

## **CHANGING NATURE OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN STRUCTURE IN INDIA**

**Ajit Kumar Singh**

**Abstract:** Very significant changes have taken place in agriculture and agrarian structure in India post-Independence. These changes encompass the cropping pattern, technology of production, land distribution and agrarian relations. Agriculture has modernized and become market oriented from traditional subsistence oriented agriculture. The size of holding has been steadily reducing, making a majority of holdings economically non-viable. This has led to a substantial transfer of agricultural workers to non-agricultural occupations both in the rural and the urban areas. Consequently, the importance of agriculture in the national, as well as the rural economy, has substantially declined. India is no longer a pre-dominantly agricultural economy either in terms of employment or income. These changes necessitate changes in the policy for rural and agricultural development. The present paper seeks to highlight some of the significant changes that have taken place in the agricultural economy and the agrarian structure in India since the beginning of the planning period.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, agrarian structure, agrarian relations, rural economy, technological change.

## **AGRICULTURAL GROWTH INQUIRY IN BIHAR: GROWTH PATTERNS AND DETERMINANTS**

**Elumalai Kannan & Sanjib Pohit**

**Abstract:** Despite structural transformation of the Bihar's economy in the last one and half decades, agriculture continues to play an important role in boosting the overall economic growth. Various policy measures were introduced in the form of agriculture road maps to improve farm productivity and income. These measures seem to have helped to accelerate agricultural growth in the state. However, empirical evidence on the sources of agricultural growth is not available. This paper makes an important contribution in identifying the the drivers of crop output growth in Bihar. Among the sources of crop output growth, contribution of TFP growth was appreciable, though there are variations across the crops. Fertilisers and manure, machinery, area, and irrigation have registered a positive average growth rate. Irrigation was the single most input contributing over one-third of the crop output growth followed by mechanisation with one-fifth of output. Although TFP growth was impressive, low input intensification is a concern and it tends to affect yield growth.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, Bihar economy, sources of growth, total factor productivity.

## **DYNAMICS OF SMALLHOLDER DAIRY SECTOR IN GUJARAT**

**Shiv Raj Singh, K.P. Thakar, Soumya C. & R.M. Jadeja**

**Abstract:** India is the largest milk producer in the world accounting for about 20 per cent of the global market. It is expected to grow at a pace of over 14 per cent, in the next 5-7 years. The paper highlights the role of dairy farming in the rural economy and attempts to show that it is fast becoming the mainstay for marginal farmers. Based on the secondary data, the study takes Gujarat as a case to substantiate that dairying is increasingly becoming critical in rural India. The paper argues that while crop production contributes a major proportion to the incomes of the large landholding farmers, marginal farmers derive their incomes primarily from dairying. The paper also shows that while crop production tends to aggravates income inequality, dairy farming soothes it. The paper also analyses the organised dairy industry. The analysis shows a declining trend in its total factor productivity, possibly because of the higher capital investment at the backward linkage level. This trend indicates that, even without any addition in capital investment, the organised dairy industry can sustain, at least in the foreseeable future. The overall findings lead one to recommend that there is a need to give a 'big push' to the dairy sector. This will be a win-win situation for both the dairy industry and the farmers.

**Keywords:** Dairy, Gujarat, factor productivity, backward linkages, farmers' income

## **STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE RURAL LABOR MARKET AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN UTTAR PRADESH**

**Nomita P. Kumar & Kavita Baliyan\***

**Abstract:** Structural transformation in the composition of output and employment from agriculture to more productive non-agricultural sectors is considered an important source of economic growth and transformation. Against this background, this paper examines the changes taking place in the structure of the rural workforce and analyses its effect on job creation and occupational structure spanning over the last several decades. The efforts are also made to analyse the underlying factors for such changes. It examines the long-term changes in the total and agricultural workforce and occupational diversity for male and female populations in the rural economy. The paper also endeavours to identify the factors affecting changes in rural labour supply. We attempt to identify the reasons for mismatch in growth in output and employment in various non-farm activities. Based on the findings, we suggest a pro-employment rural growth strategy for the State.

**Key Words:** Structural Transformation, non-agricultural sector, employment, Uttar Pradesh.

# CHANGES IN AGRARIAN STRUCTURE AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

**Chandra Mohan Negi**

**Abstract:** This paper examines the extent and pattern of changing agrarian structure in a predominantly rural and hill state of Himachal Pradesh. It sheds light on the distribution of the landholding among different class sizes as well as social groups and examines the extent and source of inequality in the distribution of landholdings in Himachal Pradesh. Further, an attempt is made to know the contribution of agrarian, technological, and infrastructural variables in the growth of agriculture in the state. Similar to the trend visible at the all-India level, the marginalization of land is taking place in the state. At the same time, the inequality in the distribution of land is widening in the state. Moreover, the skewness in land ownership is also increasing within the social groups as well.

**Keywords:** Agrarian structure, Inequality, Landholding, Marginalization.

# CAN FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS TRANSFORM THE SMALL HOLDER FARMING IN INDIA? A CASE STUDY OF SAHYADRI FARMERS PRODUCER CO. LTD NASHIK, MAHARASHTRA

**N. Lalitha**

**Abstract:** One of the strategies to double farmers' income by 2022 is to promote high-value crops like fruits and vegetables. While horticulture crops are economically valuable, yet their perishable and seasonal nature make the farmers highly vulnerable to climate and market shocks. In the absence of a collective organisation, farmers have to deal with the market forces individually. In trader-dominated markets, farmers' share in the consumer rupee is very negligible. As farming becomes unviable, more farmers quit farming and take up other activities for sustaining their livelihoods. To address such issues of farmers, a variety of actors like the government, community-based organisations and organisations that promote voluntary certifications have contributed to forming farmer producer organisations (FPO) and farmer producer companies (FPC).

In this paper, taking the case of Sahyadri Farmer Producer Co Ltd for grapes (SFPCLG), Nasik, Maharashtra, we make a comparison between the members of the SFPCLG and farmers who are outside the collective action. Results from the primary survey indicate that the FPC farmers have access to extension services, weather information, quality inputs and the FPC can maintain complete traceability from the

harvesting stage of grapes to till it reaches the final destinations abroad. It has resulted in the FPC farmers getting premium prices for their quality grapes.

**Keywords:** Grapes cultivation, FPOs, traceability, cost of inputs

## **INSTITUTIONAL CREDIT AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDIA: MISSING LINKS AND SHIFTING PRIORITIES**

**Tara Nair**

**Abstract:** This paper analyses the major trends in the supply of institutional rural credit in India over the last few decades. The key objective is to explore the critical association between the structuring of credit market institutions and overall rural wellbeing. The paper also takes a closer and critical look at some of the alternative institutional arrangements introduced since the mid-1990s initially to help the formal banking system reduce or externalize the costs of rural intermediation and, more recently, to enhance competition in the financial markets. The analysis reveals progressive dilution in the small borrower focus in rural and agricultural lending priorities of banks. This became particularly evident in the 2000s, though the absolute volume of rural and agricultural credit outstanding has surged considerably during the decade.

**Key words:** Micro finance, rural credit, financial institutions, rural banking

## **RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES AND LOCAL GROWTH MOTORS: A STUDY OF NONFARM ACTIVITIES IN ODISHA**

**Basanta K. Sahu\***

**Abstract:** While the shift of labour from agriculture and the rural sector continues to be one of the major development policy agenda, the nature and pace of labour mobility out of agriculture has been different across regions. In this context, farm and non-farm, and rural-urban linkages play a crucial role in rural transformation and generation of employment and income. This paper attempts to analyse some of these issues with a focus on rural-urban linkages and non-farm activities in Odisha. The broad objective of the paper is to unravel the nature and pattern of non-farm activities, occupational mobility and rural-urban linkages under different development conditions. We have followed a resource-based area centered approach, and selected two different agro-climatic regions in the state representing different development levels for the study. An effort is made to capture the essence of development layers or regional variations that influence rural-urban and farm non-farm interlinkages.

The paper concludes that while local agrarian structure hinders growth of productive non-farm activities in a backward dry area, it facilitates growth in developed irrigated

area with better connectivity and proximity to the local town and urban centres. It is, therefore, crucial to promote local growth motors and strengthen rural-urban linkages to generate productive employment for the poor and weaker sections.

**Keywords:** Non-farm sector, rural-urban linkages, Odisha, occupational mobility.

## **RESCALING SPACE: CRITIQUING INDUSTRIALISM IN GLOBALISING GUJARAT**

**Keshab Das\***

**Abstract:** The substantive core of this paper presents a critique of industrialism as an obsessive strategy in the pursuit of globalising the local economy in the western Indian state of Gujarat, especially in the post-reforms period. The state, with an excellent record of industrialisation and growth, has been making serious efforts at internationalising its industry by following discrete state-level strategies. The paper reviews these initiatives, especially those concerning rescaling the meso space. Discussions on Special Economic Zones, Vibrant Gujarat summits and the dynamic industrial cluster promotion have formed the core context of the paper. The questions of land-use and right to livelihood of the citizen remain at the core of the concern, even as industrialism might appear to be the path to progress in times of globalization. If the rescaling of space is patently biased to serve the interest of the vested capital and if the state actively facilitates the process, alternatives need to be thought through a larger democratic consultative process.

**Keywords:** Industrialism, SEZ, SIRs, Gujarat, land-use.

## **NATURE OF URBANISATION AND URBAN POLICIES IN INDIA**

**R. B. Bhagat**

**Abstract:** The results of the 2011 census on urban population growth assume significance in enhancing our understanding of the magnitude, growth and inter-state variations in urbanization in the country. This paper presents an assessment of the emerging pattern of urbanization, its spatial pattern, and the components of urban growth. It argues that urban policy and programmes are very crucial for balanced development of the country. It is observed that a large number of small and medium towns lack capacity to plan and govern. Moreover, several of them are still under the ambit of rural local bodies. A revamping of municipal governance and their empowerment, as per the 74th amendment to the constitution, is urgently called for, to meet the challenges of rapid urbanization. The state governments are not willing to grant autonomy to the urban local bodies. It is argued that any autonomy to the urban local bodies must also be accompanied by fiscal empowerment, technical, and human resources support. The paper also argues to make a distinction between an urban development policy and an urbanization policy.

**Keywords:** Urbanisation, small and medium towns, local bodies, municipal governance, 74th constitutional amendment.

## **STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE NEW ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY?: EXAMINING PATTERNS OF EMERGING TOWNS IN TWO INDIAN STATES**

**Niti Mehta**

**Abstract:** Structural change has been growth enhancing in Asia due to labour transfers from low to higher productivity sectors, changes in the demographic structure, and urban wards migration/commuting. The two features of structural transformation are increased per capita incomes and urbanisation, with a reduction in the proportion of population residing in rural areas. The paper explores the relationship between urbanisation and socio-economic development, resulting in the creation of new economic spaces for two western Indian states of Gujarat and Rajasthan that depict a disparate pattern of economic growth. The emerging urban hierarchy is contextualised within the process of transition. Composition of urban growth and locational features of the emerging towns highlights the need for a regional focus of policy.

**Keywords:** Structural change, urbanisation, socio-economic development, urban-rural linkages, Gujarat, Rajasthan.

# URBANISATION AND RURAL CHANGES IN WEST BENGAL

**Mahalaya Chatterjee**

**Abstract:** India's level of urbanisation was about 17% in the 1951 census, just after the independence. After six decades, it just doubled. Except for the decade of 1971-81, the rate of urbanisation was quite slow. The first decade after the economic reforms reported the rate of urbanisation as too low. In this perspective, the 2011 Census figures about urbanisation were hailed as the 'arrival of urban age in India'. It was because of two reasons: the rate of urban growth in the country for the first time crossed the rate of rural growth after independence. Secondly, the number of new towns in the country was about 2500. This number is spectacular because about the same number of towns emerged during a hundred years, 1901-2001. And of the states, West Bengal tops the list with about 590 towns, followed by Kerala.

A closer inspection in the urbanisation scenario changes the euphoria to a matter of grave concern. None of the facts stated above changed the overall perspective of urbanisation in the country. The higher rate of urbanisation was instead a reflection of rural distress and change-over of occupation from agriculture to tertiarisation in the informal sector. This paper explores the details of the new towns in West Bengal in general and then takes up the study to the districts and some specific census towns.

**Keywords:** Urbanisation, urban growth, rural changes;

## RURBANIZING LANDSCAPE IN THE FRONTIER

**Shrawan Kumar Acharya & Sabiha Baig**

**Abstract:** The contemporary mainstream development discourse considers the Frontier and Borderland areas as backward and thereby rural and ignores unique urban spatial processes and transformations underway in the region. This is true of the North East because the percent share of the urban population is below the national average of 31 percent. The paper is of the view that this narrative of predominantly rural and low urbanization needs to be revisited. What is of significance in the North East is that unlike other parts of India urbanization is predominantly driven by the growth of small and medium towns and more important, settlements in the rural hinterlands outside the boundaries of designated urban local bodies. The built forms, consumption behavior and lifestyles outside the formal boundaries of towns and cities of the North East are more urbane needing a new perspective to understand the urban and rural linkages and transformations in the region. It is also important to understand that many such small locations in the past were witness to vigorous urban processes through trade along the frontier and many today are witnessing tremendous transformations under the influence of global economic forces like tourism. It is in this context the present study revisits the

concept of “Rurbanism” to understand the spatial transformations taking place in the North East.

**Keywords:** Frontier and borderland areas, North-East, Rurbanisation, urban-rural linkages.

## **ON THE EDGE OF DHAKA: THE AGRARIAN URBANIZATION OF SOUTH ASIA**

**Rajarshi Dasgupta\***

**Abstract:** The paper describes how new geographies of capitalist accumulation are spatially fixed by looking at Dhaka. It discusses how land conversion, infrastructure, displacements, and dispossessions produce new urban spaces, subjects and social formations. The ethnographic research prioritises agrarian spaces and relations as new points of entry to the urban question. Our case studies detail the transformation of Mohammadpur and Bosila – two new neighbourhoods in the western periphery of Dhaka. In a rapidly changing landscape of property and assets, they announce new towns in the middle of green paddy fields and water bodies. We underscore the contradictory territorialisation of urban frontiers and the messy entanglement of agrarian and urban spaces in South Asia. The paper concludes with underscoring parallels highlighted by a set of recent studies of other cities, like New Delhi, Karachi, Kathmandu, Mumbai, and Kolkata. Drawing on them, we make a case for a methodological dialogue between urban and agrarian studies for grasping the specific nature of urbanisation in South Asia.

**Keywords:** Dhaka, displacement, dispossession, agrarian spaces, urban spaces, territorialisation. South Asia