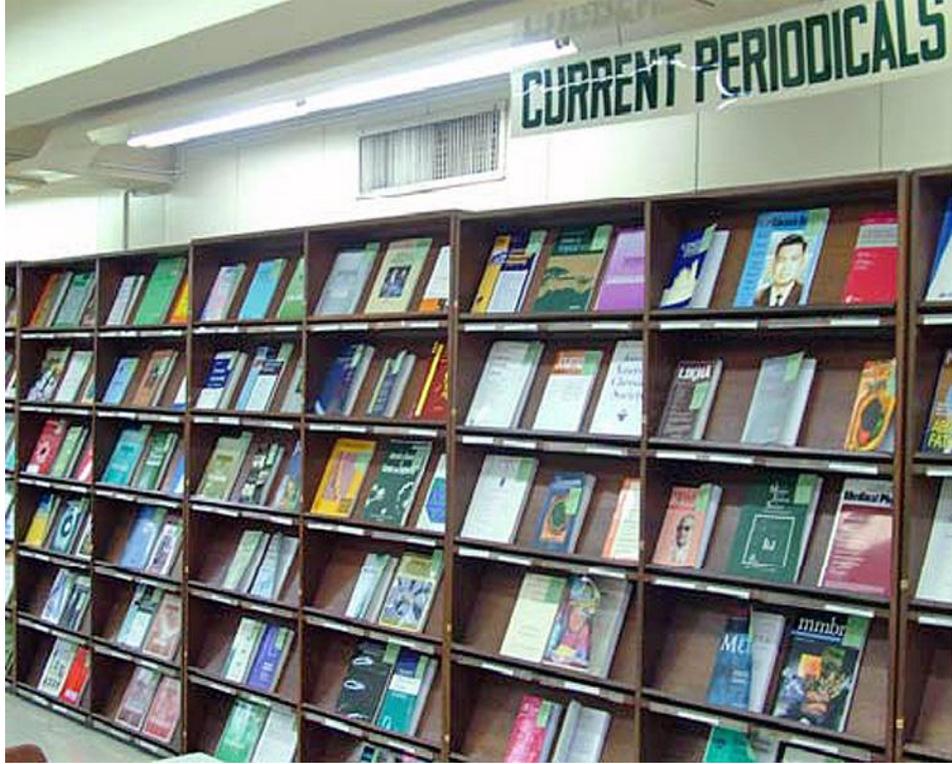




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CONTENTS

AGRICULTURE	1-3
CLIMATE CHANGE	4
ECONOMICS	5
EMPLOYMENT	6-7
ENVIRONMENT	8
GENDER EQUALITY	9
GOVERNANCE	10
HEALTH	11-13
PENSION	14
RURAL DEVELOPMENT	15
SOCIAL SECURITY	16-18

AGRICULTURE

- 1 Gaitán-Cremaschi, Daniel; Meuwissen, Miranda P.M.
Total factor productivity: A framework for measuring agri-food supply chain performance towards sustainability.
APPLIED ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES AND POLICY, 39(2), 2017(June): 259-285

Sustainable agricultural commodities should be favored in international trade negotiations to meet the growing demand for food in a context of environmental conservation, population growth, and globalization. There is a need for a metric that allows for the differentiation of traded agricultural commodities according to how sustainably they were produced. In this context, this paper develops two single metrics, based on a Total Factor Productivity indexing approach, for benchmarking products in terms of their sustainability performance. Both metrics are adjusted to internalize the social and environmental externalities of food production, and to account for the sustainability effects of stages along agri-food supply chains. Key aspects such as data availability, the selection of variables, and the selection of sustainability standards and targets are discussed.

** AGRICULTURE.

- 2 Tripathi, Amarnath and Mishra, Ashok K
Farmers need more help to adapt to climate change.
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(24), 2017(17th June): 53-58

This study addresses an issue that has been widely discussed among policymakers-farmers perception of climate change and their adaptation to it. Information collected from medium, small and marginal farmers in eastern Uttar Pradesh is compared with climatic and agricultural data. The results reveal that farmers are aware of long-term changes in the weather pattern and change their practices to deal with socio-economic changes. Yet, most of them do not see these changes as constituting what academics refer to as "climate change."

** AGRICULTURE.

- 3 Nandi, Ravi; Gowdru, Nithya Vishwanath and Bokelmann
Factors Influencing smallholder farmers in supplying organic fruits and vegetables to supermarket supply chains in Karnataka, India: A transaction cost approach.
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RURAL MANAGEMENT, 13(1), 2017 (April): 85-107

Organic farmers are facing problems in finding the right buyers, resulting in high transaction costs (TCs). This study considers the integration of smallholder organic farmers in vertically coordinated supply chains and factors influencing them. The article draws transaction costs economics (TCE) to develop a model explaining potential TC attributes influencing farmer's decision to participate in supermarket supply chains (SMSC) compared to spot market (SM) in Karnataka, India. This article uses data collected from 127 smallholder organic farmers through face-to-face interviews to identify factors that significantly influence the farmer's

decision. A binary logistic regression model was employed within the TC framework. Seven TC attributes were evaluated on farmer's decision. The results revealed that farmers have a strong marketing preference towards SMSC. Attributes such as pre arranging price, quantity, frequency, and access to market information and finance have significant positive influence on farmer's decision to participate in SMSC. However, attribute payment mechanism has a negative influence. Furthermore, there are significant differences between SMSC and SM supplying groups with reference to variables distance to the market, the general state of the road and age. The results have a policy and managerial implication towards the development of organic food market in the Karnataka state, India.

** AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

CLIMATE CHANGE

- 4 Thompson, Wyatt; Gerlt, Scott; Campbell, J. Elliott
A cost of tractability? Estimating climate change impacts
Using a Single crop Market Understates Impacts on Market Conditions and variability.
APPLIED ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES AND POLICY, 39(2), 2017 (June): 346-362

Scientists estimate that U.S. Corn Belt crop yields will increase or decrease, on average, and become more variable with climate change. Corn and soybean farming dominates this region, but studies typically do not assess the joint impact of new distributions of corn and soybean yields on markets. We use a structural economic model with projections of climate-driven yield changes to simulate these effects. Our findings suggest that a narrow focus on a single crop in this key growing region risks underestimating the impact on price distributions and average crop receipts, and can lead to incorrect signs on estimated impacts.

** CLIMATE CHANGE.

ECONOMICS

- 5 Kumar, Arun and Verma, Akur
What do we know about Remonetisation?: Analysis of available data till April 2017
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(24), 2017(17th June): 18-19

An analysis of publicly available data suggests that 98.8% of demonetised currency was returned to the Reserve Bank of India by 13 January 2017. The data suggests a sharp slowdown in the remonetisation process in mid-December 2016, which reached only 80% of what was demonetised by the end of April. Clearly, remonetisation has been far too slow, and its consequences on the informal economy, though invisible to official data, are a matter of serious economic, political and social concern.

** ECONOMICS.

EMPLOYMENT

- 6 Bhattacharjee, Govind
 [MGNREGA as distribution of dole.](#)
 ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(25-26), 2017(24th June-1st July): 29-33

According to the evidence presented in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and studies elsewhere, 11 years of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act have not been able to make much of a dent in rural poverty. This article also suggests some innovative ways to help improve the outcome of the scheme.

** EMPLOYMENT.

- 7 Srivastava, Khyati and Sahani, Vidushi
 [Systemic reforms in MGNREGS.](#)
 YOJANA, 61, 2017(July): 69-73

To alleviate farmer distress the government has initiated several social protection measures to improve agricultural productivity besides securing rural livelihood and infrastructure development in general. These include, Fasal Bima Yojana, Loan-waivers, interest-free loans, etc securing basic livelihood of farmers and other schemes like soil health card, nee, coated urea to improve farm productivity.

** EMPLOYMENT.

ENVIRONMENT

- 8 Claassen, Roger; Langpap, Christian and Wu, Jun J
 [Impacts of federal crop insurance on land use and environmental quality.](#)
 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, 99(3), 2017 (April): 592-608

This article integrates economic and biophysical models to assess how federal crop revenue insurance programs affect land use, cropping systems, and environmental quality in the U.S. Corn Belt region. The empirical framework includes econometric models that predict land conversion and crop choices at the parcel level based on expectation and variance of crop revenues, land quality, climate conditions, and physical characteristics at each site. The predictions are then combined with site-specific environmental production functions to determine the effect of revenue insurance on nitrate runoff and leaching, soil water and wind erosion, and carbon sequestration. Results suggest that federal crop insurance has, on average, a small effect on conversions of non-cropland to cropland, and somewhat more significant impacts on crop choice and crop rotation. These changes in cropping systems have, on average, small impacts on agricultural pollution.

** ENVIRONMENT.

GENDER EQUALITY

- 9 Natasha S K, Parasuraman, S
[Gender \(In\)justice across spheres - women, men and work in Vidarbha.](#)
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(27), 2017(8th July): 68- 75

Based on the findings of a time-use survey conducted in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, this article attempts to interrogate how unequal perceptions of the working status of equally occupied women and men may serve to reproduce inequalities that seep back into existing gender relations, maintaining the unequal status quo. Drawing from an example of a remedial public works scheme, it further attempts to demonstrate how state institutions can play a role in altering unequal conditions of and access to work to reverse unequal perceptions of work, thereby providing a beginning for a more 'just' labour regime.

** GENDER EQUALITY.

GOVERNANCE

- 10 Gandhi, Sahil and Pethe, Abhay
[Emerging challenges of metropolitan governance in India.](#)
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(27), 2017(8th July): 55-64

Metropolitan regions are primary drivers of the economy and their governance is of crucial importance to harness their full potential. Metropolitan governance in India is akin to a one-tier fragmented system with limited coordination. This article discusses issues pertaining to metropolitan governance in India by looking at metropolitan-level transportation, regional planning, and metropolitan finances. It argues that the current metropolitan governance structure, such as it is in India, is suboptimal and requires a serious rethink and discusses some of the institutional responses that have emerged given the existing situation. It also suggests short-, medium- and long-term reforms, which would lead to an improved metropolitan system, and recommends that, in the long run, it would be better to have a two-tier metropolitan governance system in India.

** METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE.

HEALTH

- 11 Prabhu, K. Seetha
[Health for All.](#)
YOJANA, 61, 2017(July): 20-23

The article discusses the health security scenario in India. The author has opined that India's new National Health Policy 2017 signifies a paradigm shift in government policy towards comprehensive primary health care and is significant for two reasons: firstly, it defines health in terms of wellness rather than as absence of disease and secondly, it brings focus back on primary care and accords a key role to the public sector.

** HEALTH.

- 12 Sharma, Jyoti
Maternal and child healthcare in Rural India.
KURUKSHETRA, 65(9), 2017(July): 13-17

The initiative launched under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been focused on availability of health care services across all level of health care facilities. Large numbers of community health workers (ASHAs) have huge potential for expanding coverage of community based interventions, which can be facilitated and monitored by Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC). Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) can promote delivery of outreach services in an integrated manner. JSY and JSSK schemes facilitates institutional deliveries and this gives an opportunity for sick newborns to access care, while IPHS (Indian Public health Standards) have a potential to significantly improve the quality of facility based care.

** HEALTH.

- 13 Srinivas, V.
Health care for all: The national health policy 2017
KURUKSHETRA, 65(9), 2017(July): 8-11

The National Health Mission (NHM) sought to revitalize rural and urban health sectors by providing flexible finances to State Governments. The National Health Mission comprises of 4 components namely the National Rural Health Mission, the National Urban Health Mission, Tertiary care Programs and Human Resources for Health and Medical Education. The National Health Mission represents India's endeavour to expand the focus of health services beyond Reproductive and Child Health, so as to address the double burden of Communicable and Non - Communicable diseases as also improve the infrastructure facilities at District and Dub-District Levels.

** HEALTH

PENSION

- 14 Rajasekhar, D, Kesavan, Santosh and Manjula, R
Are our contributory pension schemes failing the poor?
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(27), 2017(8th July):77-84

The issue of old age income security in India assumes significance in view of the expected rise in the incidence of elderly population in the years to come, problems of poverty and vulnerability among them and their limited coverage by the existing old-age pension schemes. Schemes aiming to promote contributions from the poor unorganised workers for their old age security have been promoted by the government since 2010. By comparing and contrasting the design features of India's two contributory pension schemes, National Pension System Lite and Atal Pension Yojana, and discussing the strengths and limitations of each of these schemes in addressing the needs of low-income workers with the help of available data and studies, we argue that the design features of these schemes are such that they fail to take the specific characteristics of unorganised worker households into account.

We also discuss how the current design of contributory social security schemes can be improved to meet the pension requirements of unorganised workers.

** PENSION

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- 15 Das, Daisy; Goswami, Kishor and Hazarika, Atanu
Who adopts biogas in Rural India? Evidence from a Nationwide survey.
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RURAL MANAGEMENT, 13(1), 2017 (April): 54-70

Biogas is a viable alternative for supplying clean and sustainable energy. Despite all manner of policy measures introduced by the Government of India, biogas is not widely used in India. This article tries to identify factors that influence the decision to adopt biogas at household level. We examine a conceptual framework empirically in which a household wants to maximize utility from biogas by using the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) I, which is a nationally representative, multi-topic survey. By applying both maximum likelihood and penalized likelihood methods (Firthlogit) of logistic regression on a sample size of almost 10,384 households, it has been found that wealthy people are more likely to adopt biogas compared to the marginalized section of the society. We recommend more inclusive policy measures for the weaker section of the society to create an enabling environment to make it a self-promoting technology.

** RURAL INDIA.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- 16 Bhatta, Kiran
Nurturing a healthy learning environment.
YOJANA, 61, 2017(July): 55-58

Typically, social security provisions for education include enabling conditions for children from socially and economically deprived families to come to school and persist through the education cycle. These range from making schools physically available closer to habitations, scholarship and other forms of financial incentives, school meals, school health plans and other programmes of support for children from first generation learner families. The midday meal programme however, is perhaps the most widely acknowledged best-run social security programme of the government of India.

** SOCIAL SECURITY.

- 17 Ghosh, Nilabja
Securing farmer's welfare: Reality to vision.
YOJANA, 61, 2017(July): 33-36

For years, farmer's income security was driven by mechanisms that were primarily meant for consumer welfare. These support systems now face contradictions with market reforms, and strained budgets. A new transformed paradigm of social security system now looms in the horizon, where the minimum welfare of each citizen is viewed as right. Government can facilitate a market to operate efficiently but has limited control on prices and incomes in an open market.

** SOCIAL SECURITY.

- 18 Lahariya, Chandrakant
Social security: Global scenario.
YOJANA, 61, 2017(July): 48-53

The universal and sustainable mechanisms for social security in India would contribute to rapid and sustained economic growth, poverty reduction, achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the country.

** SOCIAL SECURITY.