

## Editorial

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Agriculture and the food sector in India face huge challenges such as those related to demand–supply gap, occasional food shortages, rising commodity prices, post-harvest losses, food safety and quality, farmers' access to market information, and ensuring better price to farmers. Pressures on the system arise from both ends of the supply chain — production as well as market side. Rising incomes, consumers' demand for safe and quality food, and increasing demand for fresh fruits and vegetables are issues that need to be considered.

Today, it is well known that climate change is likely to pose a challenge to the food system resulting in resource scarcity, changes in crop acreage, production and productivity, land use pattern, and livelihood diversification. This can further put pressure on the marketing system, resulting in price distortions and hence threatening food and nutritional security, especially for the poor. In spite of a number of initiatives — in addition to the government aiming to bring a second Green Revolution in the country — Indian agriculture is yet to realize its full potential in both domestic as well as international markets. The Journal of Resources, Energy and Development (JREaD) invited contributions for the special issue focused on 'Agriculture and Food Security in India' with the aim to publish interdisciplinary papers related to the current challenges facing the sector.

The first paper titled 'Projections of Foodgrain Production and Demand in India: A Synthesis' has been written by Vishal Thorat and Smita Sirohi. The paper synthesizes empirical evidence on demand and supply projections of food grains in 2020 and concludes that the supply–demand balance would not be very comfortable in the country in the near future. The review indicates that while, the supply projections are fairly in consonance with the recent production trends, the variability in demand estimates is very large. Therefore, if the realized demand is actually on the higher end of the projections, there would be shortage of food grains in the country. The authors caution that the brunt of food shortages, if any, will have to be borne more heavily by the economically weaker sections.

In the second article, 'Agricultural Transformation and Food Security in India: Lessons for Southeast Asia', the author, Reshmi Banerjee, seeks to first look at agricultural transformation in India with reference to food availability, accessibility, and government initiatives. The author opines that the experiences of India can be a learning lesson for other countries in South East Asia which are not only struggling to

increase food production and its accessibility for all people, but are also concerned about food safety, nutrition, and environmental impact of their food consumption.

The third paper by Poornima Varma in the issue is entitled 'India's Marginal Intra Industry Trade in Selected Agricultural and Processed Food Products: The Likely Implications on Adjustment Costs and Food Security'. In this article, the author analyses the structure of India's agricultural trade, especially after the introduction of trade liberalization and its implications on adjustment costs and food security.

The study makes use of data from the Harmonised System (HS) of classification of trade data available in World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) database for the period of 1997–2011. Additionally, it also makes use of the Marginal Intra Industry Trade (MIIT) index developed by Brülhart (1994) to find that selected agricultural and processed food products mainly exhibit inter-industry trade structure. The study also noted an emergence of new pattern of demand on tropical agricultural products in developed countries.

The final paper 'Strengthening Bilateral Trade Relations between India and Iran: Opportunities in Livestock Sector', by Massoumeh A Zadeh et al., identify potential tradable commodities between India and Iran with the help of trade data for the period 1997–2010. In comparison to the top three suppliers of frozen bovine meat to Iran, the authors find that India can be more price competitive than other suppliers in the Iranian markets. On the Iranian exports side too, the authors observed that for products such as tanned or crust hides and skins of bovine/equine animals, in terms of price realization, the Indian markets were more attractive for Iran than Turkey and Italy. The authors further recommend that initiatives such as increasing the exportable surplus, improving transportation infrastructure, and regional trade agreement with West Asian countries could be few important options for India for strengthening its trade ties with Iran for the livestock sector.

Through this note, we would also like to thank all the contributors and reviewers for this special issue and are sure that readers would find this issue useful.