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REPORT
International Seminar on Agrarian Situation and
Recent Rural Policies in India and China

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The inaugural session of two days international seminar began with Professor Muchkund Dubey's greetings to the participants. Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi chaired the session and his remarks emphasised on the importance of the seminar. Following him, Professor Manoranjan Mohanty, Distinguished Professor, CSD, New Delhi and Professor Kalpana Kannabiran, Regional Director, CSD, Hyderabad made their welcome remarks and highlighted the importance of theme discussed in the seminar. While introducing the Chinese delegation, Prof. Mohanty highlighted the importance of bringing multiple streams of scholars together– the Shanghai and Wuxi groups from China, CSD Delhi and Hyderabad groups and Institute of Chinese Studies from India. As he pointed out, it enables multidisciplinary approach having expertise in agriculture (economics of production), social (political economy of land reforms), political (panchayati raj, gender, labour environment) and rural studies. Prof Mohanty emphasised its importance in a context where both India and China face rural crisis which has not received attention of even forums like BRICS. They emphasise on issues like terrorism, business opportunities but ignore issues like inequalities between rural and urban, unrest in urban areas or the agricultural crisis. Representing the Chinese delegation, Professor Zhang Lanying, Rural Studies Institute, Chongqing shared remarks and pleasure in having the entire Chinese delegation present. While recognising the differences and similarities of both countries, she highlighted the scope of studies on rural transition in Indian and China. Following this, Professor M. Channa Basavaiah, Honorary Director, ICSSR- Southern Regional Centre, Hyderabad addressed the audience and made his remarks on importance of comparing rural and agrarian situations in both countries as covered in the seminar.

This was followed by the inaugural address of Professor T. Haque on '*Challenges of Agriculture and Rural Development in India and China*'. Prof. Haque provided a detailed overview of political history, agrarian structure and rural development that experienced in India

and China. In the case of China, Prof Haque identifies land reforms, agricultural marketing reforms, agricultural trade liberalization, and other reforms which included liberate food grain marketing system by phasing out state procurement system, zero level of agricultural tax, population control policies, liberalization of fertilizer prices and trade and large scale adoption of hybrid technology for increased production and productivity as the key drivers of agricultural growth. In case of India, land reforms have not been impressive; but the Green Revolution with its hybrid seeds, use of chemical fertilizer and irrigation led to self-sufficiency in food grains. In addition, there has been little impact of agricultural marketing and trade reforms. Both countries face some common challenges like low per-capita net incomes, growing inequalities, un-remunerative farming, un-scientific use of fertilizers and pesticides, deterioration of soil and water quality and large scale emission of carbon dioxide and slow growth in non-farm employment, high costs of education and low quality, poor infrastructure in the sector of health.

Professor D. Narasimha Reddy's keynote address on '*Agrarian Situation and Rural Transformation: Towards a Policy Framework in the Alternative Transitional Context of India*' emphasised on contextualising the structure of the Indian economy especially the agricultural sector to understand the transitions that take place within the country. Given the divergence in the structures of agricultural economy of India and China, it would be futile to attempt a comparison. In India, the land relations are complex; caste continues to play the central role in determining access to and use of land. The structural change in China has been driven by shift from agriculture to industry (in terms of GDP) while in case of India the transition has been from agriculture to services (in terms of GDP, but employment percentage in agriculture remained more or less the same). India accounts for one fourth of world's population and second largest urban population but agriculture remains predominantly small peasant farm production. Structurally, the agrarian sector was predominantly still rural and small-marginal farmer centric. However, one should note that large capitalists in agriculture leading to extensive commodification of agricultural goods. With small and marginal farmers who face distress at the end of one spectrum, we have a very thin crust of rich farmers who prosper through speculative land dealing, money lending, commodity trading, contracts and political gate keeping. Moreover, larger the size of the landholding, greater has been the access to institutional credit. In other words, public policies were incommensurate with the structure and adhocism and knee jerk reaction has been the hallmark of agricultural policies. Thus, the alternative policy strategy to meet the transitions taking place in the economy should address the needs of the small and marginal farmer in terms of promoting productivity, creation of rural infrastructure and non-farm employment and provision of quality universal education and health facilities. In the context of seasonal, circular or temporary migration of around 13 million workers, policies should take cognisance of the rural urban continuum – the growth of small towns – which propels extensive commuting between towns.

While summing up the inaugural session, Prof. Dubey pointed out that China's shift from agriculture to industry was driven by enhanced productivity whereas India skipped

industrialisation not by design but because of the opening up of markets in 1990s. India could not follow China in its land reforms and redistribution measures and their romantic idea of 'going back to villages' but still possible to strengthen rural areas through developmental activities. India has a contiguous presence of small towns that the entire country is an agglomeration of small towns. Thus, it is possible to think of alternatives (like Gandhiji's model of villages as a composite structure) and materialise the choice of going back to villages. The session was concluded with vote of thanks from Dr. Satyam Sunkari.

Professor E. Revathi chaired the first technical session which started with paper presented by Professor. K.B. Saxena, on '**Market Oriented Land Reforms: Recent Developments**'. The presentation discussed the land reforms and redistribution of land from the poor to the markets or corporate and linked with regulation of private ownership and operations. In India, an agrarian economy with scarce and unequally distributed land, there are compelling economic and political arguments for land reforms. A key assumption here is that some inputs, such as expanding market economy and complex agricultural conditions are influencing landholder to offer forcefully give up farming. However, there is some evidence on farm size and productivity to suggest that these facts are not purely driven by heterogeneity in farmer's motive but improper protective measures and imperfect property rights are the leading explanations for the distortions in the upholding of land. On the other hand, land reforms seem to have had a negative effect on agricultural productivity. He identifies the key features of land reform legislation in India such abolition of intermediaries who were rent collectors under the pre-Independence land revenue system; tenancy regulation that attempts to improve the contractual terms faced by tenants, including crop shares and security of tenure; a ceiling on landholdings with a view to redistributing surplus land to the landless; and finally, attempts to consolidate disparate landholdings. Given the difference between people's demand and government's capacity, Prof. Saxena suggested that developing a framework for state development and welfare should look for the possibility of reducing the conflict.

The second paper entitled '**Agrarian Situation in China: History, Challenge and Recent Rural Policies**' was presented by Professor Zhou Li. While looking at the relationship between current state of land ownership rights and agricultural efficiency in China, he presented the prospects for further achievements to production and its relations through government's response in terms of China's food production and population as food per capita doubled. Prof. Li provided an overview of land use and liberalized land use reforms. While summing up, he identified challenges in achieving agricultural efficiency, sustaining economic growth, especially in agriculture, and issues related to income distribution system, powerful political party, effective organizing and mobilizing ability of government and tradition of diligence and thrift etc. which hinder the progress and reform process in China.

The last paper of the session was presented by Professor Suman Chandra, on '**Agrarian Situation in Maharashtra, Punjab and Kerala**'. While looking at the slow growth of agriculture sector during last couple of decades he highlighted its impact on food and income security.

Structural analysis suggests that the productivity vary across the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. Share of agriculture in National GDP has been drastically reduced to 14 percent at present; however, more than 80% of the farmers, mostly marginal and small holders depend on agriculture as the primary activity and are highly vulnerable to multiple risks. He linked the capital flow in the sector with decline of capital formation among the marginal farmers, lack of (public as well as private) investments in marginal farming. Apart from these, adverse terms of trade and falling return-cost ratios are major setbacks among other issues in the sector. While concluding, he highlighted the importance of supporting small and marginal farmers through appropriate price policy for inputs and produce, basic infrastructure such as rural roads, market yards, cold storages etc. and appropriate budgetary provision towards such interventions. Following the discussion, Prof. Revathi shared her remarks and concluded the session.

The second technical session consisting three papers was chaired by Professor Zhou Li. The first paper on '***Agrarian Situation in Telangana State***' was presented by Professor E. Revathi. She described the historical background in which social, economic and political factors that led to formation of Telangana state. The agricultural transformation is followed with declining share of agriculture in GSDP. Agrarian structure is dominated by marginal and small farmers. Irrigation remains as a major constraint for agricultural development. Compared to good agricultural growth, farmers' incomes remains low; it may be linked to the imperfect input and output markets; high cost of cultivation; weak bargaining power of marginal and small farmers. As livelihood diversification and crop diversification influence farmers' income, low productivity make farmer looking for non-farm jobs. More marginal and small farmers tend to depend on informal credit (with high rate of interest). Farmers' indebtedness and poverty remain high among the rural agricultural households.

The second paper on '***Farmland fragmentation in Rural China: A Brief Review on the Situation, Reasons, Impacts and Possible Solutions***' presented by Professor Huang Yuqin described the problems of farmland fragmentation in China. Though the rural households have right to manage 1.25 acres, the average size of area per holding in china remains low as 0.22 acres. This can be attributed to natural, social and institutional factors. In the natural front, one may identify the scarcity, unequal distribution of farmland in different geographical configurations with more in mountains, hills and highlands, less in plains and basins and frequent natural disasters. The social factors include the division of farmland among sons, trend of nuclear family and rise of non-farming opportunities. At one hand, farmland fragmentation boosts diversified planting, facilitate rational allocation and make full use of surplus rural labour force. On the other hand, it leads to high costs, reducing benefits from applying cost reducing and/or more productive techniques, therefore, potentially decreasing the productivity; potentially refraining the rise of income of rural households.

Professor S. Indrakant presented the third paper on '***Emerging Agricultural Issues in Andhra Pradesh, Post-Reorganisation***'. During the last two decades, the economy experienced a satisfactory growth rate. The fact that the shift noticed in sectoral distribution of workers does

not follow the shift that took place in sectoral income distribution reflects the lack of inclusiveness in the growth experience by the economy. In Andhra Pradesh, marginal and small farmers account for about 86 percent. The practice of leasing-out land is predominant in coastal region. Most of the tenants are either landless or marginal and small farmers and prefer fixed rent instead of a share in the crop. Wide inter-regional differences are observed in the cropping pattern. Major sources of irrigation in north and south coastal regions are Canals and Tanks, while Rayalaseema region heavily depends upon well irrigation. Thus it is emphasised that that agro-climatic regions of Andhra Pradesh are important to be borne in mind while formulating agriculture policies. The new State of Andhra Pradesh has encountered many challenges to make growth of agriculture sector sustainable and inclusive. Some of the important issues are; making market and credit facilities more accessible to small and marginal farmers; safeguarding the interest of tenant farmers; impact of new capital on agriculture sector; river water sharing and provision of uninterrupted supply of electricity.

Professor Zhang Lanying presented the fourth paper entitled '**Macro Perspectives and Micro System: Reflection on Policy and Its Implementation**'. While explaining the key agricultural policies from 1982 to 2016, the paper suggests that opportunity cost for peasants to produce grains under the market economy is much higher than generating income in the urban areas. Thus, farmers make rational choices of abandoning without tillage. This will have its impact on food security policies, social welfare and public goods. The policy changes seem to have their role in transforming the semi self-reliance grain production into market dependent grain purchase consumption practices.

The last paper '**Rural Female Workforce Participation in India**' was presented by Dr. Mondira Bhattacharya and Dr. Ankita Gupta. Women by nature take domestic household responsibilities, but such gender roles limit rural women's participation in labour markets and confine them to lower paid and more precarious employment conditions. Broadly, women's participation in the rural workforce is on the decline; female work participation rate found high in primary sector but the share remain low in secondary and tertiary sectors. Female workforce participation rate is declining possibly because rural women tend to work only during distress conditions, or perhaps they are finding work conditions unsafe or unsuitable which is a matter of grave concern.

The second day of the conference started with the third technical session chaired by Professor K.B. Saxena. The session started with Professor Manoranjan Mohanty's presentation on '**Rural-Urban Inequality in India and China: Dangerous Trends**' highlighting the central question about the geo-economic paradigm of the past two hundred years of capitalist development that categorizes spaces into rural and urban and makes urbanization the centre piece of development. He highlighted some of the long-term problems associated with this paradigm; it leads to some immediate gains, but the process eventually results in multiple inequalities, degradation of values, cultural losses, energy and environmental pressures. While re-conceptualizing the rural, we need not dismiss it as backward, or romanticize as ideal. He stressed the point that equitable life space cannot be compromised by division of people by the geographical space or tradition

they live; instead of distress or structural pressure, voluntary movements of people can happen with the support of technology of communication and production. A comparative picture of trend in inequality in India, China and the United States of America shows that the poorest people in these country account for a small share of the total income or expenditure in their respective countries while a major share is owned by the richest section of the countries. Within China, the urban-rural ration has been changing over the years. While comparing the situation in 2005 and 2010, we find falling ratio in Beijing, Gansu, and Xinjiang while Shanxi and Jiangsu experienced a growth in their urban-rural ratio. In the case of India, there are other factors such as class, caste, gender, ethnicity and religion make urban-rural inequality more complex and serious. The inequality is accompanied by other social issues like poverty, low level and quality of education, poor health conditions and access to basic amenities. Thus, equality may be brought as the central feature of development, especially when the neo liberal approaches abandon equality from the development agenda. The upsurge of groups demanding equal status, some resorting to violence, rural protest, political movements in India and China also demand for multi-dimensional approach to equality and re-conceptualising the rural as self-sustaining life space.

The second paper '*The Great Creation By Chinses Farmer: Township Enterprise*' was presented by Professor Xu Liqing. The paper explained the historical context in which the township enterprises evolved in China. Township enterprises are independent, self-sustaining market management body, buying production factors from the market, selling products to the market, participating in market competition, accepting the market test, then to become the leading force of market economy. The township enterprises were born in the 1950s, and developed in the 70 s, experienced the rapid raise in the period of reform and faced many challenges from urban-rural dual system and harsh environment of planned economy. Prof. Liqing narrated the historical experience of Wuxi, the birthplace of township enterprises and a representative of the southern Jiangsu region. The process focused on towns and realized the advantages of enterprise being concentrated. It stimulated development of infrastructure and tertiary industry, formed the new urban population agglomeration, and, in many places, the enterprise cluster, relying on professional market and scale of enterprises, formed the concentrated zone of township enterprises, promote the industrialization and urbanization. With in-depth market-oriented reform in China, China's economic structure and social conditions gradually changed from the historical conditions in which township enterprises developed. Since 1990 s, China's township enterprises gradually become company system enterprises, its relationship with local administrative leadership become weaker, and the concept of township enterprises gradually wither away. Countries like India may look at Chinese experience with the development of township enterprise to use as references for economic and social development of rural areas. Compared to China, India is a huge developing country, with more than 1 billion population, took out 'plan economic' path in the past, and bear to heavy task of development. Being the biggest democratic country (China is a socialist country with the proletariat

dictatorship), socially diverse and following unique contexts of reforms suggest that India cannot copy this model but it can follow the spirit of innovation according to the local situation.

The third paper '*Employment Guarantee Scheme in India: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction through MGNREGS*' presented by Professor Ashok Pankaj provides a historical account of various employment guarantee schemes in India and then focused the discussion on various aspects of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). India has long history of providing relief through employment under public works programme; ancient rulers, medieval kings, and colonial state adopted it as a measure to provide social security in case of drought, failure of agriculture, and other adverse conditions. In the post- independence period, the sources of public works programme lies in Gandhi's right to work based approach to development, and constitutional provisions that developed in different contexts. Prior to the MGNREGS, there were many employment programmes implemented by the central government but lacked rights-based approach and guarantee component. After describing its objectives and unique features, Prof. Pankaj focused on India's experience with its implementation. More than two million works, mostly related to water conservation and harvesting, irrigation and drought proofing, rural connectivity, etc. are completed every year. The concentration of BPL, SC, ST families and Women, landless and casual labour (where level of poverty also remain high) among beneficiaries indicates the inclusive nature of the programme. At the same time, the programme faces some difficulties such as employment generation remains short of demand, demand-driven process yet to be realized, poor enforcement of entitlements, weak local level institutions in many states, strong inter-state and intra-state variations, being loaded with too many objectives. Overall, our experience offers some theoretical and practical examples of its impact on wage, labour market and other macroeconomic indicators and learning for other countries.

The fourth paper '*Pathway of the New Urbanization in Developed Areas of China: A case Study of Eastern Wuxi District*' was presented by Professor Cao Bingru and Professor Wu Yuanyuan. They identified Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan area as three city clusters that drive urbanization process in coastal China. The Pathway of Eastern Wuxi District can be used an example to capture the new urbanization that takes place in China. The new urbanization is known for development of production integration of the city, and intensive development in the three blocks, especially industrial production of services and reducing industrial transaction costs further. The core of regional integration is the integration of regional markets, and product, labour and capital, talent, technology and other production factors can flow freely in the common market. Companies can arrange rationally the production chain to form a rational division of labour and industrial distribution in different areas in the common market. The process generated good institutional environment; the information sharing at all levels of government/public information, credit rating, and credit monitoring, ensured metro-government's transparency in administrative work. The establishment of professional market system helped economic, financial, trade, and shipping. The technology center strengthened

enterprises and operation of international unity standards of professional market. It also promoted the formation, improvement, and development of unified regional market. Coordination of landing system was managed under a unified system of law and policy in the country which formulate local policies to support the development of new towns with focus on issues related to household registration, employment, housing, education, health care and the social security system. Government guides the social capital, private capital and business capital to invest to the Metro's infrastructure, as well as in culture, education, health care, and environmental investments. Though it was appreciated from several grounds, lack of accurate assessment of planning of the new city construction, the mismatch between regional urban system and layout, underutilisation of public infrastructure resources, dependency on single channel of financing for metro construction, and slow economic growth etc. were highlighted by the critiques.

The last paper in the session entitled '*Status of Assigned Lands in Livelihood Security of Landless and Land Poor in Telangana*' was presented by Dr. L. Reddeppa. The paper highlighted the importance of land in development process; in rural areas, ownership of agriculture land has its direct bearing on the social and economic status of the family, food and livelihood security, and creditworthiness. Thus, countries with equal land distribution tend to experience higher rates of economic growth, distribution of power and equal opportunity. The land ownership may enhance the productive capacities in agriculture and provide alternate non-farm income through land-based investment mobilization. As a response to the question of landlessness in the state, Andhra Pradesh (united) government distributed the waste lands to its landless poor. Assigned land holdings are significant proportion in total operational holdings in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. The experience from newly formed Telangana state (accounts for nearly 12 % of the total area distributed through the scheme and 25% of the assigned land holders in the total operational holdings) suggests that most of the assignment land holders are landless and more than half of them are SCs and STs. The evidences suggest that making the poor as owners of the assigned land (waste land) need not be a sufficient condition to address the issue of landlessness; the poor financial condition may not allow them to develop the land as cultivable. Further, the distress conditions in terms of high cost of cultivation, yield uncertainties, and lack of remunerative prices make the farmers especially with small and marginal holdings of assigned lands also remain as a challenge. In several contexts, income from the assigned lands is very meager and not providing sustainable livelihood for majority of the households. In some places, distribution of assigned lands to the landless was followed with encroachment to commons and adversely affected the local ecological zone that leads to frequent droughts, floods, cyclones and crop losses in recent years. These evidences call for state intervention to support the transformation of farmers from agriculture to non-farm activities and recommended granting transfer rights and letting the beneficiaries to use sell their assigned land in the market as a strategy to help this process. However, the discussion led by some of the senior scholars criticized this suggestion and found very problematic. In response, the presenter agreed to revisit

findings and reconsider the suggestion to allow beneficiaries to sell the given land at the market price when they fail to develop it into cultivable land.

In the second day afternoon, Professor Zhang Lanying chaired the last technical session of the conference. The first paper entitled '*What's Wrong with the Industrial Upgrading Promoted by Government? A Study of Three Chinese Cases*' was presented by Dr. Chen Wei. While describing the development strategy of contemporary China, Dr. Wei highlighted that the availability of cheap labour helps China in keeping its industrial structure more labour intensive and ensuring competitiveness. For several years, the process of development was driven by the government support (through indigenous town village enterprises) whereas in the post-reform period, Chinese economy is driven by private and foreign enterprises. Interestingly, the state/government revised its policies accordingly and found promoting this transition through factor mobilization. In this process of structural transformation, China faces some challenges; factors of production, especially the labour, land, other raw materials have become more expensive. Addressing the welfare, environmental issues, demand for energy, and other resources required for the industrial production, the competition from its followers in the global market, and the terms of trade in the global market (exchange rate, and trade barriers) pose challenges to the Chinese economy. The long term trend in the GDP per capita shows that the country is not able to keep its two digit growth rate; after 2008, the government did not make any effort to maintain its high growth rate. This has generated many debates around it and some discussion suggests that China is about to enter the scenario of 'middle-income trap' and may use the demographic dividends to aim at sustainable growth. One side it calls for institutional reforms to revisit the institutional rigidity or partial reforms and call for industrial upgrading or transformation. Dr. Wei presented three cases of upgrading the enterprises in China to show the effect of government support to the enterprises. These three cases describe the role of government in industrial upgrading; in the first case, the company gets government support to enhance its capacity and reduce the risk. In the second case, the company wanted to go for technological upgrading but the lack of local support led to geographical transferring. In the last case, the business/economic rationality- chasing policy rents and looking for high payoffs- works out and shows the government-business relationships where the government found unable to stop the enterprise from rent-seeking (government's difficulty in mentioning due to strong personal ties).

The second paper by Dr. Ritu Agarwal on '*Che Xian, She Qu*': *Demolish the county, Construct District, Making of Landless peasants in Chenggong County, Yunnan Province , China*', described the long-term transformation as experienced in China as observed in Chenggong county of Yunnan. Dr. Agarwal compared the transition of Chenggong county into a modern city as seen today. In 2002, the county was predominantly agrarian in nature (1,27,000 farmers out of 156,000 population) known for cash crop cultivation like flowers, fruits and vegetables and early signs of commercial agrarian economy. where the Dounan flower market functioned as an important marketing centre. In 2015, Chenggong is referred as Shanghai Pudong of Yunnan and Shenzhen of Yunnan and the region has emerged as a model area for modernization of Kunming

city, large built-up spaces with multi-functioning centres. This includes splendid and magnificent local government building, high rise apartments, university town, Chenggong industrial park, development zones, Dianchi tourist resort, provincial science museum, Chenggong hospital, and Dounan flower market. Thus, the present day Chenggong offers many insights into larger patterns of transition that drive the local development in contemporary China. It also throws up many critical questions related to the process of transformation from an agrarian county into an urban district; scale and speed of rural urbanization; forming of industrial cluster like Dounan flower cluster model; agro-business firms and its impact on peasants, resettlement and relocation of peasantry. The trend suggests that land is becoming a contested space where the county government wanted to use it for urban expansion and the new agro-business management firms wanted to use it for cultivation of cash crop cultivation. Emergence of Agro-business corporate firms mediate farmers' interactions with market. It shows the changes in the production patterns from formerly scattered and isolated farmer households into specialized, coordinated and standardized production. Different strata of peasant, some of them lost their land in the process of urbanization and have become landless farmers, some have given their land to corporate firms and enter into arrangement where they work for these firms and cannot come out of these corporate arrangements. There is another category of farmers who are wage seekers in this new arrangements and while there is also an important strata of entrepreneur farmers who have this skill in market and other information capabilities and manage their independent firms on their own. Only access to land is not the only determining condition to make farmers better negotiator in this new flower industry.

The third paper, '*Agricultural Geographical Indications from India: Opportunities and Challenges for Rural Development*', jointly written by Professor N. Lalitha and Dr. Soumya Vinayan. The paper introduced the unique features of geographical indication with local examples and explained its scope in India's agriculture. As GI attracts premium, the paper identifies its promotion as an effective way to support the farmers; its uniqueness may help in creating niche market. Other factors like many varieties are identified as near extinction or becoming extinct due to human practices and biodiversity also suggests GI as a key area for supporting the agricultural advancement in the country. Till June 2016, 77 agricultural products registered (out of 272) were registered with geographical indications. Being rich in biodiversity, and naturally organic, having potential source for germplasms, logo, market potential, with consumers willingness to pay for labeled GI goods, scope for farmers involvement and limited opportunities to grow the varieties elsewhere etc. can be identified as India's strength in GI registration. Its weakness includes problems related to defining the geographical area, lack of infrastructural facilities, high cost of cultivation, lack of code of practices, limited uniqueness, truncated /limited market, absence of common GI logo, involvement of government in certain products, absence of specific body for promotion of GI products, limited reach of GI benefits and external factors promoting state initiative. India may find its opportunities in several areas like using GI recognition as a market enhancer or brand building, exploring government regulations, scope of value added products out of GI products, varieties more suitable for resource poor

regions or provide alternative to existing products, setting up of farmer producer organizations, importance of certifying and inspection agency and exploring new areas like agro-tourism. These opportunities may face threats from climatic factors, varieties becoming extinct (natural or due to human practices), reducing area due to labour and pest issues, government regulatory measures, undercutting the price, inspection body, value chain and collective organization.

The fourth paper in the session '***Increasing Agricultural Tenancy in India: Issues in Legalisations of Land Leasing***' was presented by Dr. Shankar Rao. The paper provided a historical account on Indian tenancy and its transition from old state (Raitwari) and feudal (Zamindari) system to individual/private owner based system. Within the country, the tenancy rules vary significantly; state like Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, implemented full ban on tenancy while others implemented it partially (Uttaranchal with some exceptions and West Bengal -only share crop is allowed). The long term trend in share of leased in area shows that India experience a steady decline from 1960-61 (10.7%) to 2002-03 (6.5%) but the post reform era (known for globalization and growth of non-agrarian growth) experienced a sharp increase by 2012-13 (10.1%). The long term trend in share of farm households under leased-in land during 2002- 2012 shows that there has been a marginal growth at national level (nearly 2%) while states like Gujarat, Punjab, Assam, Kerala, Telangana, Andhrapradesh experienced a sharp increase in their shares. The trend in the share of area under Leased-in land shows that Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Telangana experienced noticeable growth in their shares. There seems to be no implicit relation between the law banning the tenancy and the ground level real picture in tenancy banned states of Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (only share crop is allowed). The information about the farm size and the social status tenants suggests that they are largely marginal and small farmers who are mostly from OBCs and Scheduled Caste (SC) category who also share majority of leased-in area. In the case of registration, TamilNadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Telangana are relatively experience higher tenancy registration. Tenant farmers face many issues; informal lease does not allow them to access institutional supports or state subsidized inputs and the same may be connected to the questions on efficiency, equity and sustainability of tenant farmer. These factors demand for legalization of agricultural tenancy and forming of the expert Committee by NITI Aayog to draft a 'Model Land Leasing Act'. The Act aims to improve agricultural efficiency and equity, access to land by the landless and semi-landless poor and occupational diversity and for accelerated rural growth and transformation. Regarding the act, Dr. Rao shared his concerns about not fixing the limit on lease period and lease amount on the ground that complete deregulations of land lease may adversely affect small farmer tenants.

The last paper on '***Mining Closure and the Issues of Livelihood: A Comparative Picture of India and China***' was presented by Dr. Sujit Kumar Mishra. The paper highlighted issues related to the mining closure linked with the deposit/seam/lode becomes unworkable; low prices of minerals/metals, weak market condition, other low grade of mineral makes operations

uneconomic; the mine becomes unsafe; and the refusal of renewal of the mining lease or the company's loss of interest in mining. Permanent closure happens either due to depletion of deposit or unsafe to mining whereas temporary closure is a result of heavy fall in the prices of minerals or weak market conditions and thus making the investors expect a situation change. The cost of temporary closure is less than that of permanent closure. Globally, mining communities face issues related to health, water, air and sound pollution, reduction in agricultural production, displacement, accident and damage to their houses. The experience of India (Sundargarh district of Odisha), suggests that agriculture dependent villages had plenty of derived-livelihood options provided by the local economy. During the mining period, mining communities have livelihood options from agriculture and allied activities, daily wage worker, milk business, tailoring, carpentry, vegetable business, rice business, poultry firm, providing water in the gardens of mining employees, grocery shop, gupchup business, hotel, mistry, pan shop, saloon, and mumura business. Whereas in the post closure period, their livelihood options found limited as agriculture and allied activities, daily wage worker. In the post-closure period, the mining workers depend on agriculture and allied activities, unskilled wage work on daily basis, business, migration to other states. Effective mining closure activity involves adequate and sufficient provisions to maintain the livelihood of the people in a sustainable way. Institutional mechanisms should be developed and implemented in a sustainable manner at the government and company level to mitigate the effects of mining closure on the community. In the case of accidents, China found extending fair and timely support and compensation to the victims while the mechanism found very weak in India.

Following a brief concluding remarks made by the chair, the session moved to the concluding session. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Mohanty reflected on the papers discussed in the seminar and suggested that the insights widened our understanding and interests in comparing the rural and agrarian policies that drive the larger pattern of transition in India and China. He also emphasised on the importance of continuing the institutional and academic collaboration between the participating organisations and shared his expectation to revise the papers presented to conceive as an interesting book. Following this, Prof. Kalpana Kannabiran also made a brief remark highlighting the importance of continuing the academic engagement on themes discussed in the seminar. Both Prof. Mohanty and Prof. Kannabiran congratulated the local organising team and Chinese delegates for their participation. In response, Prof. Zhou Li represented the Chinese delegation and emphasised the earlier proposals and reciprocated. On behalf of the organising team, Dr. Mishra concluded the session with vote of thanks to participants, supporters and other team members.
