

**EMERGING ECONOMIES RESEARCH**

**DIALOGUE**

**REVIEW-CUM-BRAINSTORMING  
WORKSHOP**

**INDIAN COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

**Session I: Agriculture, Food Security and  
Livelihood**

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# Session I: Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood

- As asked by my colleagues from the Indian Council (ICRIER) I will present a synthesis of selected themes treated in the papers to be presented on this session.
- As well as Brazil, India and Mexico papers, I will include the case of CHINA:
- Its successful story on Ag. growth is relevant for our discussions.

# Purpose

- To propose some themes to the papers presented on Agriculture, as well as for our discussion.
- Following the comments we received, the revised papers now include in a more systematic and/or extended manner the role of agriculture in food security and livelihoods of the people of the countries included by ICRIER.
- **Agricultural and rural policies, agricultural growth and trade** are fundamental to understand the role of agriculture in food security and livelihoods of all countries, including the emerging ones.

# Country studies

- With respect to the case studies we have:
  - two successful stories: China and Brazil, and
  - two not very successful stories: India and Mexico
- Policy changes and contemporary policy environment differ between the 4 countries
  - China and India are subject to central planning
  - Brazil and Mexico are not
- The four countries have experienced market orientation reforms, but at different periods and degrees.

# CHINA

According to **Huang** and **Rozelle**

- land de-coletivization in China has been a major factor explaining China's agricultural growth.
- This, together with raising incomes of China's population –partially due to labor rural out-migration to China's growing urban/industrial sectors-, has provided food security and enhance the livelihoods of China's population

# BRAZIL

According to **Buainain** and **Ruiz Garcia**:

- As well as market oriented reforms with right policy interventions,
  - Research and Development, plus
  - the growth of agri-businesshave been the major drivers of Brazil agricultural growth and its functions in terms of food security and livelihoods of Brazilians.

The main **difference** between CHINA and BRAZIL is that BRAZIL is a net exporter of agricultural and processed foods, CHINA is not (e.g. soya beans imported from BRAZIL)

# INDIA

## According to **Mittal**

- Performance of India's agriculture has been poor in recent years
- Government intervention in agriculture and the food chain remains
- However, it is not clear to me if these interventions have sustained food security in India on its supply component.
- What is clearer in the paper is that due to the poor performance of agriculture, livelihoods of the Indian poor have not significantly improved.
- Market oriented reforms in the food chain are just beginning to take place

# MEXICO

As I will argue

- Very similar to contemporary India, up to the 1980's Mexico's agricultural and food chain was highly intervened by the State.
- However, agricultural growth has been low before and after the market oriented reforms of the 1990s

# Suggestions for the discussion

Based on the above, I will suggest a first group of themes for our discussion on the role of agriculture :

- That **market orientation** is neither a sufficient condition for agricultural growth, nor for attaining food security and for improving the livelihoods of the population of emerging countries
- For this, appropriate public interventions are required
- Is overall economic and trade growth of an emerging country sufficient to attain food security and to improving livelihoods of its population?
  - The China paper suggest this
  - For Brazil, being a net agricultural exporter, the theme is not important
  - Indian interventions suggest that, for its governments, agricultural growth in staple production is a necessary condition to attain food security and to improving livelihoods of its population
  - The same has been recently true for government food security policies in Mexico, but with less government interventions than in India.

# Suggestions for the discussion

A second suggestion for discussion is related to farm size

- Has and/or will small farming agricultural production be a relevant contributor to sustain food security and to improve livelihoods of the population?
- The Brazilian paper does not discuss the question
- The authors of the China and India/Mexico papers have a different answers:
  - For Rozzelle and Ruiz continuation of the successful China story requires bigger farms sizes
  - Implicitly, for Mittan small farming in India has potential.
- For me, small farming has subsisted in Mexico under market orientation. However, this does necessary meaning that they will subsist in the future and/or that they will have a major role in sustaining food security in Mexico.

THANKS