



Welcome to the April 2024 edition of our newsletter, featuring events, publications, and op-eds from the previous month.

Listen to our AGRI Round-Up Episode 2 titled "Why both Punjab's protesting farmers and the government need to come out of the 1970s mindset," with Senior Fellow Puja Mehra and Distinguished Professor Ashok Gulati exploring the importance of both Punjab's protesting farmers and the government moving away from the mindset of the 1970s.

Other highlights of the month include an Experts' Roundtable on the "Role of the Indian and Japanese Presidencies in bringing G20 & G7 Closer", supported by the Toshiba International Foundation; the Economic Policy for Women-Led Development (EPWD) hosting its second roundtable on "Designing Schemes to Promote Women-led Development that are Efficient, Impactful and Fiscally Responsible"; a webinar on "Fuelling Change: Impact of Mass Media on clean cooking fuel adoption in India."

Read our working papers on "Diffusion of Digital Payments in India – Insights based on data from PhonePe Pulse," "Zero Budget Natural Farming: Implications for Sustainability, Profitability, and Food Security," and policy brief on "New Deal for Agriculture for Viksit Bharat@2047." ICRIER faculty members wrote op-eds on topics ranging from "Policy coordination could boost trans-Asia Pacific e-commerce" to "Why minerals are critical?"

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Experts' Roundtable on Role of the Indian and Japanese Presidencies in bringing G20 & G7 Closer: An Assessment and Future Prospects

The ICRIER conducted an Experts' Roundtable on the Role of the Indian and Japanese Presidencies in bringing G20 & G7 Closer: An Assessment and Future Prospects, supported by the Toshiba International Foundation. The event took place on March 26, 2024, at the ICRIER Conference Room, India Habitat Centre, Delhi. The aim was to assess and enhance collaboration between G20 & G7.

For more information, [click here](#).

Roundtable on Designing Schemes to Promote Women-led Development that are Efficient, Impactful and Fiscally Responsible: Experience from Indian States

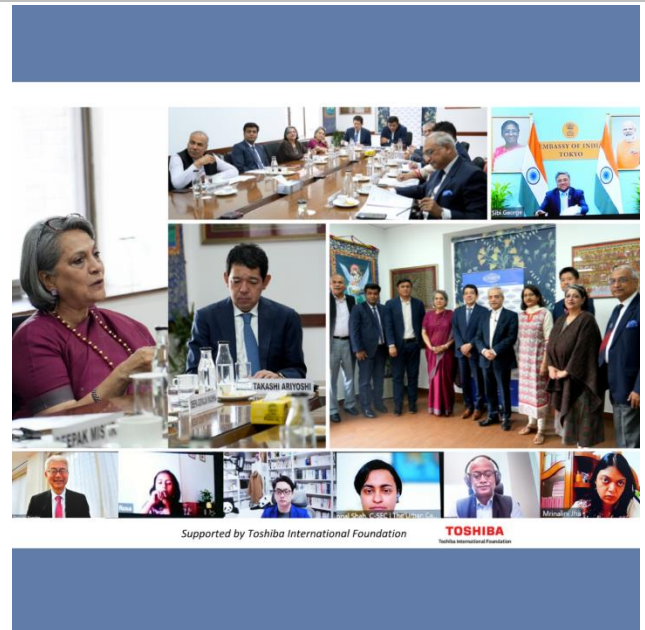
The Network on Economic Policy for Women-Led Development (EPWD) hosted its second roundtable on "Designing Schemes to Promote Women-led Development that is Efficient, Impactful, and Fiscally Responsible: Experience from Indian States." The participants included a diverse array of academicians, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, fostering rich dialogue and insights.

For more information, [click here](#).

Fueling Change: Impact of Mass Media on clean cooking fuel adoption in India

ICRIER, in association with the Asian Development Bank Institute, hosted a webinar on 'Assessing the Impact of Mass Media on Clean Fuel Adoption in India.' The discussion focused on how mass media channels (both traditional and digital) affect household adoption of clean cooking fuel in India.

For more information, [click here](#).



Asia Pacific E-Commerce Policy Summit

We partnered with MSL India and United Nations ESCAP for the 1st Asia Pacific E-commerce Policy Summit on March 14, 2024. The Summit aimed to foster open dialogue on conducive policy-making for cross-border e-commerce and MSMEs' global value chain linkages.

Key topics included robust cross-border e-commerce frameworks for MSMEs, consumer protection, e-commerce trade, cross-border data flows, and the impact of social media on e-commerce.

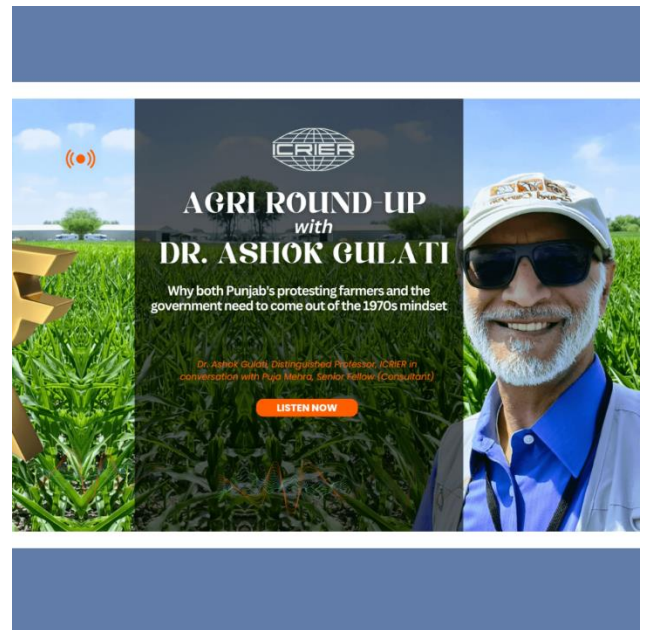
In the News: [Business Standard](#), [Hindu Bureau](#), [Dainik Bhaskar](#)

Click here to [Watch](#) the Event.

AGRI Round-Up Episode 2 | Why both Punjab's protesting farmers and the government need to come out of the 1970s mindset

Join Senior Fellow Puja Mehra and Distinguished Professor Ashok Gulati as they explore the importance of both Punjab's protesting farmers and the government moving away from the mindset of the 1970s.

Click here to [Watch](#) the Agri Round-UP.

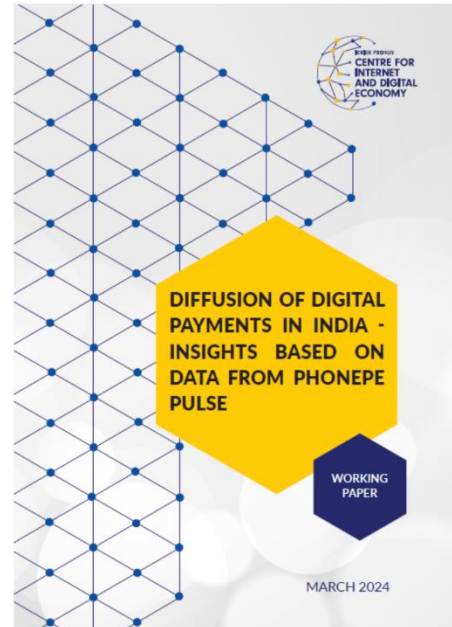


Diffusion of Digital Payments in India – Insights based on data from PhonePe Pulse

Author(s): Dr. Aarti Reddy, Dr. Mansi Kedia, Ms. Sanjana Shukla

The global surge in digital payments, accelerated by COVID-19, finds India leading. However, UPI's diffusion and inclusive scaling lack comprehensive understanding. Utilizing PhonePe data, this paper delves into diffusion patterns across Indian states and districts, correlating with socio-economic factors, aided by various data sources.

Click here to [download](#) the working paper.



New Deal for Agriculture for Viksit Bharat@2047

Author(s): Dr. Ashok Gulati, Dr. Ranjana Roy, Mr. Manish Kumar Prasad, Ms. Ritika Juneja

The policy brief delves into India's agricultural sector amidst ongoing farmers' protests, offering insights and solutions for sustainable income growth. It underscores modest income rises, advocating proactive measures like diversification, market access enhancement through innovations like contract farming and FPOs, trade policy liberalization, workforce transition incentives, and TFP boosting via infrastructure and research investments.

Click here to [download](#) the policy brief.

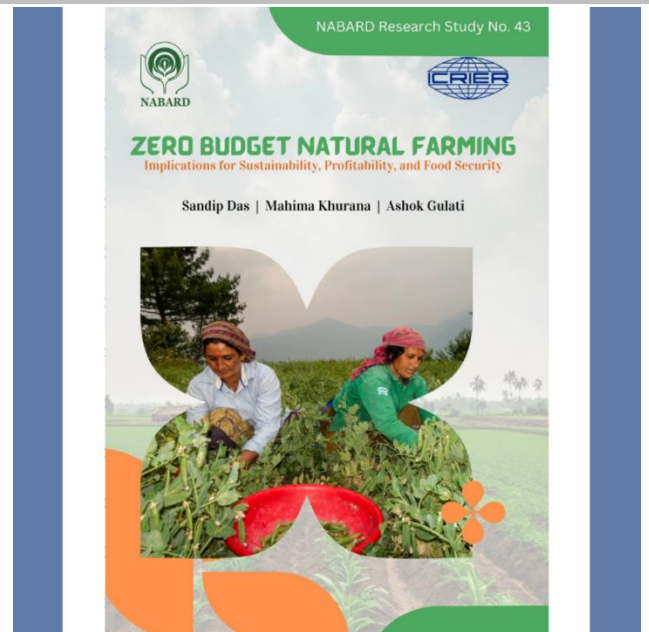


Zero Budget Natural Farming: Implications for Sustainability, Profitability, and Food Security

Author(s): Dr. Ashok Gulati , Mr. Sandip Das, Ms. Mahima Khurana

Increased fertilizer and pesticide use in Indian farming has harmed the environment, causing soil acidification, groundwater pollution, and air quality deterioration. To promote sustainable agriculture, the government advocates Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), aiming to assess its national-level implications on environmental sustainability, crop productivity, farmer profitability, and food security.

Click here to [download](#) the report.



SPOTLIGHT

Meet our Fellow Dr. Raya Das

Dr. Raya Das is a Research Fellow at ICRIER, working on the political economy of agriculture development in Global South with a particular focus on India. She has published in peer-reviewed journals on public policy, credit, land relation, and livelihood sustainability of farmers. Her Ph.D. thesis was on 'Agrarian Dynamics and Organisation of Production in West Bengal' at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. To learn more about our faculty members, please [click here](#)

SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Raya Das

Fellow, ICRIER

Joining ICRIER has provided me with a significant opportunity to continue my research on crucial issues in agriculture economics and rural development. The interdisciplinary nature of the themes we tackle here has greatly broadened my understanding and knowledge base. Over the past two years, I've had the privilege of contributing to multiple projects, each of which has enriched my expertise in the subject. Working at ICRIER not only allows me to delve deep into research but also offers the chance to publish work that can make a tangible impact on policy.

GROWTH EMPLOYMENT AND MACROECONOMY (GEM)

Op-eds | Media appearances:

[Sustaining rapid growth in challenging](#)

Shankar Acharya | Business-Standards | 21 March, 2024

[Policy coordination could boost trans-Asia Pacific e-commerce](#)

Arpita Mukherjee, Trishali Khanna | Mint | 13 March, 2024

[We balanced domestic interests with our trade needs at the WTO](#)

Arpita Mukherjee | MINT | 04 March, 2024



Op-eds | Media appearances:

[Diversify the basket](#)

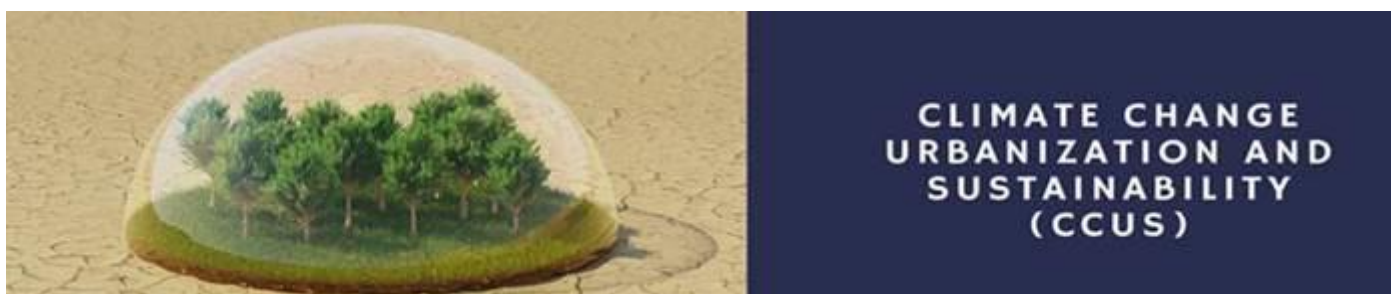
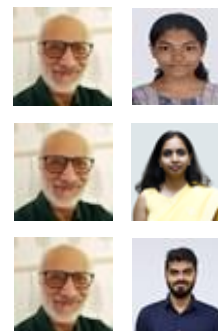
Ashok Gulati , Bidisha Chanda | Financial Express / Indian Express | 18 March, 2024

[Prospects for demand and supply of agricultural commodities towards 2030](#)

Ashok Gulati , Shyma Jose | The Hindustan Times | 10 March, 2024

[What it would mean to give farmers a fair deal](#)

Ashok Gulati , Manish Kumar Prasad | Financial Express / Indian Express | 04 March, 2024



Op-eds | Media appearances:

[Discom Performance: Strategies for improving finances and renewables uptake](#)

Somit Dasgupta | Renewable Watch | 28 March, 2024

[Why minerals are critical?](#)

Somit Dasgupta | Indian Express | 05 March, 2024



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Deepak Mishra
Director & CE

www.icrier.org



Our Offices:

Core 6A, 4th Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Plot No. 16-17, Pushp Vihar, Institutional Area, Sector 6, New Delhi-110017

Ph: +91 11 43112400, E-mail: info@icrier.res.in

Website: www.icrier.org

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