



Welcome to the December 2023 edition of ICRIER's newsletter, featuring our G20 Roundup, recent events, publications, and insightful op-eds from November 2023.

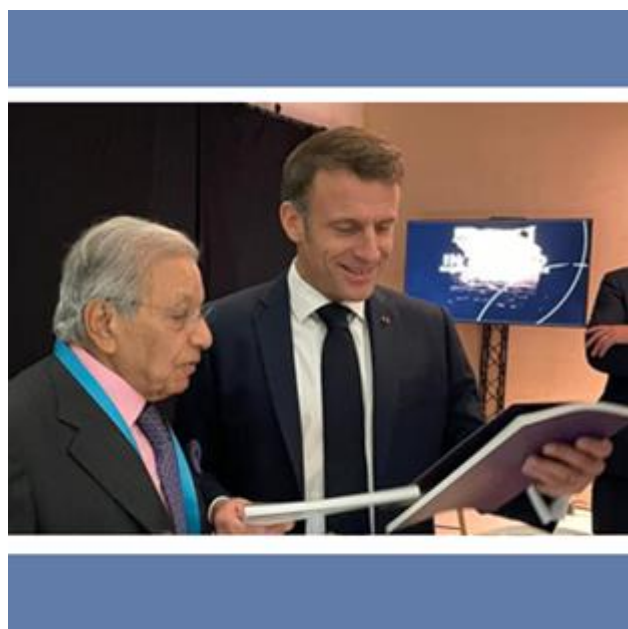
From a presentation to the French President Macron on MDB reforms and start of a new podcast series to hiring of a new Professor, it has been an eventful few weeks at ICRIER. We co-hosted a workshop with NITI Aayog, focusing on implementation of India's G20 Presidency recommendations to strengthen the multilateral development banks (MDBs). We organised an Expert Group Consultation, discussing fiscal measures for Sugar-Sweetening Beverages (SSBs) to align with SDGs supported by WHO India. Our first in-house podcast—a conversation between Prof. Ashok Gulati and Ms. Puja Mehra—touched on many important and controversial issues involving India's agriculture sector. We welcomed Ms. Payal Malik, an expert in competition law and technology policy, as our newest Professor and faculty member. Additionally, our faculty members authored op-ed articles covering diverse topics, including Dole risks and the significance of the IPEF supply chain resilience agreement.

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G20 IEG Co-Convener Addresses Paris Forum on Strengthening MDBs Reform

Co-convener of the G20 Independent Expert Group (IEG), Mr. N K Singh, spoke at the high-level forum in Paris on Strengthening MDBs Reform. ICRIER is privileged to serve as the Secretariat to the Expert Group, and to contribute to the preparation of the two IEG reports. [Picture: Co-convener of the G20 Independent Expert Group (IEG), Mr. N K Singh, presenting the report 'The Triple Agenda: A Roadmap for Better, Bolder, and Bigger MDBs' to the French President, Emmanuel Macron].



Accessing MDBs and Global Finance for Development and Green Growth

ICRIER, in partnership with NITI Aayog, organized a workshop themed "Accessing MDBs and Global Finance for Development and Green Growth" on Nov 9, 2023, in New Delhi. It focused on exploring the implications of reforms on India's engagement with the MDBs, identifying key issues/action points emerging from the NDLD that can be carried forward and implemented, and devising strategies for the implementation of these identified issues and action points, along with possible timelines for the same. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran, World Bank Country Director Auguste Tano, Pramod Bhasin (Chairperson, ICRIER), & Deepak Mishra (Director & CE, ICRIER) addressed the session. [PIB Press Release](#)



We have overdone wheat and rice and neglected other crops

In the inaugural episode of The ICRIER Podcast, Senior Fellow (Consultant) Puja Mehra speaks with Distinguished Professor Ashok Gulati about the changes India's food system needs urgently, and how to guard against the risk of food inflation spiking around February-March 2024.

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



Consultation on the Discussion Paper titled “Designing Fiscal Measures for Sugar Sweetening Beverages (SSBs) to meet SDGs in India”

ICRIER is privileged to organize an Expert Group Consultation with policymakers, nutritionists, legal and tax experts on 'Designing Fiscal Measures for Sugar Sweetening Beverages (SSBs) to meet SDGs.' The event was held in a hybrid mode on Thursday, November 23, 2023, in India Habitat Centre (IHC), Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

Click [here](#) to the event.



WTO Reform – Improving Transparency and Notifications in the WTO

Author(s): Mr. Anwarul Hoda

Working paper discusses WTO reform initiatives aiming at transparency and notifications. Debates suggest punitive measures don't induce compliance; defaults stem from notification complexities and resource constraints, especially in developing countries. Top trading nations show satisfactory compliance, while LDCs and smaller economies struggle. Simplifying notification formats and reducing frequency for less-resourced members could address these challenges, advocating for an inclusive approach to benefit all WTO members.

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

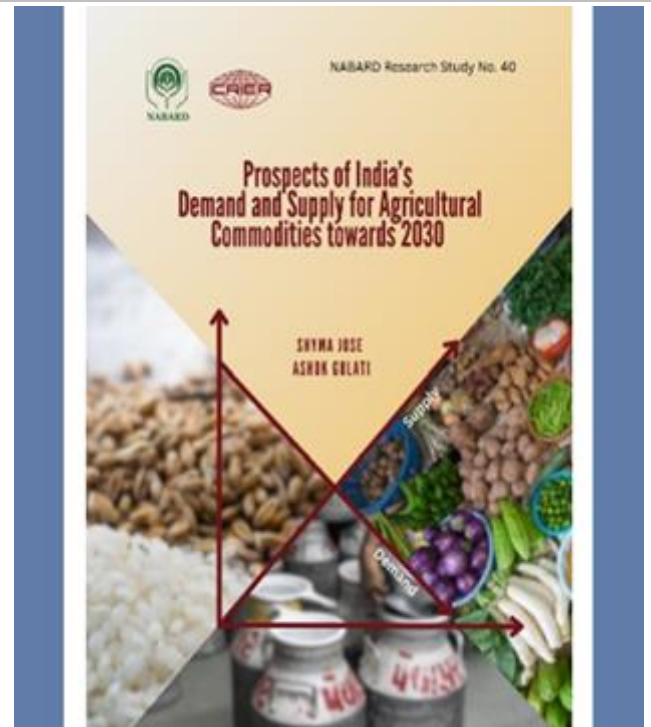


Prospects of India's Demand and Supply for Agricultural Commodities towards 2030

Author(s): Dr. Shyma Jose, Dr. Ashok Gulati

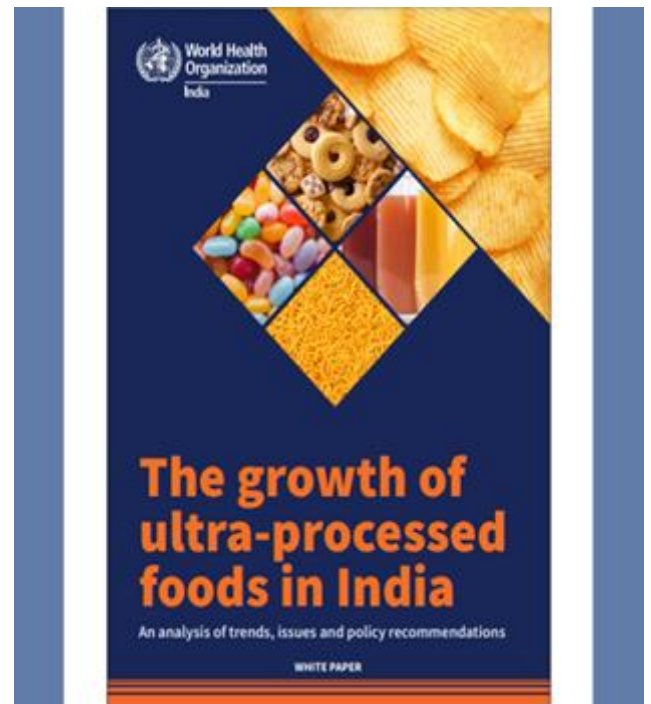
This report highlights demand-supply forecasts' role in effective agricultural policies, considering evolving preferences, population, and income. Projections till 2030-31 emphasize a consumption-driven approach, foreseeing self-sufficiency in cereals but deficits in oilseeds, pulses, and fruits. Technological investments are pivotal to balance production and absorption, essential in reducing import dependency. Adapting to changing consumption patterns mandates infrastructure upgrades, while addressing climate change necessitates research-based collaborations.

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



The Growth of ultra-processed foods in India

Closely linked with India's rapid economic growth is a simultaneous transition in dietary patterns. There has been a shift towards consuming ultra-processed foods, a key risk factor for noncommunicable diseases (NCD) early in life, documented in multiple studies. However, there is inadequate data on trends in sales and consumption of ultra-processed foods in India. In this context, this white paper: (1) analyses the sales trends in India's ultra-processed food category and the changes post-COVID-19 pandemic; (2) forecasts growth; (3) examines global best practices and India's initiatives on ensuring access to healthy diets; and (4) recommends policy actions to reduce the consumption of unhealthy food and help India attain nutrition security. Click [here](#) to download the paper.



SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Payal Malik to ICRIER

We are delighted to welcome Payal Malik as our newest Professor (Visiting) at the Indian Council of Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Until recently, Payal served as Head of Economics at the Competition Commission of India (CCI). In her new role, Payal will be an integral part of our Digital Economy Startups and Innovation (DESI) team and co-lead the ICRIER-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE). With her extensive experience in competition law, technology policy, and economic regulation, including being nominated by CCI as a member of the committee formulating India's draft e-commerce policy. To learn more about our faculty members, please [click here](#)



Op-eds | Media appearances:

Ultraprocessed Foods in Global

Arpita Mukherjee | K-Hub | TPCI | 28 November, 2023

IPEF supply chain resilience agreement opens several doors for India

Arpita Mukherjee | New Indian Express | 22 November, 2023

14-nation agreement on supply chain resilience opens doors for India

Arpita Mukherjee | Business Standard | 21 November, 2023

No high growth Indian demographic dividend without investment in human capital

Radhicka Kapoor | East Asia Forum | 21 November, 2023

SME Express: Ecommerce Special part 1 - Trends, Challenges & Opportunities

Radhicka Kapoor & Tanu Goyal | Z Business | 1 November, 2023

SME Express: Ecommerce Special part 2 - Trends, Challenges & Opportunities

Radhicka Kapoor & Tanu Goyal | Z Business | 1 November, 2023



Op-eds | Media appearances:

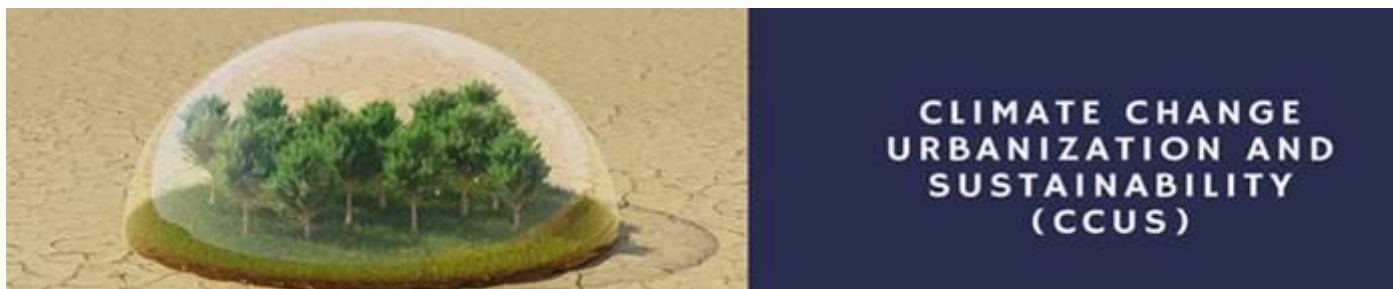
Dole danger ahead

Ashok Gulati | Indian Express / Financial Express | 27 November, 2023



The rice of the matter

Ashok Gulati | Indian Express / Financial Express | 11 November, 2023



Op-eds | Media appearances:

Withering hope: Little progress on Loss & Damage fund, though it was to take shape before COP28

Somit Dasgupta | Financial Express | 25 November, 2023



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