **Measuring Levels of Distortions and Supports: Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS), Producer Subsidies Equivalent (PSE), and CGE Modeling for Trade Policy Analysis**

Chair: Akhtar Mahmood

Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI

10:45-11:00 Tea/Coffee

11:00-12:45 **Measuring Levels of Distortions and Supports: Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS), Producer Subsidies Equivalent (PSE), and CGE Modeling for Trade Policy Analysis continued**

Chair: Akhtar Mahmood

Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla

12:45-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:00 **Liberalization of Agriculture Trade in Nepal**

Chair: Akhtar Mahmood

Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Professor, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University

Suman Sharma, Associate Professor, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University

3:00-4:15 **WTO and Agreement of Agriculture – Methods of Analysis and Lessons**

Chair: Akhtar Mahmood, Pakistan

Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla

4:15-4:30 Tea/Coffee

4:30-5:30 **WTO and Agreement of Agriculture – Methods of Analysis and Lessons**

Chair: Akhtar Mahmood, Pakistan

Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla

Wednesday April 23

7:00 **Leave for Kandy**

12:30-2:00 **Constraints and Challenges of Agricultural Exporters in Sri Lanka – Organic Tea and Organic Rice**

Sarath Ranaweera, Biofoods, Sri Lanka

6:00 **Leave for Colombo**

Thursday April 24

9:00-11:00 **Impacts of Trade Liberalization and Market Reforms: Case of Rice in Sri Lanka**
Chair: Gopal Naik

Jeevika Weerahewa, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

11:00-11:15 Tea/Coffee

11:15-12:15 **India – Domestic Market Deregulation for Cost-Effective Food Security**
Chair: Gopal Naik

Shikha Jha, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)

12:15-1:00 **Domestic Reforms for Trade Liberalization – Approaches for Analysis**
Chair: Gopal Naik

Ramesh Chand, Professor, Institute of Economic Growth

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:15 **Measuring and Managing Price Volatility Under Trade Liberalization**
Chair: Suresh Babu

P.V. Srinivasan, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

3:15-4:30 **Making Transition to an Open Economy: Who Wins and Who Loses? Methods of Analyzing Targeted Interventions**
Chair: Suresh Babu

S. Mahendra Dev, Director, Center for Economic and Social Studies

4:30-4:45 Tea/Coffee

4:45-6:00 **Methods of Risk Management Under Trade Liberalization**
Chair: Suresh Babu

Gopal Naik, Visiting Professor, Indian Institute of Management

Friday April 25

8:00-9:00 **Trade Issues in Sensitive Commodities- Potato (Sri Lanka)**
Chair: Bishwambher Pyakuryal

Sanath Jayanetti, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies and Trade Policy Advisor, Government of Sri Lanka

9:00-10:00 **Trade Issues in Sensitive Commodities- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (Bhutan)**
Chair: Bishwambher Pyakuryal

Dorji Rinchen, WTO Focal Person of the Agriculture Marketing Section,
Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan

10:00-10:15 *Tea/ Coffee*

10:15-11:15 **Trade Liberalization in South Asia – A Private Sector Perspective**
Chair: Bishwambher Pyakuryal

Sathendra Wijayapura, Managing Director, Aquatic Nurseries

11:15-12:15 **Trade Issues in Sensitive Commodities- Edible oil (India)**
Chair: Bishwambher Pyakuryal

*Karnam Lokanadhan, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Rural
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G.P. Sunandini, Assistant Economist, Acharya N.G.Ranga Agricultural
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12:15-1:15 **Lunch**

1:15-2:15 **Trade Issues in Sensitive Commodities- Rice (Bangladesh)**
Chair: Jeevika Weerahewa

Uttam Kumar Deb, Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue

2:15-3:15 **Trade Issues in Sensitive Commodities- Rice (Nepal)**
Chair: Jeevika Weerahewa

Binod Karmacharya

3:15-4:00 **Remarks and Evaluation**
Herath Gunasena and Suresh Babu

4:00-4:15 **Tea/ Coffee**

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BS OPINION

Lessons from China

Business Standard, March 28, 2003

The fact that China is growing almost twice as fast as India is common knowledge. But what is not often understood is what exactly drives this growth.

Most explanations are based on second-hand information. Now that the curtain over China is gradually lifting, some first-hand accounts of the Chinese economic development model are available.

One such occasion was provided by the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute and the Jawaharlal Nehru University, when the two jointly organised an interaction between economic experts from China and India at New Delhi this week.

What emerged from the interaction was that an early commencement of economic reforms was not the main mantra of the successful Chinese economic model though it put the country ahead of most other developing countries, including India, in economic liberalisation. Actually, it was the sequencing of the reforms that triggered the fast-paced growth.

Significantly, China launched its reforms process with liberalisation in agriculture and allied sectors. Here also it began with institutional restructuring in the agro-rural sector prior to introducing market reforms.

This apart, China also simultaneously put in place basic infrastructure, such as approach roads, in rural areas to pave the way for increased investments in villages and small towns. This, in turn, generated employment in the rural and semi-rural areas and kept under check the migration of people from villages to towns.

However, in the case of land and tenancy reforms, which in some ways are more crucial than reforms in agro-marketing and input delivery, India is way ahead of China though this process is still far from complete in both the countries.

Beginning from total state control over land, China has been experimenting with various options, such as village level control over land, a commune system of common farming on bigger chunks of land, a system of state control of land in which individuals are given partial rights to produce and, finally, the present mode of state control of land with full user rights for individuals.

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Going further, it is now switching over to a sui generis Chinese style of privatisation of land ownership through long-term leases which are both inheritable and tradable.

Indeed, it now transpires that the two Asian giants have many things to learn from each other. While India can learn from China about carefully designed agricultural market reforms, China can gain from the Indian experience in devolution of financial and other powers through institutions of local self-governance.

Incredible as it may appear, China has completely done away with government say in the pricing and supply of agricultural inputs and has partially given up the practice of providing price support and undertaking procurement of crops. And the overall agricultural production and productivity have risen, and not declined, in the process.



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Sleeping elephants, charging dragons

March 31, 2003

Almost as you read this column, actually a month ago if you want to be very precise, the Chinese government unleashed the third wave of agricultural reforms – from the first of March, all farmers have been given firm 30-year leases on the land they are currently tilling, and they are also free to transfer these to third parties.

In other words, with the land now firmly theirs, farmers will now invest a lot more in the land they've been tilling all these years. And if they don't want to till the land, they can even lease it out to firms like Cargil and Pepsi who typically look for large tracts of land to operate on.

So what's the big deal, you might be tempted to ask, Indian farmers have always owned the land they till, and all that China's doing is to reach where we already are.

That is true, but only partially so. It is true that unlike China where the land is owned by the village (even now, it's the right to lease for 30 years that has been granted, not the land itself), farmers in India own the land.

Yet, the Indian farmer is not free to legally lease this land out to others. So, while around a third of land is cultivated today by tenant-farmers, these farmers have no firm rights – they can be tilling the land today, and they can be thrown out tomorrow.

Understandably enough, the level of investment made by farmers on their land is quite low, and that in turn, means low productivity.

To understand the impact of this fully, it's important for us to travel back to China of the 1950s, when all land was collectivised, and former owners of the land were all forced to cultivate the land for the benefit of the village – the grain thus got was divided among everyone.

In 1978, the government decided to privatise cultivation – the land was still owned by the village, but farmers were free to sell their produce at market prices, though after selling a certain part of it to state-owned procurement agencies.

Over the years, even this was relaxed, and today there are virtually

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no restrictions on the sale of farm output. In free India, by contrast, farmers producing wheat in Haryana cannot take it across the border to sell it in the *mandis* of Punjab!

Equally interesting, while China had the same kind of subsidies that India has today, most were eliminated by the early 90s. Today, Chinese farmers pay market prices for the water and electricity they consume, and the fertilisers and other inputs they buy.

And while China has import quotas for items like wheat, rice, corn and cotton, the quotas are generally 2-3 times the level of actual imports -- in other words, imports of farm produce is virtually free in China. For these 'in quota' imports, the import duty is just 1-2 per cent.

In which case, the farm sector in China has probably been completely eliminated, right? Wrong. From 1978, when Indian and Chinese agriculture were at roughly the same levels in terms of production, China's output is today more than double that of India -- clearly the freedom to sell output in a free market (as in China) is a better incentive than getting subsidised inputs (as in India).

In 1978, when China's rural reforms began, rural poverty levels in India were around 50 per cent versus around 32 per cent in China. In 1998, India's rural poverty levels had fallen to around 36 per cent while China's had plummeted to 5 per cent. Figure out for yourself which policy was better.

According to Shenggen Fen, Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, rural reforms of the sort just described accounted for more than 60 per cent of the production growth between 1978 to 1984, which is when the main reforms took place. Between 1984 and 1997, the reforms slowed down, but still contributed around a third of the productivity growth.

Equally interesting is analyses done by Fen for both India and China, in terms of where public investment is most effective. His analyses, unsurprisingly, shows the same type of results for both countries -- government-run anti-poverty programmes have among the least impact on either increasing production or reducing the number of poor.

In India, according to Fen, one rupee spent on anti-poverty programmes results in rural income going up by Re 1.09, yet if the same rupee is spent on increased R&D in farm practices, rural income goes up by as much as Rs 13.45 -- even spending a rupee on rural roads is more effective than anti-poverty programmes, as this raises rural incomes by Rs 5.31.

Roads and R&D, similarly, are 5-7 times more effective in reducing poverty than anti-poverty programmes. While the specific results are different for China -- education is the best policy for removing rural poverty in China, but the third-best in India after roads and R&D -- the broad results are similar.

While the Chinese government appears to be moving in the right direction, India's yet to get away from its obsession with anti-poverty programmes. In which case, Chinese exports of rice to India may be the next huge threat, after its toys and batteries.

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Manmohan seeks farm sector push

BS Agriculture Editor in New Delhi | March 26, 2003 13:11 IST

Former Finance Minister Manmohan Singh today stressed the need for increased public and private investment in agriculture and allied fields to create more employment opportunities in rural areas.

Manmohan said China has altered its domestic agricultural management policies to make the World Trade Organisation discipline work to its advantage. He said India could also do so by amending its agricultural management chain.

Singh was speaking at a two-day workshop on "The dragon and the elephant: A comparative study of economic and agricultural reforms in China and India". It was organised jointly by the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute.

The workshop, which was attended by economists and policy planners from India and China, was aimed at studying the countries' differing approaches to economic and agricultural reforms.

India and China can together become an economic force to reckon with, Manmohan said. The former minister, however, said politicians were usually slow to react to change and needed well-conceived policy reform recipes to act on.

Comparing the process of development of the two countries, J V Braun, director-general, IFPRI, said both countries had implemented a series of economic reforms that had led to annual growth rates of 9 per cent in China and 6 per cent in India. While China had been faster in implementing marketing reforms, India was the first to decentralise its economic management, he said.

"Food and agricultural policies of these two mega-economies need to be studied closely as they will potentially affect global markets significantly. If there is information flow between the dragon and the elephant on comparative advantages and transparency in marketing, trade volumes can go up several folds, benefiting millions of poor in these two countries," said Ashok Gulati, IFPRI's director of markets, trade and institutions.

The papers presented at the workshop revealed that China had given up the practice of official procurement and distribution of agricultural produce. The ownership of land, too, has virtually been privatised.

Indian economists suggested capping and phased reduction of agricultural subsidies and alterations in the minimum support price mechanism. They also suggested legalisation of land leasing with proper regulations.

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Some of the top economists and policy planners from both countries are participating in the workshop.

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Indo-China ties will help the poor, say experts

Nishtha Chugh

New Delhi, March 25: A two-day workshop on 'Comparative study of Economic and Agricultural Reforms' and measures to reduce poverty in the "two leading Asian powers" of China and India began in Delhi today.

The workshop has been organised in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of US.

The workshop, attended by a large number of researchers, policy makers and advisors from the two countries, was inaugurated by former Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh.

Even as scholars presented detailed studies on the development and impact of policies in agricultural and rural sectors in both of the countries, the main thrust was on how to further reform their economies to for future growth and make the resulting gains more equitable.

"India and China can learn from each other in course of economic development. The two countries, while similar in many ways, have taken different paths to reform their economies. While China initiated reforms in agricultural sector and rural areas, India started by liberalising and reforming the manufacturing sector," said Joachim Von Braun, director general IPFRI.

He observed that the difference in the political systems of the two countries also largely determined the course of reforms in respective sectors.

"India is the largest democracy whereas China is one of the existing socialist societies and the difference has led to dissimilar growth rates, and more importantly, different rates of poverty reduction," Braun said.

On the first of the workshop, the panel discussions ranged from land institutions, policies and reforms to sequencing marketing reforms, rural public investment and agricultural research technology and IPR in India and China.

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ECONOMY

India, 3 Others To Study Export Standards In Developed World

Amiti Sen

New Delhi, March 24: With food safety standards becoming a major impediment to exports to the developed world, research institutes from India, Australia, Thailand and the US have decided to carry out detailed case studies of export standards for a number of product lines of interest from developing countries.

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The research institutes to conduct the studies comprise the Research & Information System (RIS) For Non-aligned And Developing Countries of India, International Food Policy Research Institute of the US, the Australian National University and University of Melbourne of Australia, and the University of Thammasat, Thailand.

The institutes got together in October last year to launch a comparative study of international food safety regulations and processed food exports from India and Thailand. The study is being sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

A workshop on 'International Food Safety Regulations and Processed Food Exports' will be organised by the RIS in New Delhi this week to discuss the developments in the research work.

Speaking to FE, Rajesh Mehta from the RIS said that many exporters from the developing world, including India, were not aware of many of the safety regulations prevailing in other countries and thus faced obstructions in exports. There was a need to raise their levels of awareness, he added.

The joint study aims to examine the policy, institutional and technical problems faced by processed food exporters in India and other developing countries, and to identify appropriate policy measures to address them while recognising the legitimate concerns in importing countries about safety and quality.

The core of the study is a comparative study of the export-oriented

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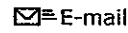
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processed food industries in India and other countries, including detailed case studies of the food-supply chain of their processed fish, canned fruit and meat industries.

Processed food exports are a major component of the agricultural exports from Thailand and India. Thailand is second only to Brazil among the developing countries in terms of the total value of processed food exports.



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ECONOMY

Elephant And Dragon Could Cross The Wall And March Together Tall

Our Economic Bureau

New Delhi, March 25: Several experts are of the opinion that India and China should come closer in matters of trade, particularly in agro products. Both the 'elephant' and the 'dragon' should jointly formulate strategies and exert pressure in the WTO for ensuring fair and free trade.

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Speaking at the two day seminar on a comparative study of economic and agricultural reforms in the two countries, organised in the Capital from Tuesday by the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Dr Ashok Gulati questioned that if the European countries and North American countries could form separate trading blocs to safeguard their interests, why couldn't India and China come closer for the same reason. He said both the countries had many things in common and either could learn from the other's experience and difficulties. He said both the populous countries had enough strength to change the current unfair game in world trade.

IFPRI director-general Joachim Von Braun said his institute had already undertaken a study which showed that if India and China came closer to resolve the problems of their farm sector, both the countries would immensely benefit.

JNU vice chancellor Dr GK Chadha said that whatever might be the political difference between the two countries, academic relations should continue. He said that next round of such discussions would be held in Beijing. He said that Indian rural sector had to learn a lot from Chinese experience. In China, the migration from rural to urban areas is not so frequent as in India. After 1978 reform process, the commune system of farming was replaced by small household farming and there has been an increase in non-farm rural activities. In fact, the entire rural economy in China has achieved a developed stage.

Inaugurating the seminar, former Union finance minister and the leader of the Opposition in the Upper House of the Parliament Dr Manmohan

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Singh lamented the situation where the contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) by Indian farm sector had declined from 55 per cent in 1951 to 25 per cent at present while the workforce in the sector still remained high at 62 per cent. This shows low income for majority of farmers. He also regretted declining investment in the farm sector. He called for reforms in rural marketing, credit, technological upgradation and trade policy.

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The Tribune"
March 28, 2003

Farm experts to brief CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 27

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has agreed to cooperate with the Punjab Government to help it provide options on grain management, diversification of crops and subsidy rationalisation to bring the food economy of the state in tune with the WTO regime.

"Following up a last year meeting with the Chief Minister on the issues of the agriculture economy of the state, we have gathered resources to start work on diversification, grain management and subsidy regime," Dr Ashok Gulati,

Division Director, IFPRI, told The Tribune here today at the sidelines of a seminar on the issues at the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID).

A team of experts from the IFPRI led by its Director-General, Dr Joachim Von Braun, Division Director, Dr Peter Hazzel, Dr Gulati and a Chinese expert and senior research fellow, Dr Shanggen Fan, will meet the Chief Minister to inform him about the preparedness of the international body.

Dr Gulati informed that the response of the institute has followed a request from the Chief Minister last year.

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Why agricultural subsidies don't work

SURINDER SUD

shackling it from needless controls and curbs.

Gulati's present book, co-authored with his colleague at the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute, Sudha Narayanan, attempts to put a final stamp of authenticity to his argument through much deeper analysis of the various facets of support to agriculture. On the face of it, such a bid would appear to be an endorsement of farm subsidies. In the present form, it is actually far from it. The book does not condone doling out sops for political reasons but, instead, builds a case for meaningful reforms in the subsidies regime as well. Indeed, it deals with this rather complicated subject quite comprehensively and lucidly, supported with adequate data and illustrations.

The most significant of the large number of policy imperatives suggested by the authors,

Ashok Gulati and Sudha Narayanan
Oxford University Press

Pages: 297

Price: Rs 645

THE SUBSIDY SYNDROME IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE

based on their analysis, is that the money spent on subsidies should be diverted to productive investment for greater benefits and returns. At the same time, they maintain that India should forcefully demand in international fora that the developed countries should bring down direct support to agriculture. This is necessary for Indian farm products to become price competitive in the global bazaar, as also for the domestic agricultural price structure to become more realistic against international trends.

Analysing each of the major

agricultural subsidies from various angles using a variety of statistical tools, the book manages to unravel some significant aspects that have hitherto neglected the attention they merit. For instance, among the input subsidies, while the fertiliser subsidy paid by the Centre hogs the limelight, some other subsidies involving an even larger financial outgo, albeit from the states' exchequers, are not taken so seriously. Indeed, the power subsidy is the largest in terms of magnitude (64 per cent of all the input subsidies in 1999-00). The irrigation subsidy comes at num-

ber three, accounting for 14 per cent of the total subsidy outgo with the fertiliser falling in between with a 22 per cent share.

However, the measurement of subsidies is a complex task as some subsidies cut across sectors. For instance, the losses incurred by the state power boards in supplying cheap or free power to the farm sector is made through cross-subsidisation by charging relatively higher rates from some commercial and industrial users. Similarly, part of the irrigation subsidy is actually borne by the power sector since electricity is used for running water pumps.

An interesting, though obvious, question raised, and also answered, by the authors is who benefits from these subsidies? And the answer here is on the anticipated lines. Only a fraction of the subsidy actually goes to the intended or targeted beneficiary,

the farmer. The bulk goes to either the industry (as in fertilisers) or to input supplying agencies, to cover their inefficiencies.

Arguing for the conversion of subsidies into investment, the authors assert that increasing subsidies at the expense of investment would seriously jeopardise growth in the agricultural sector. "Declining subsidies would accommodate and enable a rise in meaningful public investment in agriculture in crucial areas like irrigation and infrastructure that not only help agriculture but also promote growth, employment and equity in the economy as a whole. Investments may, in fact, be the key to mitigating the adverse impact of input subsidy reform", they maintain. To strengthen this plea, they point out that while input subsidies are covered under the amber box in the global agreement on agricultural trade and, thus, have to be pruned, investments are permissible under the green box without any compulsion for reduction.

As an agricultural economist, Ashok Gulati came into the reckoning at the national level, thanks to his contribution to the debate on agricultural subsidies that followed the signing up of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. His theory that Indian agriculture, on the whole, was taxed and not subsidised dented the pro-farmer lobby, not excluding the political parties, most of whom want to protect themselves as the farmers' messiah.

Though some people contested parts of his thesis, Gulati remained unwavering in his view and continued to collect economic evidence to prove that the net aggregate measure of support to agriculture was negative. However, he has also been pleading equally forcefully for reforms in the agriculture sector, un-