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MESSAGE FROM PROF. ASHOK GULATI

In Agricultural Policy, Sustainability, and Innovations (APSI) vertical of ICRIER, we have focused on issues related to augmenting exports of textiles and apparel, how agri-photovoltaics can augment farmers' income and provide clean energy in rural areas, and how diversification towards high value agriculture, especially fruits and vegetables and fisheries, has the potential to increase farmers' incomes substantially. The issues of Repurposing public policies and programs to promote Biodiversity and nourishing soils is also taken up on high priority. Round table discussions have been held around these topics, and reports published and released. Another major area of work is of increasing agri-exports, a project in knowledge partnership with APEDA.

It covers commodities ranging from banana to mango to potato and makhana as well as regions that range from Africa to Middle East and ASEAN. It is a rich harvest that APSI had last month.

Some of the policy messages are clear. For example, in case of textiles and apparel, India needs to scale up with access to cheaper capital, have flexible labour laws, and have export linked incentives. It can create lot of productive and sustainable employment. In case of agri-photovoltaics, we need to tweak the PM-KUSUM policy to let farmers have solar panels as third crop, put solar energy on farmers' fields in priority sector lending by banks, and ask Discoms to purchase power at the rate of thermal power rates. In case of re-purposing policies to promote biodiversity and save soils and water, policy of direct benefit transfer to identified beneficiaries is preferred compared to highly subsidised fertilisers or free power.

Hope this evidence based research will help the farmers to increase their incomes while preserving the resource endowment of the planet.

EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS

Improving Soil Health for Better Crop and Human Nutrition

June 02, 2025 | New Delhi

ICRIER's **Agriculture Policy Sustainability and Innovation (APSI)** team held a Round Table Discussion on Improving Soil Health for Better Crop and Human Nutrition on 2 June 2025 at Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Experts discussed the harmful effects of excessive urea use due to imbalanced fertiliser pricing, which is damaging soil quality and increasing nitrous oxide and nitrate contamination. Concerns were also raised about micronutrient deficiencies such as zinc, iron, boron and sulphur, which are lowering crop yields and nutritional value. Zinc-deficient soils were linked to higher rates of child stunting, threatening long-term economic growth.



Helping Firms and People Help Themselves: Building Resilience in South Asia

June 03, 2025 | New Delhi

Today at the India Habitat Centre, we unveiled World Bank's groundbreaking report **"From Risk to Resilience: Helping People and Firms Adapt in South Asia"**. The event brought together brilliant minds from The World Bank, ICRIER, government, academia, and the private sector to discuss actionable strategies for building resilience in the region.



From Farm to Foreign: Saga of Indian Textile & Apparel Sector

June 11, 2025 | New Delhi

In the roundtable **'From Farm to Foreign: Saga of Indian Textile and Apparel Sector'**, the discussion brought together voices from policy, trade and industry to explore the sector's growth, challenges and export potential. Industry leaders and representatives from organisations including Shahi Exports, Pearl Global, Reliance Industries, RBI, ADB, GIZ, ILO and Invest India also shared insights.



Powering Agriphotovoltaics through Innovation & Dialogue

June 18, 2025 | New Delhi

The discussion explored financing models, regulatory hurdles, land use, and technology design—key elements for scaling agriphotovoltaics in India. Experts emphasised the need for **supportive policies, practical business models and farmer-centric innovations** to unlock its full potential as a clean energy and rural income solution.



India and the CPTA: Moving Towards Cross-border Paperless Trade

June 9-13, 2025 | UNCC, Bangkok

ICRIER, in collaboration with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and the United Nations ESCAP, organised a hybrid session during Paperless Trade Week 2025 (9–13 June) at the UNCC, Bangkok. Titled “India and the CPTA: Moving Towards Cross-border Paperless Trade,” RIS’s Prabir De did a presentation focusing on India’s advancements and opportunities in implementing paperless trade. The panel discussion was moderated by ICRIER’s Prof. Arpita Mukherjee.



Tea Exports to the EU Market and the EUCS3D

June 23, 2025 | Online

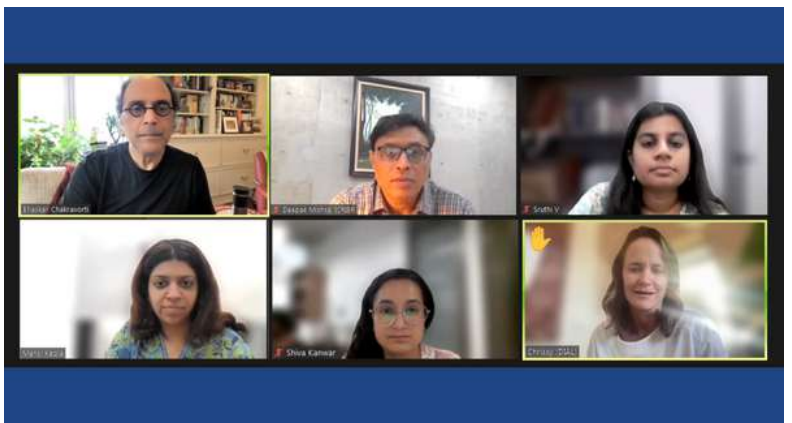
The session brought together tea producers, exporters, industry bodies, legal experts and EU buyers. Key concerns included high labour costs in Assam and the EU ban on essential pest control chemicals. Stakeholders called for a **Tea Board-led platform** to address sustainability challenges and for the EU to suggest alternatives to banned substances.



CoP DPI4D 9: The State of the Digital Planet and Implications for DPI, AI Adoption and Sustainable Development

June 17, 2025 | Online

Bhaskar Chakravorti, Dean of Global Business at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University presented an overview of the global digital landscape and discussed the Digital Planet research program's methodology for tracking digital economy evolution. The presentation covered various aspects of the digital economy, including growth rates across income levels, challenges in measurement, and the impact of the pandemic on digital progress.



The Value of 5G

June 24, 2025 | Online

In the webinar, **Justus Baron**, Research Director at Northwestern University, Director at Brela, and CEO of FRANDLY, joined expert discussants **Abhilasha Nautiyal**, Partner at Ira Law, and **Kadambari Prasad**, Vice President at Compass Lexecon, to discuss SEP licensing practices and their implications for India’s policy landscape, including initiatives like the Sovereign Patent Fund.



Repurposing Public Policies and Programmes in Agriculture for Protecting Biodiversity

June 18, 2025 | New Delhi

ICRIER, UNDP India, BIOFIN, and ICRISAT convened an expert roundtable at ICRISAT to chart a biodiversity-positive roadmap for India's agrifood systems. The teams also launched their report, **Repurposing Public Policies and Programmes in Agriculture for Protecting Biodiversity**.



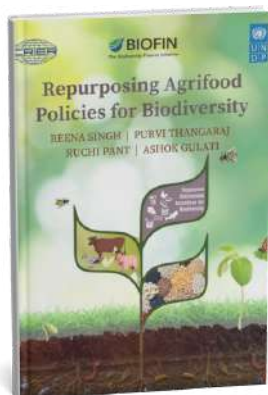
Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity Finance

June 24, 2025 | New Delhi

ICRIER, UNDP India, BIOFIN, and ICRISAT convened an expert roundtable at ICRISAT to chart a **biodiversity-positive roadmap** for India's agrifood systems. The discussions focused on actionable steps to repurpose agricultural programmes and policies to support biodiversity outcomes.



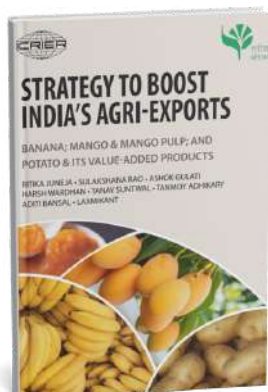
LATEST PUBLICATIONS



Repurposing Agrifood Policies for Biodiversity

Authors: Reena Singh, Purvi Thangaraj, Ashok Gulati and Ruchi Pant

The report highlights the urgent need to align India's agrifood subsidies with its biodiversity commitments under the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The study examines Agrifood Budgetary Support (AFBS) across national and state levels (Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana), revealing a sharp rise in support from ₹355 billion in FY01 to ₹7076 billion in TE 2024. Of this, 28 percent of the support was found to be detrimental to biodiversity. The report calls for a strategic repurposing of harmful subsidies to promote sustainable agrobiodiversity and support India's KM GBF targets.



Strategies to Boost India's Agri-Exports: Banana; Mango & Mango Pulp; and Potato & its Value Added Products

Authors: Ritika Juneja, Sulakshana Rao, Ashok Gulati, Harsh Wardhan, Tanay Suntwal, Tanmoy Adhikary, Aditi Bansal and Laxmikant

Despite being a top producer of bananas, mangoes and potatoes, India exports only a small portion of its output. This joint report by APEDA and ICRIER presents a practical roadmap to enhance India's horticulture exports by focusing on these key crops and their value-added forms. It assesses global competitiveness, benchmarks international best practices and recommends strategies such as export hub development, logistics improvement, market access, branding and value chain integration. The study aims to strengthen India's position in high-value agri-trade and contribute to the USD 100 billion agri-export target by 2030.

OP-EDS

 **The Indian EXPRESS**

How to tailor the garment sector for exports

Author: Ashok Gulati and Ayushi Gupta | June 09, 2025

With poverty levels now at historic lows, a need to revisit food and fertiliser subsidies

Author(s): Ashok Gulati and Ritika Juneja | June 23, 2025

 **FINANCIAL EXPRESS**
Read to Lead

Questions over carbon credit

Author: Somit Dasgupta | June 13, 2025

Modi@11: Milestones at macro level

Author: Ashok Gulati and Ritika Juneja | June 23, 2025

Scale up garment industry

Author: Ashok Gulati and Ayushi Gupta | June 09, 2025

hinrich foundation
advancing sustainable global trade

What should India focus on in its next trade agreements

Author: Arpita Mukherjee | June 10, 2025

 **Hindustan Times**

What the nuclear power vision needs for take-off

Author: Somit Dasgupta | June 24, 2025



Where does India's EV policy stand in global green energy push?

Author: Saon Ray | June 26, 2025

IDEAS FOR INDIA
for more evidence-based policy

Sowing sunshine: Can agriphotovoltaics offer a path to doubling farmers' income?

Author(s): Bidisha Banerjee, Subhodeep Basu and Soham Roy | June 16, 2025

ICRIER PODCASTS

How should India negotiate the Trump Trade Agenda

Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER is in conversation with Senior Fellow (Consultant) Puja Mehra as they explore, As the world anticipates the potential return of President Trump, what could his trade policies mean for India? This discussion dives deep into key issues, possible strategies, and implications for India's trade policy and diplomacy.

FTAs with Key Export Markets: Understanding India's upcoming FTA with the UK

Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER is in conversation with Senior Fellow (Consultant) Puja Mehra as they explore the potential impact of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement, its strategic importance, and how it could shape India's trade landscape moving forward.

India's sovereign AI push

Payal Malik, Professor (Visiting), ICRIER, joins Puja Mehra, Senior Fellow (Consultant), to discuss India's approach to building sovereign capabilities in Artificial Intelligence — from policy design and data governance to global competitiveness and public purpose.

Overview of India's textile and apparel sector

Explore the "Overview of India's Textile and Apparel Sector" in our latest conversation featuring Dr. Sulakshana Rao, Senior Fellow, ICRIER in conversation with Shibani Chattopadhyay, Communication Officer. They discuss the current state, challenges, and growth potential of India's textile and apparel industry — a key sector in employment and exports.

WHAT'S BREWING @ICRIER

ICRIER's Arpita Mukherjee and Eshana M. have contributed a chapter titled "The Economics of Integration" to the prestigious Oxford University Press volume, *The International Law of Economic Integration*. Trade agreements have become increasingly complex over time, with wide variations in their architecture, scope, and coverage, all of which influence the extent of economic integration. Emerging issues such as sustainable business practices, climate change and clean energy, technology, and data protection are now being addressed alongside traditional topics like market access for goods, services, and investment. With the proliferation of different forms of economic integration, related theories have also evolved. Economists continue to examine the impact of these agreements and the broader integration process. This chapter offers an in-depth analysis of these developments. Read the chapter here: <https://academic.oup.com/oxford-law-pro/book/60451?login=false>

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Exploring Agrivoltaics in Eastern India

ICRIER's APV team, with support from Passing Gifts, visited Jharkhand and Odisha to assess regional potential. In Sehla, a 40-kW solar mini-grid powers farming and homes for over 110 families. In Koraput, tribal farmers showed strong interest in APV. Discussions with ICAR-IISWC explored its viability on sloped, erosion-prone land. The visit highlighted APV's promise for clean energy, climate resilience, and rural livelihoods.



MEET THE TEAM



DIYA DASGUPTA
FELLOW, ICRIER

Diya Dasgupta is a Fellow with the Climate Change and Sustainable Development team at ICRIER. Her work spans renewable energy, climate finance, negotiations, and energy modelling. She has contributed to projects on financing India's NDCs (Ministry of Finance), India-China climate negotiations (WRI), and affordable housing (GIZ), and supported work on tourism-waste linkages in Uttarakhand (MOEF&CC). Diya holds a Master's in Economics from TERI School of Advanced Studies and a Bachelor's from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi. Her research interests include resource efficiency, green finance, renewable energy, and trade.