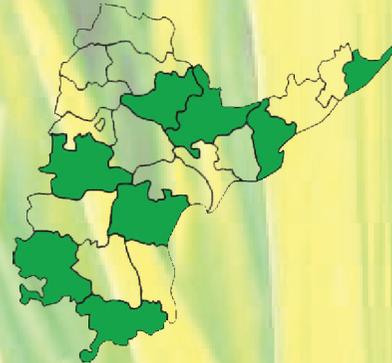
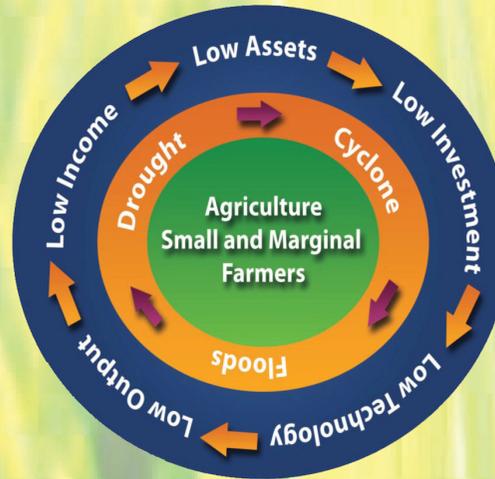


Agricultural Risk Management



National Seminar on

AGRICULTURAL RISK MANAGEMENT

“Challenges and Strategies in Making Small and Marginal Farm holdings Sustainable and Profitable”

on 3rd & 4th January 2014 at CGG

Organized by

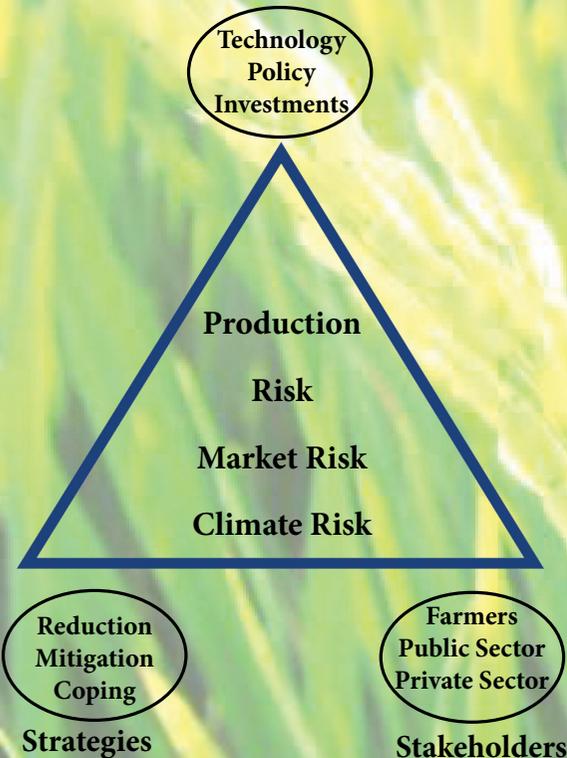
Centre for Good Governance

Hyderabad

in association with

National Institute of Rural Development

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad



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Justification

Agriculture is one of the riskiest sectors of the economy. Farmers face many types of risks related to production, marketing and human aspects. Weather and climate are major risk and uncertainty factors impacting agricultural production. Production risk is the random environmental variability associated with the farming process and includes the variability in yield and quality due to weather, soils, diseases and pests. Market risk is due to the uncertainty of prices in buying inputs, selling food grains, dairy and livestock products and the accessibility of inputs.

Effective risk management in agriculture requires an understanding of the critical risks faced by farmers and the solutions available to manage those risks. The proposed seminar on Agricultural Risk Management – “Challenges and Strategies in Making Small and Marginal Farm holdings Sustainable and Profitable” will allow participants to look at the risks associated with the agriculture activities and develop comprehensive package of risk management strategies for the agriculture and allied sectors leading to increased farm income, particularly to small and marginal farmers.

Objectives of the Seminar

The objective of the seminar is to identify and assess the components of farmers’ agro-meteorological coping strategies with risks and uncertainties in different agroclimatic regions of the country like droughts and floods, inadequate location specific plans, lack of timely information on weather and climate risks and uncertainties, poor agricultural support systems including credit, insurance, extension etc.

It is well known that small farmers are more prone to agricultural risks including access to inputs, credit, technology and marketing. The seminar provides a platform to discuss the various issues and challenges related to small and marginal farmers to make agriculture and allied sector activities viable for small and marginal farmers and help in increasing their incomes.

Topics for papers and presentation

The papers based on research, training and extension experiences under the following major themes are invited.

- 1. Challenges and opportunities in rainfed agriculture**
 - Agriculture risk with input prices and quality
- 2. Farm Level Diversification Strategies for Small and Marginal Farmers for increased income**
 - Technological options and opportunities in agriculture.
 - Technological options and opportunities in Animal Husbandry and Horticulture.
- 3. Small and Marginal farming and non-farm activity linkages**
 - Agricultural Support Systems - Marketing and post harvest technologies.
- 4. Institutional strategies for small and marginal farmers.**
 - Agricultural Support Systems - Farm Credit and Insurance.
 - Agricultural Extension to small and marginal farmers.
- 5. Alternative Technologies and Sustainable Agriculture**
 - Technologies for Weather and Climate information to comply with farmers’ conditions and needs.
 - ICT and decision support systems to small and marginal farmers.
- 6. MGNREG Scheme and its implications on small and marginal farm holdings**

Venue and Time

Centre for Good Governance, Near Outer Ring Road Chowrasta, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 032. Ph: 040 - 23120009
3rd & 4th January 2014. Time 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Participants

The seminar would be of great use for researchers, academicians, policy planners, agriculture adminis-

trators, bankers and insurers, input suppliers involved in agriculture development.

Registration

The seminar will be limited to 50 invitees and hence participants are requested to pre-register by 20th December 2013. There is no registration fee to attend the workshop or to make a presentation for sending papers.

Call for Participants/Papers

Centre for Good Governance (CGG) invites all the players involved in agricultural management, governance and academia to participate in the seminar. The presentation and paper should address the topic; the present problems, challenges and recommendations to improve the farm incomes of small and marginal farmers. Papers not exceeding 8-10, A4 size pages typed in double space should reach by 26th December 2013 and it is proposed to publish papers as proceedings to be made available on the day of workshop. People who would not be able to participate and make presentation at the workshop can also send full length papers on any of the topics and if accepted they will be published in the proceedings of the Workshop. Authors are encouraged to submit their papers electronically as an attachment in MS word format and Email to: amrg@cgg.gov.in

Expected Outcomes of the Seminar

The seminar would deliberate upon various issues related to agriculture risks leading to sustainability and increased income to farmers particularly small and marginal farmers who are more prone to agricultural risks. Scientists and policy makers in several fields like production, banking, agricultural insurance and post harvest technologies will be invited to present state-of-the-art discussion papers to address the above objectives.

For further information, contact;

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CONCEPT NOTE

National Seminar on AGRICULTURAL RISK MANAGEMENT “Challenges and Strategies in Making Small and Marginal Farm holdings Sustainable and Profitable”

This concept note outlines the main objective and themes of the seminar on “Challenges and Strategies in Making Small and Marginal Farm holdings Sustainable and Profitable” to be held during 3rd & 4th January 2014 at CGG, Hyderabad

Background

Agriculture is subject to a variety of risks arising from rainfall aberrations, temperature fluctuations, hailstorms, cyclones, floods, and climate change. Natural calamities, especially floods and droughts, frequently cripple the country. These risks are exacerbated by price fluctuations, a weak rural infrastructure, imperfect markets and the lack of financial services including limitations in the design of risk mitigation instruments such as credit and insurance. These factors not only endanger the farmers' livelihoods and incomes, but also undermine the viability of the agricultural sector's emergence as a solution to the problem of endemic poverty of farmers and agricultural labour.

Besides the traditional disadvantages, small and marginal farmers are more prone to risks related to production, marketing and human aspects. Weather and climate are major risk and uncertainty factors impacting agricultural production. Production risk is the random environmental variability associated with the farming process and includes the variability in yield and quality due to weather, soils, diseases and pests. Market risk is due to the uncertainty of prices in buying inputs, selling food grains, dairy and livestock products and the accessibility of inputs.

There has been a surge of interest in new market-based and traditional risk management instruments and approaches in recent years. While there are many new players emerged in the agricultural risk management domain like agricultural insurance, contract farming etc, modalities to enable the sharing of knowledge and experience are absent, particularly to small and marginal farmers. Risk management strategies are currently operating in silos and lack a platform to share information, catalyze collaboration and discuss best practices. There is little interaction among stakeholders

engaged in managing different facets of agriculture risks (e.g., production risks, price risks, weather risks, infrastructure risks, etc). Interaction within agriculture and allied departments and between line departments and farmers is also limited.

Need for national seminar

The fragmented and piecemeal approach in managing agricultural risks is arguably not serving the needs of the agriculture sector and the majority of farmers continue to lack knowledge of or access to risk management solutions. Risk management approaches in agriculture can be distinguished according to whether they are undertaken before (mitigating) or after (coping) an event. They may also vary depending on whether risk is viewed primarily as an individually experienced phenomenon (idiosyncratic) or a more widely experienced event (systemic). Scaling-up and replication of successful risk management programs is limited and the lack of effective dialogue between agriculture and allied departments is possibly one of the reasons behind this. Effective risk management in agriculture requires an understanding of the critical risks faced by farmers and the solutions available to manage those risks.

It is against this backdrop that the Centre for Good Governance in association with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) is organizing a national seminar to catalyze opportunities for systematic and continuous sharing of knowledge, experience and perspectives amongst the growing array of active organizations in the agricultural risk management area.

The proposed seminar on Agricultural Risk Management – “Challenges and Strategies in Making Small and Marginal Farm holdings Sustainable and Profitable” will allow participants across the country to look at the risks associated with the agriculture activities and develop comprehensive package of risk management strategies for the agriculture and allied sectors leading to increased farm income, particularly to small and marginal farmers.

Objectives of the Seminar

The objective of the seminar is to identify and assess the components of farmers’ agro-meteorological coping strategies with risks and uncertainties in different agro climatic regions of the country like droughts and floods, inadequate location specific plans, lack of timely information on weather and climate risks and uncertainties, poor agricultural support systems including credit, insurance, extension etc. It is well known that small farmers are more prone to agricultural risks including access to inputs, credit,

technology and marketing. The seminar provides a platform to discuss the various issues and challenges related to small and marginal farmers to make agriculture and allied sector activities viable for small and marginal farmers and help in increasing their incomes.

It is widely agreed that thematic conferences, seminars and workshops provide a unique opportunity for improved dialogue and experience exchange but there is also a wide recognition of their limitations in terms of content, coverage, and outreach. Therefore, the seminar proposes deliberations on research, training and extension experiences in the following major themes;

1. Challenges and opportunities in rainfed agriculture

- Agriculture risk with input prices and quality

2. Farm Level Diversification Strategies for Small and Marginal Farmers for increased income

- Technological options and opportunities in agriculture.
- Technological options and opportunities in Animal Husbandry and Horticulture.

3. Small and Marginal farming and non-farm activity linkages

- Agricultural Support Systems - Marketing and post harvest technologies.

4. Institutional strategies for small and marginal farmers.

- Agricultural Support Systems - Farm Credit and Insurance.
- Agricultural Extension to small and marginal farmers.

5. Alternative Technologies and Sustainable Agriculture

- Technologies for Weather and Climate information to comply with farmers' conditions and needs.
- ICT and decision support systems to small and marginal farmers.

6. MGNREG Scheme and its implications on small and marginal farm holdings

Venue and Time

The seminar will be held at Centre for Good Governance, Near Outer Ring Road Chowrasta, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 032. Ph: 040 – 23120009.

The seminar will begin with a short inauguration function on 3rd January 2014 and continue till the evening of 4 January 2014.

Participants

The seminar would gear up to meet the knowledge needs of agricultural scientists and agricultural policy makers and organizations interested in agricultural risk management.

The seminar would be of great use for researchers, academicians, policy planners, agriculture administrators, bankers and insurers, input suppliers involved in agriculture development.

Outcome of the Seminar

The seminar will bring scientists, administrators and policy makers in agriculture and allied sectors under one umbrella and also provide an opportunity for deliberations, interaction and exchange of ideas for increased farm incomes of small and marginal holdings. The seminar would be an initial step towards filling the knowledge exchange and interaction gap between various organizations and different departments in agriculture sector to deal with agriculture risk management sphere. This will be achieved through various presentations and subsequent discussions highlighting different perspectives of agricultural risks.

It is expected that the seminar identifies various methods for managing risks, including policy change and reform, business strategy, technology, financial instruments, infrastructure, collective action etc.

The findings and suggestions will be incorporated as interventions in the project “Farm centric interventions in agriculture and allied sectors” being implemented by CGG to increase farm incomes of farmers.

A compendium will be published with papers presented during the seminar.