Policy Options to Achieve Food Security in South Asia

Edited By: Surabhi Mittal and Deepti Sethi

Surabhi Mittal is a Senior Scientist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). She served as a Senior Fellow at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

Deepti Sethi is a Research Assistant at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations.
Policy Options to Achieve Food Security in South Asia

Edited By: Surabhi Mittal and Deepti Sethi

Agriculture in South Asia and many other parts of the world is apparently caught in a low equilibrium trap. The features of this trap are low productivity of staples, supply shortfalls, higher prices, low returns to farmers, product diversification, causing further shortage of staple food. The question of food security has a number of dimensions that go beyond production, availability and demand for food. Food availability does not ensure food security. Thus, distribution and access of population to food is equally important for food security. Food availability can be achieved through better distribution mechanisms and alternatively through imports to ensure food security.

This book identifies major issues of food security in the South Asian countries. Each chapter of the book throws light on issues such as initiatives and policies taken up in a particular country to achieve the goal of food security, and also critically evaluates the effectiveness of these policies. Discussing the SAARC food bank to ensure food security in South Asia, the book also suggests measures to overcome the identified current constraints and make the policies more effective.

The book would be of interest to postgraduate students, academic researchers, SAARC offices, and organizations dealing with agriculture research.

Contents

List of Contributors • Foreword
Acknowledgements • List of Abbreviations