

Call for Paper
National Seminar on “Raising Agricultural Productivity and Farmers’ Incomes in Bihar”
Organized by Patliputra School of Economics, Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna,
on 17-18 December 2021

Original and unpublished research papers are invited from academicians, researchers and other stakeholders on the above theme for the seminar to be conducted in off-line mode. The main objective of the seminar would be to understand the constraints faced by the agriculture sector in Bihar and its future possibilities from the perspective of raising agricultural productivity and farmers’ incomes.

The seminar would like to deliberate on following sub-themes with reference to Bihar: (1) Enhancing Farm Productivity and Farmers’ Incomes: Options and Constraints; (2) Costs of Cultivation and Farmers’ Incomes; (3) Agricultural Risks and Crop Insurance; (4) Irrigation Development and Water Management; (4) Climate Change and Agriculture: Implications for Farmers’ Incomes; (5) Problems of Agricultural Marketing with Special Reference to Recent Interventions; (6) Rural Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Performance; (7) Institutional Credit and Agricultural Development; (8) Changing Agrarian Relations and Agricultural Development; (10) Development of the Non-Crop Sector (animal husbandry, forestry, fishery, horticulture, floriculture, etc.): Implications for Farmers’ Incomes; and (11) Evaluation of Government Schemes for Agricultural Development.

Guidelines for paper submission

1. The paper should be original, empirical and unpublished, not exceeding 10,000 words (including footnotes, charts, tables and references) and typed in MS-Word. The font should be Times New Roman with 12 font size and 1.5 spaced.
2. Papers should be based on recent data sourced from authentic sources only.
3. The plagiarism of the paper should not exceed 20%.
4. All papers shall be reviewed to ensure adequate standard and suitability for the seminar.
5. Each paper must accompany an abstract not exceeding 250 words.
6. The author’s details including name, current position, organisation, areas of specialization, email address and mobile number are to be submitted along with the paper.
7. The references, alphabetically arranged, must be complete in all respects and should appear at the end of the paper. If required, footnotes may be used and there should not be any endnote.
8. **All papers to be sent by email at the email address: pse.seminar.2021@gmail.com**
9. The expanded concept note for the seminar is provided below.
10. Persons intending to attend the seminar without presenting a paper should fill up the registration form given below and send the same to the Secretary of the seminar latest by 30th November 2021. On being considered by the seminar secretariat, they shall be invited to attend the seminar after paying registration fees.
11. **Any additional information regarding the seminar may be obtained from the coordinators / secretary of the seminar.**

Last date of submission of full paper and abstract: 27th November 2021 (up to 5.00 P.M.)

Communication to accepted paper-writers: The acceptance of the paper shall be communicated latest by 5th December 2021

Travel and Accommodation: Modest accommodation shall be arranged, if required, for accepted paper-writers. Limited travel support (AC 3-tier in train) might be provided to the accepted paper-writers from outside Bihar only, subject to availability of funds.

Registration Fee: ‘Nil’ for dignitaries, invited/accepted paper-writers and session chairs, and Rs. 1000/- only (without accommodation) for other participants to be paid in cash at the time of registration.

Publication: The papers to be presented in the seminar might be published in an edited volume by an internationally reputed publisher after necessary revisions and final refereeing by the publisher.

Seminar Secretariat:

Chairman: Prof. Sankar Kumar Bhaumik, Director, Patliputra School of Economics [Email: director.pse.aku@gmail.com]

Coordinators: Mr. Saad Ashgar Moeeni [Email: smoeeni@gmail.com; Mobiles: 7536067643; 8434724401]

Mr. Sneh Srivastava [Email: snehshri01@gmail.com; Mobile: 8340272182]

Secretary: Ms. Neha Kumari, [Email: nehasinha0326@gmail.com; Mobile: 9142872940]

Venue of the Seminar: Patliputra School of Economics, Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna

Concept Note

Two-Day National Seminar on

Raising Agricultural Productivity and Farmers' Incomes in Bihar

Organised by Patliputra School of Economics, Aryabhata Knowledge University,
in Patna on 17-18 December, 2021

Background

Bihar's remarkable turnaround in economic performance during past fifteen years or so, as revealed by very high growth rates of both the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) and per capita NSDP, has deservedly received wide attention and acclaim of the researchers and policy-makers. Nevertheless, Bihar continues as one of the poorest states of India. The available data show that the per capita NSDP in Bihar in 2018-19 remained not only just about one-third of the per capita NNP at the all-India level but also the lowest among all states. Similarly, in the same year, as per the PLFS survey, Bihar recorded the highest rates of both rural and total (rural plus urban) unemployment rates (US-Adj.) among 22 major states of India (the unemployment rates both in rural and all areas of Bihar have been 10.2 per cent as against 5.0 per cent in rural India and 5.8 per cent in all-India). It is thus quite natural that Bihar continues to be clubbed with the group of states in India that have relatively high incidence and depth of poverty. Of course, poverty in Bihar has, by and large, been a rural phenomenon with more than 80 per cent of poor in the state belonging to the rural areas.

In the above scenario, development of rural areas in general, and that of agriculture and its allied sectors in particular, holds the key towards economic development of the state as well as well-being of vast majority of its population. Given the fact that, as elsewhere in the country, both the manufacturing and high-end services sectors have not been able to generate enough jobs for the unemployed persons in Bihar, the development of agriculture and its allied sectors received due attention in recent years from the state government. An important testimony towards the state government's initiatives in this direction is the implementation of three 'Agriculture Roadmaps' since 2008. The thrusts of these roadmaps have been to attain a 'rainbow revolution' with simultaneous development of crop- cultivation sector, horticulture, forestry, fishery, dairy, etc., besides giving emphasis towards attainment of food and nutrition security, increasing farmers' income, and promoting organic farming.

Consequent upon implementation of the roadmaps, agricultural performance in Bihar improved. While annual growth of NSDP accruing from agriculture and allied sectors during the pre-agriculture roadmap period (2001- 2008) has been about 2.0 per cent, the same during the First Agriculture Roadmap (2008-2012) period increased to 3.1 per cent (Kannan and Pohit, 2019). However, such a growth momentum could not be sustained post-2012 thereby raising the question of stability of agricultural growth in the state. Further, Bihar lagged far behind with regard to the yield levels of its most important crops (e.g., rice and wheat), compared to the major states of India producing those crops. This is not unusual given the fact that almost three-fourths of the areas of North Bihar are flood-affected while about one-third of areas in South Bihar is drought-prone that necessitated more vigorous intervention by the government for establishment of sound infrastructure in the rural areas for the benefit of the farmers (e.g., irrigation from major and medium projects, water harvesting, marketing infrastructure, rural electrification, surfaced roads, etc.). Some recent studies have shown that although the farmers in Bihar have been dynamic enough towards adoption of modern agricultural inputs and technologies (irrigation, fertilisers, certified seeds, power tillers, etc.) and there has been significant rise in private investment in agriculture in recent years, yet they have suffered on multiple fronts (Hoda, Rajkhowa and Gulati, 2017). For instance, the crop-sector in Bihar is not yet diversified with nearly 70 per cent of gross cropped areas being occupied by three crops that are rice, wheat and maize. Of course, in recent years, the state witnessed significant growth of area and output of the horticulture sector. However, due to poor marketing infrastructure, the farmers engaged in cultivation of both the food grains and horticultural crops have suffered.

Another important missing link towards development of agriculture and raising farmers' income in Bihar is almost complete absence of insurance mechanisms to protect them from weather and price risks and uncertainties of agricultural production. The vast majority of the farmers couldn't avail the benefit of MSP because of inadequate procurement operations, and there existed a large gap between the price at which farmer sell their crop immediately after harvest and the MSP. The same story continues with regard to implementation of crop-insurance scheme. There are also imperfections in the functioning of land and credit markets. With more than 90 per cent of operational holdings in the state falling under the 'marginal' category and the average size of holding being a meagre 0.39 ha (in 2015-16), the viability of the small-farming regime in rural Bihar becomes a serious issue that could not be addressed by the market forces alone. Of course, this fact is recognised by the state government as evident from various policy interventions, especially in recent years. But then to what extent agricultural sector in the State has been responding to such initiatives to raise agriculture productivity and farmers' incomes emerges as an issue for serious research scrutiny.

Objective of the Seminar

As against above background, the main objective of this seminar would be to understand the constraints faced by the agriculture sector in Bihar and its future possibilities from the perspective of raising agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes.

Sub-Themes

The papers for the seminar are invited preferably on following sub-themes:

1. Enhancing Farm Productivity and Farmers' Incomes in Bihar: Options and Constraints
2. Costs of Cultivation and Farmers' Incomes in Bihar
3. Agricultural Risks and Crop Insurance in Bihar
4. Irrigation Development and Water Management for Agriculture in Bihar
5. Climate Change and Agriculture: Implications for Incomes of Farmers in Bihar
6. Problems of Agricultural Marketing in Bihar with Special Reference to Recent Interventions
7. Rural Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Performance in Bihar
8. Institutional Credit and Agricultural Development in Bihar
9. Changing Agrarian Relations and Agricultural Development in Bihar
10. Non-Crop Sector (animal husbandry, forestry, fishery, horticulture, floriculture, etc.) in Bihar: Implications for Farmers' Incomes
11. Evaluation of Government Schemes for Agricultural Development in Bihar

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Registration Form

1. Name:
2. Present Position:
3. Postal Address:
4. Email address:
5. Mobile Number:
6. Areas of Research Interest: