THE NABARD CHAIR AT NCAER
August 2011-July 2014

Work Programme and Impact on Research, Policy, and NABARD's Broader Areas of Concern, and Future Directions

Prepared by
Dr Anil K. Sharma
NABARD Chair and Senior Fellow, NCAER

August 15, 2014
The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), is an independent policy research institute that supports India’s economic development through applied economic research. It is India’s oldest and largest economic policy think-tank. NCAER was inaugurated by the President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad, in December 1956.

NCAER’s founding fathers in its first Governing Body in 1956 included leading figures from both the public and private sectors: John Mathai, C.D. Deshmukh, T.T. Krishnamachari, V.T. Krishnamachari, Asoka Mehta, J.R.D. Tata, John F. Sinclair, and N.R. Pillai. The Ford Foundation provided much of the initial financial support, including for NCAER’s campus, for which Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone in October 1959. NCAER’s campus in New Delhi, designed by India’s pioneering modern architect, A.P. Kanvinde, is sited in one of the most desirable locations in the nation’s capital.

NCAER’s work today is divided into four research areas:

- Growth, trade, and economic management
- The investment climate, physical and economic infrastructure
- Agriculture, rural development, and natural resource management
- Poverty, human development, household behaviour, and gender

The bulk of NCAER’s operating revenues come from research studies done for the government and the private sector. This is supplemented by research and institutional grants from donors and internal resources from NCAER’s endowment. NCAER is the home of the NABARD Chair Unit to promote research in agriculture and rural development. Much of the focus of NCAER’s work is on generating and analysing empirical evidence to support and inform policy choices. NCAER is one of a handful of think-tanks in the world that combine rigorous policy analysis and outreach with strong data collection capabilities, particularly for large-scale, national household surveys. NCAER publishes the international professional journal, *Margin: The Journal of Applied Economic Research*.

NCAER has extensive links in India, and global links with major think-tanks and universities abroad, including the Brookings Institution, the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Pew Research Center, Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and a number of other US universities; the London School of Economics and Oxford University; the New Economic School in Moscow; Tsinghua University in Beijing; Australian National University, Monash University, and ACIAR in Australia; and the Fung Global Institute in Hong Kong. NCAER has links in South Asia with the Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo; the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad; and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and the Centre for Policy Dialogue in Dhaka.

For further details please visit www.ncaer.org
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Contents

1. Work Programme 2011-14 and Impact on Research, Policy, and
   NABARD's Broader Areas of Concern ............................................. 1

2. Future activities resulting from the NABARD Chair at
   NCAER and possible future collaboration with NABARD .................. 5

Annex
Activities of the NABARD Chair Professor
Unit at NCAER, August 2011- July 2014 ............................................. 9
1. Work Programme 2011-14 and Impact on Research, Policy, and NABARD's Broader Areas of Concern

The National Council of Applied Economic Research, NCAER, is grateful to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for setting up and agreeing to fully finance the NABARD Chair unit at NCAER during August 2011 to July 2014. NCAER and NCAER Senior Fellow Dr Anil K. Sharma were chosen for the NABARD Chair Professorship through a rigorous, national competitive selection process. Under the terms of the MOU signed in July 2011 between the two national institutions, NABARD and NCAER, special research funding and enhanced remuneration terms for the Chair Professor were made available to NCAER. The support has been immensely valuable in sustaining the work that has been carried during the past three years - 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 the details of which are provided in the relevant sections.

As announced by NABARD after its Board Meeting in May 2014, the NABARD Board has now decided to restructure its support for empirical and policy research and to therefore not continue the four NABARD Chair Units established so far in the country on the completion of their terms. NCAER's Director-General and the NABARD Chairman and Senior NABARD Management held a half-day brainstorming session at NCAER on June 3, 2014 to explore areas of common interest and collaboration once the NABARD Chair Unit at NCAER closes in July 2014. A summary of that important discussion is set out below.

The key objective of the NABARD Chair Professorship has been to encourage applied and empirical research of high standards in India to cater to the research needs of policy makers in promoting agriculture and rural development. The NABARD Chair Professor has also been expected to undertake research in areas of his own choice; be available to policy makers and NABARD's management for consultation on policy issues as and when required; and contribute through opinions and project proposals.

This Close-out Report1 from the NCAER Senior Management and the NABARD Chair Professor to the Chairman and Senior Management of NABARD describes the progress made by the NABARD Chair Unit at NCAER during the past three years in meeting these objectives. Among, its many important roles as a refinancing agency for institutions providing rural investment and production credit and building institutions for improving the absorptive capacity for rural credit and its delivery, an important role for NABARD is also to promote research and capacity building in agriculture and rural development. It is this broad concern of NABARD that the NABARD Chair professor at NCAER has sought to contribute to.

NCAER-NABARD Chair Professor: Key Contributions

The NCAER-NABARD Chair has principally done work in two areas to meet its objectives as laid out above: first, making contributions in agriculture and rural development to apex policymaking or

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1 NCAER has separately shared a Financial Close-out report with NABARD. This includes documentation covering the funds yet to be transferred by NABARD to NCAER to complete NABARD’s funding of the NABARD Chair at NCAER.
policy advisory bodies at the national level in New Delhi; second, leadership of and contributions to NCAER research studies and analytical capacity building on agriculture and rural development. Much of these research activities were also reflected in the Chair’s contributions to policy research conferences, workshops, and in the public media. NCAER, in line with its Memorandum of Association, is a national research institute and does not directly support degree education, and hence the Chair Unit did not appoint PhD students, another general objective of all NABARD Chair units, though it did pursue important capacity building initiatives during the tenure of the Unit. These objectives and related activities are summarised in Section 1 below. Details of the contributions made in each case are provided year by year for the three years in the Annex. Following discussions with the Chairman NABARD at NCAER, a concluding Section 2 outlines the areas of research and specific activities that may be carried out at NCAER, possibly with NABARD support, to build on the strong foundations laid by the NCAER-NABARD Chair Professorship at NCAER.

This NCAER Report has been prepared for the Chairman and Senior Management of NABARD, and with NABARD's permission after its review, the Report may also be shared with the Governor and Deputy Governor, RBI, and with the concerned Secretaries to the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Commerce and Industry, all of whom have important interests in the areas covered during 2011-14 by the NCAER-NABARD Chair Unit.

A. Contributions to Policy Making and to Policy Review

The NCAER-NABARD Chair Professor directly contributed to policy making and advice at the national level as a technical member of a number of important policymaking bodies, advisory groups, and committees constituted by the Government of India and other professional entities. The Annex contains a detailed list of such contributions year by year. In all cases, the Chair Professor was introduced as the NABARD Chair at NCAER and initiated his contributions by acknowledging NABARD's support for his participation and preparatory work. These important contributions were made in areas including operationalising the Government’s Price Stabilisation Fund; the commissioning of special research studies by Government Ministries and the Planning Commission; food inflation, MSP and the operation of the FCI; NREGA and Direct Benefits Transfers using Aadhar; the reporting of results based on NCAER's National Survey on Household Income and Expenditure, on NCAER’s work on financial inclusion in rural India, electronic payments mechanisms in rural and urban India, insurance products for rural India, two-wheeler transport in rural India; comparing Indian and East Asian agriculture and natural resource use; and agricultural sector modelling. The high-level policy interactions involved and insights and inputs being shared with some of India’s most prominent economic policymakers, researchers, regulators, policy analysts, and corporate leaders.

In addition to this direct involvement of the NABARD Chair Professor, he also provided a range of inputs and background work to the Director-General of NCAER, who in his position equivalent to a Secretary to the Government of India has used these inputs in the areas of agriculture and rural development in his interactions with the Government of India, in particular the Ministry of Finance, the PMO, the Planning Commission, and the PM’s Economic Advisory Council.
B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH STUDIES, CONFERENCES, PUBLICATIONS, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The work programme of the Chair Professor includes several prominent areas, besides a host of other minor contributions as part of routine work at NCAER: first, tracking recent developments in the agricultural sector including on agricultural growth, food crops and food security, the government’s procurement policies, and food inflation; second, impact assessment of new technologies in the agricultural sector; third, using unique NCAER data, national household survey-based analysis of rural development issues, including financial inclusion, payments mechanisms, insurance products, and rural infrastructure; fourth, strengthening analytical capacities for empirical research and policy outreach on rural development, focusing particularly on improving capacities at NCAER and elsewhere for impact assessment of public schemes and strengthening independent policy research institutions in South Asia; and finally, comparing India’s performance in agriculture with its East Asian neighbours and with the possibility of South-South Cooperation in agriculture and rural infrastructure. A few highlights of this work are discussed below.

NCAER’s Quarterly Review of the Indian Economy provides a comprehensive and authoritative, quarterly review of developments in the economy in agriculture, industry, services, trade, finance, prices, public finance, and macroeconomic sectors. The reports also provide NCAER’s widely quoted quarterly macroeconomic forecasts based both on the NCAER Quarterly Macro Model and the NCAER Annual Macro Model. These are provided to subscribers of the Review, policy makers, and to the media. Subscribers are invited to the quarterly NCAER State of the Economy Seminar at NCAER. The NABARD Chair Professor took the lead on agriculture and rural development in these seminars including preparing the quarterly agricultural outlook for the QRE. NCAER has been collaborating with the India International Centre since 2011 to prepare the well-known Malcolm S Adisheshiah Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy (MYR), originally initiated in 1983 by Dr Adiseshiah, one of India’s most illustrious economists. MYR remains one of the definitive surveys of India’s current developments. Eminent policy makers chair the MYR. During the past three years the MYR have been chaired by none other than Dr Bimal Jalan, former President of the NCAER Governing Body, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and Member of the Rajya Sabha. The write ups on current developments in the agricultural sector in the MYR have found specific mentions in the comments of discussants and the media. This annual MYR seminar is followed by the publication of the papers into a volume by NCAER and IIC. Since 2011, the NABARD Chair Professor has been the lead author of the chapters of the MYR on agriculture and has led the important discussions on agriculture sector prospects and food inflation in the MYR annual seminar at the IIC.

Second, the study on India’s cotton economy being carried out by the NABARD Chair Professor has significant implications for the agricultural sector. Among various crops, cotton has witnessed substantial changes after the introduction of BT technology in 2002. In a relatively short span of ten years, the country has become the second largest producer of cotton in the world. The rapid growth in India’s cotton production has attracted a lot of attention within as well as outside the country due to highly contentious debate that took place before and immediately after the introduction of this technology. The purpose of this study is to carry out a fresh and comprehensive assessment as to how the introduction of BT technology transformed the socio-economic status of cotton growers and benefited industries associated with cotton. The study is expected to be completed by October 2014.
Third, the Chair Professor has played a leadership role in guiding the work around NCAER’s National Survey of Household Income and Expenditure (NSHIE). Though no direct NABARD funding was used for the survey, NSHIE represents the largest (about 100,000 households) national survey of its kind with detailed information about many aspects of rural and urban households, their income and consumption patterns, their financial decisions, their asset holdings, and detailed information on specific other topics such as use of the Aadhar number. The Chair Professor has guided the preparations of special purpose reports (including “National Remote Payments Survey” A Report for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and others) for various industry clients that sponsored specific survey riders and is in the process of guiding the preparation of a dash-board to allow industry analysts and researchers in India and overseas to use the data. The analytics out of this survey will remain immensely powerful to guide our thinking on the nature of the emerging middle class in rural India and on the transformation of agriculture into services and industry sectors in India. Following the work on NSHIE, and following the Report of the Nachiket Mor Committee on financial inclusion, the Chair Professor has also guided the preparation of a very important new proposal for an India Financial Inclusion and Literacy Survey (IFILS) that is currently being reviewed by several potential funders for support and then for implementation. IFILS is designed to be a longitudinal panel data set, so that the same rural and urban households would be surveyed periodically to understand consumption and production behaviour over time, trace their portfolio behaviour and evolving risk profiles as household member’s age, and assess the determinants of outcomes such as migration and transition from agriculture to other vocations.

Fourth, the Chair Professor has been working to promote high-quality capacity for empirical research on economic policy issues, particularly in agriculture and rural development in India and the region. He was the primary organizer of a major two-week international training workshop on impact evaluation in New Delhi in March 2013 in collaboration with the World Bank, Washington DC. The workshop, attended by NCAER research faculty and around 120 participants from 22 countries, addressed the theory and concepts of impact evaluation design in the first week, including hands-on work assignments on team projects, followed in the second week by training in sampling survey design and implementation to collect the data for successful impact evaluations. Such training is vital to increasing capacity in India for more rigorous evaluation of government and other schemes in the area of growth, agriculture, rural development, safety nets, and poverty reduction.

During the course of his tenure, the Chair Professor has also worked directly with the Director-General of NCAER across a broad range of other capacity building tasks at NCAER, particularly in the context of a special initiative called the global Think-Tank Initiative for which NCAER won a global competition in Phase 1 in 2010, and recently won the Phase 2 global competition in June 2014. While directly benefitting the institutions that have won the competition, the Initiative is vitally helping build a community of high-quality think tanks in India and the South Asia region. In this work the NABARD Chair Professor has had the opportunity to have extensive research contacts with the 15 other South Asian Institutions in this Initiative and to expose them to his work and the overall concerns of NABARD. The NABARD Chair Professor was also invited to the Initiative’s Global Knowledge Sharing Conference in Cape Town in 2012 when he interacted with all 49 institutions in Phase 1 of the Initiative.

Finally, the NABARD Chair professor has contributed to comparative discussions of Indian agriculture, commodities trade, and prospects for farm and non-farm employment in relation to East
Asia and other developing economies in the South. He was a key organizer of a major international workshop on ‘India in the Asian Century’ held in New Delhi in August 2013 with his particular focus on skilling and rural labour markets and agricultural growth, and how this compares with the experience of East Asia. He was also a primary organizer of a Dialogue on South-South Cooperation held with support from the UK Department of International Development in New Delhi in March 2014 in preparation for the first High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation that was held in Mexico City in April 2014. Given India’s vast experience with agriculture and rural development, the NABARD Chair Professor had the opportunity at this important regional Dialogue to make several contributions on the importance of sharing India’s experience, both broadly and particularly within South Asia, with WTO trade agreements and with domestic schemes for raising the productivity of agriculture.

This work programme has allowed the NABARD Chair Professor Unit at NCAER to make important contributions in research, public policy development, and capacity building in the areas of NABARD’s concerns. In doing so, the Chair Professor has been diligent in his role as an ambassador for NABARD and as a flag bearer for the areas of concern relating to agriculture and rural development that are at the core of NABARD’s mission.

Detailed listings of the work carried and participation and presentations in policy bodies, conferences, and workshops during August 2011-July 2012, August 2012 to July 2013, and August 2013 to July 2014 are provided in the Annex.

2. Future activities resulting from the NABARD Chair at NCAER and possible future collaboration with NABARD

Though now ended, the NABARD Chair at NCAER provides a foundation on which much can be built jointly with NABARD. A joint NCAER-NABARD high-level brainstorming meeting was held on June 3, 2014 at NCAER to identify the joint areas of work in agriculture and rural development based on NABARD’s interest in funding research on policy priorities and NCAER’s work on analytical research, field data collection, and policy outreach.

The following participants attended the three-hour meeting:

**Guests from NABARD**
- Dr Harsh K Bhanwala, Chairman, NABARD
- Mr B.G. Mukhopadhyay, Chief General Manager
- Mr V. Puhazendhi, Advisor

**Management and staff from NCAER**
- Dr Shekhar Shah, Director-General, NCAER
- Dr Anil Sharma, NABARD Chair and Senior Fellow
- Dr Shashanka Bhide, Senior Research Counsellor
- Dr Rajesh Chadha, Senior Fellow
- Dr Laxmi Joshi, Associate Fellow
- Ms Anjali Tandon, Associate Fellow
Based on the discussion on how NCAER can help NABARD on research, data collection, and policy outreach and ways in which NABARD can support such work, the following four preliminary areas of work were identified going forward, to be followed up by NABARD after its internal discussion and once its guidelines for new modes of its research funding are worked out that will replace the NABARD Chair Units.

1. **Agricultural Marketing**
   
   Poorly designed government regulations and their implementation and poor infrastructure have constrained the development of effective agricultural marketing institutions in the country with serious consequences for the Indian farmer. The impact of these policy and bureaucratic failures is reflected in the huge 25 to 30 per cent losses that occur while moving agricultural produce from farm-gate to markets and then to the ultimate consumer and in the extremely slow growth in private investment in agriculture despite its enormous potential. Hence, there is now serious need for reforming policies that impede the growth of efficient agricultural marketing systems and for building post-harvest infrastructure and monitoring systems.

   To take a holistic view of the issues related to agricultural marketing in the country, NCAER could undertake a study to examine the following:

   1. Review existing marketing channels and measure economic wastage, transaction costs, and efficiency
   2. Explore the political economy of why reforms in these areas have been do difficult to pursue despite mounting evidence of the costs of these inefficiencies
   3. Suggest reform pathways to modernize markets, reduce wastage, lower transaction costs, and improve farm-gate to consumer efficiency and thereby improve the profitability of agriculture

   Because of the diverse needs of various agricultural commodities, this comprehensive work would involve a small number of individual studies on various commodity groups with an overarching umbrella chapter that would pull the policy conclusions from these individual assessments into a discussion of reform pathways. The first such study in the series could include a few selected vegetables such as onion, potato, and tomato given their importance to the Indian consumer and their high-value addition potential for the Indian farmer. This second study could then focus on fruits, and then followed up by other commodity groups to be discussed with NABARD. These studies would make use of both primary as well as secondary data, with primary data to be collated or collected by NCAER’s field survey operations.

2. **Energising the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund**

   To boost public investment in rural infrastructure, the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was set up in 1995-96. The corpus of RIDF is made up of contributions by way of deposits from the Scheduled Commercial banks to the extent of shortfall in their agriculture lending, subject to a maximum of 1.5 per cent of net bank credit. With the allocation of Rs. 20,000 crores in the Union Budget for 2013-14 the cumulative allocations from RIDF-I to RIDF-XIX have reached in excess of a rather impressive Rs. 1,50,000 crores.

   Loans from the RIDF are provided to State Governments for development of rural infrastructure projects, including roads, minor irrigation, and markets. State Finance Departments are designated as the nodal departments for implementation, and projects sanctioned are implemented by the State Governments through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and line departments.
A few studies have shown that the RIDF has made significant contributions to the development of rural infrastructure, particularly minor irrigation and roads. However, there are considerable variations in the performance of RIDF in various states. While some states such as Gujarat have done exceedingly well, others have failed to benefit due to significant delays in the identification and execution of projects. This could be due to several factors, including poor administrative and monitoring set ups among states.

Hence, there is a tremendous need to conduct a nation-wide study on the performance of the RIDF and the impact that it has made in various states. The Study would have the following preliminary objectives, with a detailed TOR to be developed after discussion with NABARD.

1. State-wise allocations and utilisation of RIDF
2. Projects undertaken by states, their execution, status, and potential impact
3. Outcomes and reasons for varied performance among states
4. Scope for catalysing and leveraging private investments in rural infrastructure through public-private partnerships
5. Possible linkages with MNREGA support
6. Future design, execution, and monitoring reforms for the RIDF to improve its impact

3. Rural Household Surveys by NCAER

There is a continuous need for monitoring and analysing existing and emerging economic and social developments in the rural economy for better policy formulation and accountability of government programs. Bringing greater evidence-based policymaking in agriculture and rural development is badly needed. Regular survey data collection and analysis can play a very important role in monitoring as well as bridging the gaps in our understanding of the rural economy, particularly SMEs and household enterprises. Longitudinal panel data sets can be particularly important to understand developments over time.

Designing and successfully executing national household surveys has been a key strength of NCAER for the past fifty years. Among its many data sets, for the rural economy the Rural Economic and Demographic Survey (REDS) data is a nationally representative rural panel data set that contains detailed economic, demographic, and village level information on agriculture and rural development. REDS data have been collected since 1969, and it is the second longest running longitudinal household survey in the world after the US Panel Survey of Income Dynamics, which started in 1968. Panel data sets, which track the same household over time, are valued highly because they allow researchers to draw inferences with much greater degrees of confidence and also help isolate the long-term impacts of government policies and programmes. The data for the past rounds have been used by research scholars and policy makers to identify the determinants of changes in rural areas, particularly those associated with the Green Revolution. REDS data are available to researchers in Indian and overseas. The latest 2004-05 round was focused on decentralisation, rural governance, and inclusive growth and understanding why, despite significant growth in the Indian economy over the decade of the 2000s, rural poverty has continued to remain high.

NCAER is recent years has also been collecting another data set for the Ministry of Agriculture for agricultural outlook and scenario analysis on selected food crops. The focus of the work has been on integrating information relating to inputs, outputs, and markets for major agricultural products to assess the resulting food security outlook. The work has been providing short-term outlook reports on a quarterly basis, medium-term outlooks on a semi-annual basis, and monthly briefings to the Ministry on various aspects of the food economy to understand the emerging outlook.
NCAER is seeking to broaden and deepen this work and enhance its research focus while continuing to do this monitoring work. NABARD with its deep interest in the rural economy can help build on this work by potentially supporting the following:

1. Support the fielding of the next round of the REDS survey in 2015-16
2. Expand and support the scope of the agricultural outlook work for the next 3 to 5 years.
3. Support regular surveys on the rural economy every year on specific topics of mutual interest to NABARD and NCAER.

4. 2014 or 2015 Conference on Indian Agriculture and Rural Development: Key Challenges and Policy Reforms

As with most developing countries, the agricultural sector in India though declining still continues to be a significant part of the country’s GDP. Reflecting its low productivity and the poor growth rate of the manufacturing sector, the share of the labour force that depends on the agricultural sector for employment and income is still at very high levels. To raise the levels of income of those dependent on agricultural, it is imperative to increase agricultural output by enhancing productivity of the farm sector and create more jobs in the non-farm sectors to reduce dependence on agriculture.

The persistence of extremely high food inflation in recent years suggests policy failures in agricultural marketing and in food security policy and, for specific commodity groups where India is a large price-moving presence in global markets, output growth that has not kept pace with demand. The arrival of a new reform-minded government that is keen on rapid reforms is an appropriate time for NCAER and NABARD to join hands to raise awareness of these issues for the new government in New Delhi. Though the exact reconfiguration of the Planning Commission is not yet known, it is clear that the Commission will be overhauled to focus more on policy review, and this would therefore also be an appropriate time to mount a major review of Indian agriculture.

NCAER could consider holding a one-day conference with NABARD to bring together policymakers, researchers, policy analysts, media, and other stakeholders to discuss the key challenges facing Indian agriculture and the rural sector face and the policy options available to meet these challenges. At the very least, with additions to be worked out with NABARD, the agenda for a possible workshop could include:

1. Major achievements since 2000 in Indian agriculture and rural development
2. Key challenges facing Indian agriculture and rural development in an increasingly globalised world
3. Agricultural growth, food security, and food inflation in India
4. Role of technology, institutions, infrastructure and skilling
5. Role of domestic and foreign private investment in farming, marketing, and retail
6. The rural non-farm sector and relationship with urbanisation

5. Next steps

NCAER would be delighted to further discuss these and potential other activities supported by NABARD. We understand that having ended the four NABARD chairs, NABARD is now working out new guidelines for supporting research programs at important national institutions like NCAER. We stand ready to discuss, either in New Delhi or if NABARD wishes us to come to NABARD, these and other potential areas of collaboration.
Annex

Activities of the NABARD Chair Professor Unit at NCAER
August 2011 to July 2014

August 2011 - March 2012

1. Participation in Policy Bodies/Committees/Expert Panels
   Member, "High Powered Committee for Operating and Monitoring Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme”, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, New Delhi
   Member, “Co-ordinating Committee for Organisation of Research Studies in the field of Agricultural Economics”, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi
   Member, “Working Group on Fertiliser Industry for the Twelfth Five Year Plan”, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Fertilisers, New Delhi

2. Project/Programme Execution
   Led study on *India’s Cotton Revolution: Outcomes and Insights*, funded by Association of Biotechnology-led Enterprises (ABLE).
   Guided ongoing field survey operations for NCAER’s *National Survey of Household Income and Expenditure 2011-12*.
   Managed jointly with NCAER Director-General the Think-Tank Initiative at NCAER to build research capacity and policy engagement (Consortium of global donors led by IDRC, Canada).

3. Publications
   2. Contributed a chapter on ‘Agriculture and Rural Development’ for the *Mid-Year Review of Indian Economy*, NCAER and India International Centre, November 2011.

4. Lectures/Presentations/Conferences

   4.1 Meetings and Conferences
   1. Organised the First TTI Project Monitoring Visit from IDRC, Canada, New Delhi, September 21-22, 2011.

2 Copies of publications have been provided separately to NABARD


5. Participated in NCAER Conference on “Seeking Efficiency and Excellence in the Implementation of Infrastructure Projects in India” Sponsored by Holcim Ltd., Hotel Shangri La, New Delhi, December 12, 2011.


7. Participated in Pre-Publication discussion on “India's Tryst with Destiny: Debunking Myths that Undermine Progress and Addressing New Challenges” by Jagdish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya, India International Centre, New Delhi, January 5, 2012.


9. Led discussion at NCAER with Mr. Matt Crooke, Minister Counsellor (Economic) Australian High Commission and Mr. David Crawford on issues related to food security and agricultural reform, January 11, 2012.

10. Contributed to workshop on The Processes and Practices of Agricultural Outlook Reports Followed by USDA and FAO and the availability of data for developing outlook reports for India, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and NCAER, India International Centre, New Delhi, January 12-13, 2012.


12. Participated in a series of meetings with Chief General Manager, Dr Kulkarni, Executive Director, Mr. Mitra and Chairman Dr. Bakshi, NABARD, Mumbai, February 17, 2012.

13. Led discussions at NCAER on Agriculture and Related Issues with a visiting delegation from the U. S. Embassy led by Allan Mustard, Minister-Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, New Delhi, March 23, 2012.


4.2 Talks, Presentations, Workshops, and Media

1. Organised visit by Juan Munoz and Beatriz Godoy for field survey capacity building at NCAER and for formulating strategy for warehousing and cleaning rural and agricultural (REDS) panel data sets held by NCAER, October 10-14, 2011.

2. Led discussion on research strategy at Retreat for the Senior Staff of NCAER on the NCAER’s New Vision and Strategy, Trident Hotel, Gurgaon, November 10, 2011.


4. Participated in meeting of 16 Think Tank Initiative (TTI) grantee institutions in South Asia organised by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology & Policy (CSTEP) and made presentation on “Factors influencing a Think Tank’s Impact”, Mysore, March 4-6, 2012.
5. Participated in a TV panel discussion on “Budget and Rural Sector” on Lok Sabha TV, New Delhi, March 16, 2012.


7. Organised media and public communications training for NCAER research staff to improve their research outreach, NCAER April 8-9, 2012.


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**August 2012 to July 2013**

1. **Participation in Policy Bodies/Committees/Expert Panels**
   - Member: “High Powered Committee for Operating and Monitoring Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme”, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, New Delhi
   - Member: “Co-ordinating Committee for Organisation of Research Studies in the field of Agricultural Economics”, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi
   - Member: “Working Group on Fertiliser Industry for the Twelfth Five Year Plan”, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Fertilisers, New Delhi
   - Member: “Governing Council”, Maharshi Valmiki College of Education, University of Delhi

2. **Project/Programme Execution**
   - Led ongoing study on India’s Cotton Revolution: Outcomes and Insights, funded by Association of Biotechnology led Enterprises (ABLE)
   - Guided completion of field survey operations and data cleaning for NCAER’s National Survey of Household Income and Expenditure 2011-12. Launched and guided multiple studies based on analytics from this survey.
   - Organized international two-week training workshop in New Delhi with more than 100 participants from 13 countries on “Evaluating the Impact of Development Programs: Turning Promises into Evidence,” jointly with the World Bank, Washington DC. NCAER and the World Bank collaborated to offer this unique training workshop for the first time in India.

   Managed jointly with NCAER Director-General the Think Tank Initiative at NCAER to build research capacity and policy engagement.
3. Publications


2. Contributed a chapter on “Agriculture and Rural Development” for the Mid-Year Review of Indian Economy, for the NCAER-IIC Mid-Year Review of Indian Economy, NCAER and India International Centre, October 2012.


4. Lectures/Presentations/Conferences

4.1 Meetings and Conferences

1. August 17, 2012: Participated in a unique Fund Raising Event organised by Pratham at Imperial Hotel, New Delhi.

2. August 28, 2012: Contributed to the preparations for the NCAER Governing Body Meeting and attended the Meeting.


4. September 25, 2012: Attended the 27th Board meeting of Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB) and participated in the deliberations.


7. October – November, 2012: Organised in a series of meetings to prepare a presentation on the NSHIE data for the Annual CEO Roundtable held in Goa.

8. October – November, 2012: Contributed to the selection process for the selection of the Project Management Company for the NCAER India Centre as a member of the NCAER Building Committee.

9. October 20, 2012: Contributed to a meeting with Professor Angus Deaton on issues related to empirical economics poverty measurement, wellbeing, and economic development at NCAER.


11. November 5: Organized and contributed to a meeting with the Minister for Panchayati Raj and Chairman of the GOI Task Force on Panchayati Raj Institutions and discussion on “How Panchayats Can be Leveraged for More Efficient Delivery of Public Services”, NCAER.


17. November 21, 2013: Contributed on agricultural outlook to meeting with visiting team from the OECD Secretariat, Paris.

18. December 12, 2012: Participated in the NCAER Distinguished Lecture on “India’s Tryst with Destiny” by Professor Arvind Panagariya, Columbia University and NCAER, at NCAER.


20. January 4, 2013: Organized the inaugural C D Deshmukh Memorial Lecture “Grassroots Welfare Schemes and Macroeconomic Choices: India’s Dilemmas” by Professor Kaushik Basu, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at the World Bank and Non-resident Senior Fellow at NCAER, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.


22. February 26, 2013: Contributed to the preparations for the Governing Body Meeting and attended the GB Meeting.


24. March 26, 2013: Contributed to meeting of the High Powered Committee of the Price Stabilisation Fund Trust, Department of Commerce, Government of India, New Delhi.

25. April 1 to 3, 2013: Contributed to a brainstorming sessions on Food Inflation in preparations for DG’s meeting with the Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance.


27. July 16-17, 2013: Participated in India Policy Forum, organised jointly with the Brookings Institution, India International Centre, New Delhi.

28. July 17, 2013: Participated in an interaction over tea with the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh along with participants of the India Policy Forum, at 7 RCR, New Delhi.

4.2 Talks, Presentations, Workshops, and Media

1. October 2, 2012: Participated in the Convention on Biological Diversity organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Environment Programme, at Hyderabad, India and made a presentation on “India’s Experience with Bt Cotton”.

3. November 19-20, 2012: Participated in a Workshop on Second Tourism Satellite Account of India – 2009–10 organised by the Ministry of Tourism as member of a panel and also Chaired a session on “Data Sources for Compilation of Tourism Satellite Account” at India International Centre, New Delhi.

4. November 27, 2012: Participated in a Conference on Agri-biotechnology organised by the CII, TERI, Deakin Nano biotechnology Centre, and ABLE-AG at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi and made a presentation on “India’s Experience with Bio-technology: The Case of Bt Cotton”.


6. December 2012 to February 2013: Organised, managed, and participated in Skype meetings regarding rehearsals for the NCAER-WB workshop on impact evaluation with a team led by Juan Munoz from Systema Integrales from Chile.


August 2013 to July 2014

1. Participation in Policy Bodies/Committees/Expert Panels

Member: “High Powered Committee for Operating and Monitoring Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme”, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Member: “Co-ordinating Committee for Organisation of Research Studies in the field of Agricultural Economics”, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

Member: “Governing Council”, Maharshi Valmiki College of Education, University of Delhi.

2. Project/Programme Execution

Led ongoing study on India’s Cotton Revolution: Outcomes and Insights, funded by Association of Biotechnology led Enterprises (ABLE)

Guided completion of multiple studies based on analytics from NCAER’s National Survey of Household Income and Expenditure 2011-12.
Managed jointly with NCAER Director-General the Think Tank Initiative at NCAER to build research capacity and policy engagement.

Conceptualized and organized South Asian regional meeting on *Deconstructing South-South Cooperation: A South Asian Perspective* in partnership with DFID UK and CPD Dhaka. Led discussion on South-South Cooperation in agriculture and rural development.

3. Publications


2. A chapter on “Agriculture and Rural Development” for the *Mid-Year Review of Indian Economy* NCAER and India International Centre, November 2013.


4. Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Meetings

4.1 Meetings and Conferences


3. August 8, 2013: Contributed to NCAER *Quarterly Review of the Indian Economy* organised at NCAER.

4. October 8, 2013: Participated in a NCAER hosted lecture on “Private vs. Government: New Evidence on School Performance and Implications for India’s Right to Education Act” by Dr Karthik Muralidharan


6. November 13, 2013: Participated in a research symposium on “Leapfrogging Methodology & Technology in Household Survey Research: Lessons from the US and India” organised by NCAER in collaboration with the Survey Research Centre (SRC) at the University of Michigan at NCAER.


8. February 5, 2014: Contributed to NCAER *Quarterly Review of the Indian Economy* organised at NCAER.

10. March 13, 2014: Contributed to a workshop on “Capturing the Potential for Greenhouse Gas Offsets in Indian Agriculture” organised by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in collaboration with Victoria University, Melbourne, The Claridges, New Delhi

11. April 2, 2014: Participated in a lecture on "Building State Capacity for Better Programme Implementation: Evidence from Biometric Smartcards in India" by Professor Karthik Muralidharan organised by NCAER in collaboration with Omidiyar Network at India International Centre, New Delhi


13. July 15-16, 2014: Contributed to the 2014 India Policy Forum organised by NCAER in collaboration with the Brookings Institution at India International Centre, New Delhi


4.2 Talks, Presentations, Workshops, and Special Events

1. August 26, 2013: Participated in a workshop on “India in the Asian Century” organised by NCAER and was a discussant for the paper on “Agriculture and Natural Resources Management” held at India International Centre, New Delhi.

2. November 13, 2013: Organised NCAER and University of Michigan signing of a five-year MOU with the University of Michigan Survey Research Centre at NCAER

3. December 10, 2013: Organised an event for the visit of Dr Jean Lebel, President IDRC and his team and made presentations on NCAER’s 2020 strategy and NCAER-UM MOU at the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi

4. December 18, 2013: Organised an event for the announcement of Nandan and Rohini Nilekani gift of Rs 50 crore to NCAER to increase NCAER’s endowment and to fund the establishment of the new NCAER India Centre, NCAER

5. December 19, 2013: Organised and contributed to an event for the visit of Officers of the College of Defence Management and made a presentation on the “Role of NCAER in Understanding Indian Economy through Household Surveys” at NCAER.


7. March 28, 2014: Organised and contributed to a dialogue on “Deconstructing South-South Cooperation: A South Asian Perspective” organised by NCAER in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, and supported by the UK Department of International Development, DFID.

8. April 30, 2014: Contributed to NCAER’s Quarterly Review of the Indian Economy seminar organised by NCAER


11. July 15-16, 2014: Contributed to the preparations for the 2014 India Policy Forum organised by NCAER in collaboration with the Brookings Institution at India International Centre, New Delhi
