



The 31st International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)

2021, New Delhi, India

The Conference

The IAAE flagship conference – International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) – is held every 3 years. The 31st Conference of ICAE will be held in New Delhi, India, in 2021.

India: An Economy in Transition

Spurred by economic reforms initiated in the early 1990s, India has witnessed rapid economic growth, especially in the non-farm sector and international trade. Recent projections by several international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, suggest that India could be one of the fastest growing economies in the world. However, in spite of the country making significant progress on several dimensions of human development, such as education, health, gender equality, water supply and sanitation, problems of poverty and malnourishment continue to exist.

Agriculture presents a picture of achievements and challenges as well. The most important achievement is India's self-sufficiency in staple foods, with some surplus for export. India is among the top five countries in the production of several agricultural commodities. It is the largest producer of milk and second largest producer of fruits and vegetables. This transformation was driven by millions of small landholders (≤ 2 ha), who comprise about 86 percent of all farm holdings. These achievements were made possible because of technological changes, supportive policies and effective institutions. However, intensive agriculture has led to the problem of degradation of natural resources and posed a challenge to agricultural growth in the future. Additionally, the competition for land and water resources from rapidly expanding non-agricultural sectors and the process of urbanization is intensifying, and climate risks loom large. An experience of almost two decades suggests that the past technologies, policies and institutions have most likely run their course, and can no longer sustain high agricultural growth. In fact, evidence shows that some of the policies and institutions are leading to inefficiencies at a micro-level and a fiscal deficit at a macro-level.

Organizers

Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE)
Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA)
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
ICAR–National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research
(ICAR-NIAP)

On a positive note, rapid economic growth, demographic transformation and globalization are causing a steady and systematic change in the market preferences and demand patterns for food. Traditional cereals that once dominated Indian diets are now giving way to high-value food products such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meat, and fish.

The challenge now is to transform agriculture in order to recognize it as a multi-functional activity that can accelerate economic growth, reduce poverty levels, and improve nutritional security without over-exploiting natural resources and the environment. The focus must also be to produce safe, healthy, nutritious, and affordable food.

Many of these challenges and opportunities are not peculiar to India alone, but are common to several developing countries in Asia, especially South Asia and regions in Africa South of Sahara. India's experience in overcoming such diverse challenges provides guidelines to other countries facing these challenges.

Over the last few years, several innovative reforms and programs have been initiated to double farmers' incomes and establish connections between them and remunerative markets. Some important reforms and programs are: (i) One Nation and One Market, also known as electronic-national agricultural market (e-NAM), (ii) One Nation-One Tax, also known as Goods and Service Tax (GST), (iii) Prime Minister's Agricultural Insurance Scheme, (iv) Prime Minister's Irrigation Scheme, (v) Soil Health Cards, (vi) Model Agriculture Produce and Market Committee Act, (vii) Model Land Leasing Laws, and (viii) Incentives to farmer producer organizations. These programs are intended to create greater efficiency, competition, sustainability, and resilience to Indian agriculture.

The Organizers

India is known as the 'knowledge hub' of science, medicine, engineering, literature, and culture. The country has the largest network of agricultural universities and institutes of international repute. Most of the agricultural universities function based on the land grant pattern. There are over 5,000 professional economists and agricultural economists engaged in teaching and research in 68 agricultural universities, several general universities, and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Besides, several other national and international institutions also carry out research in the field of agricultural economics.

There are several professional associations such as Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE), Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), Indian Society of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), Indian Society of Ecological Economics (ISEE), Indian Econometric Society (IES), and Indian Economic Association (IEA)

that promote the profession of agricultural economics. The important research institutions are ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP) and Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), under the umbrella of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR), Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi School of Economics (DSE), and South Asia Regional Office of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI-SAO). Besides, there are more than 30 research institutes under the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and a large network of Agro-Economic Research Centres under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

ICAE 2021 is being organized jointly by ISAE, AERA, ICAR-NIAP, IGIDR, IFPRI-SAO in New Delhi, India.

City and Venue

The ICAE Conference will be held in New Delhi, the capital of India in August 2021. Temperatures during this time of the year usually range between a low of 26°C/79°F and high of 33°C/91°F.

Conference Facilities: The National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC) is situated at the heart of Delhi. It is a prestigious complex built by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and has multi-dimensional state-of-the-art facilities. The NASC houses a National Agricultural Science Museum, Symposia Complex, offices of several CGIAR Centers, national and international organizations of agricultural research, and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS). It has well-equipped conference facilities, including an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,600 participants. There are several seminar and lecture rooms of different seating capacities for parallel sessions. These rooms are equipped with air-conditioning facilities, LCD projectors, wi-fi internet connectivity, etc. There are several premier academic and research institutions in the vicinity of the complex. More details about the NASC conference facilities can be found at <http://www.icar.org.in/en/node/307>.

Logistics and Accommodation: New Delhi is well connected, and has an E-visa facility for many countries that involves a complete online application (<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>). The Indira Gandhi International Airport is about 14 km from the NASC, which is well within public transport routes, including the Delhi metro rail services, taxis and local buses. Local markets, restaurants and dining facilities are within 5 km. Renowned historical monuments in the city are within 8–10 km of the conference venue.

There are several hotels within 5–6 kms of the NASC – ranging between USD 50 to USD 300 per day – of which some are listed below.

- Jaypee Siddharth Hotel (5-star; 2.1 km)
- Le Méridien (5-star; 5.1 km)
- Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel (5-star; 5.7 km)
- Regent Grand (4-star; 3.7 km)
- Hotel La Suite (3-star; 2.1 km)
- Bharat Continental (2-star; 3 km)

The NASC is also surrounded by several guest houses and budget hotels.

Post and Mid-Conference Tours

Mid-week field tours (half-to-full day)

Educational and informative tours will be organized for the conference participants, which will expose them to the countryside near Delhi. The tentatively planned routes include those to the dairy sector, fresh fruit and vegetable markets, regions employing agronomic practices such as climate resilient agriculture – including conservation agriculture and the cultivation of some non-traditional commodities like baby corn and mushroom.

Tour 1. Karnal, Haryana: A visit to the National Dairy Research Institute for dairy farming, climate resilient agriculture, conservation agriculture, baby corn and mushroom farming, and basmati rice milling.

Tour 2. Jaipur, Rajasthan: A visit to goat and dairy farms and their markets.

Tour 3. Ghaziabad, Meerut, and Muzaffanagar: A visit to the farming systems research facilities, dairy and meat plants, and the farmers' cooperative SAFAL fresh fruit and vegetable collection centers.

Tour 4. Pratapgarh Farms: A traditional Indian village setup, this farm is like a quiet little hamlet set amidst lush green fields, with mud huts, serene ponds, cattle barns and poultry farms. A variety of traditional Indian food is served through the day. (<http://www.pratapgarhfarms.com/>)

Tour 5. Kalki Mystic Farm: This farm is situated near the village of Garhi-Hasru amidst green fields spanning over 3 acres. Farm tourism is the best way to catch a glimpse of the pastoral lifestyle. Kalki Mystic Farm is located close to the Sultanpur lake and bird sanctuary (10 km). The farm has many rural activities such as tractor rides and visits to the nearby village houses (<http://farmtourisमारounddelhi.com/kalkimysticfarms.htm>.)

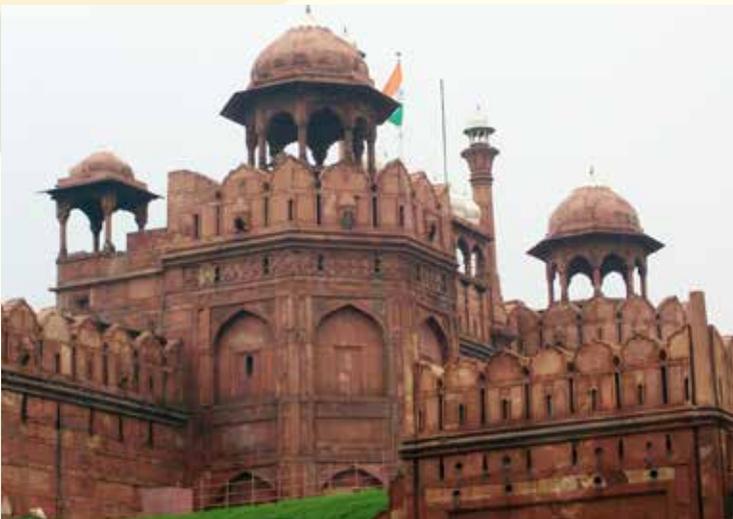
Tour 6. Laksh Farms: Located in Mangar village in Haryana, Laksh Farms comprise a small charitable educational society and a women's co-operative. The farms use sustainable farming methods rooted in Haryana traditions and pride themselves

in being chemical free. Activities at the farms include cow and buffalo milking, the processing of milk on a slow fire, churning of processed milk to make butter and buttermilk, and vermi-composting and leaf-mould usage. Every recyclable bit of waste generated by the farm is either filled in vermi-composting pits or in leaf pits and processed into an organic fertilizer (<http://lakshfarms.com/Ecofarming>).

Excursion tours (1–2 days)

ICAE delegates may visit nearby tourist places, which are known for their historic, scenic and cultural significance. Post-conference excursion trips will be organized on payment basis.

- **New Delhi:** The capital of India, New Delhi is popular for its rich culture and heritage. New Delhi is home to three World Heritage monuments – the Qutub Minar, Red Fort, and Humayun’s Tomb – monuments that have stood for many centuries and are considered architectural wonders. Central Delhi, with its tree-lined avenues, imposing structures, and buildings such as the Rashtrapati Bhavan – the residence of the President of India – Parliament House and India Gate, all represent New Delhi’s pride. Several museums in Delhi provide a glimpse of India’s fascinating history.
- **Agra:** The location of the Taj Mahal is widely recognized as one of the most artistically inspiring cities globally. What makes Agra a culturally rich destination are the three UNESCO World Heritage sites located there; the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri. Along with Delhi and Jaipur, Agra is a part of the Golden Triangle tourist circuit.



Sadhana Ramchander

Red Fort, New Delhi



Wikimedia Commons

The Taj Mahal, Agra

- **Jaipur:** Popularly known as the Pink City and the Paris of India, Jaipur is the capital of the state of Rajasthan. Jaipur is also known as Heritage City because of its rich heritage, customs, traditions, fairs and festivals, and old forts and monuments. Jaipur's main tourist attractions are Amber Fort, Nahargarh Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Jal Mahal, Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Galta Temple, Birla Temple, Govind Dev Ji temple and the Albert Hall Museum.
- **Udaipur:** Often referred to as the Venice of the East and the City of Lakes, Udaipur is located around azure lakes and is surrounded by the beautiful green Aravalli Hills. The famous Lake Palace, located in the middle of Lake Pichola, is one of the most wondrous sights of Udaipur. The city is also home to Jaisamand Lake, claimed to be the second largest man-made sweet water lake in Asia. The beautiful City Palace and Sajjangarh (Monsoon Palace) add to the architectural beauty and grandeur of the city.
- **Mussoorie:** Mussoorie is a hill station in Uttarakhand, located 2005 m above sea level. It is situated at the foothills of the Himalayas and is known as the Queen of the Hills. Attractions around Mussoorie are Kempty Falls and Mussoorie Lake.
- **Amritsar:** A spiritual center for Sikhs, Amritsar, in the state of Punjab, is home to the Harmandir Sahib (popularly known as the Golden Temple), the spiritual and cultural center for Sikhs. Other historically significant sites around Amritsar are Jallianwala Bagh and the Wagah Border.
- **Chandigarh:** The capital of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh is situated at the foothills of the Aravalli-Himalayas. The city is a model representative of modern urban design, and is one of the cleanest cities in India. The Rock Garden, Sukhna Lake, Leisure Valley, Parrot Bird Sanctuary and Rose Garden are some of the major tourist places in Chandigarh.



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