

Rapporteur Report: Session II- Round table on agriculture

- The session described the issues into four diversified parts namely financial development, technological changes, pricing and environmental degradation in agriculture.
- **Dr. Nachiket Mor**, ICICI Bank emphasized on agriculture banking system from the ICICI Bank point view.
- ICICI Bank is ready to provide fund to improve the agriculture business system provided there is a practical orientation of laboratory research. Risk can be shared between Bank and farmers when the laboratory research can successfully be implemented into fields.
- Dr. Mor highlighted the issues of shortage for warehouse, the quality of warehouse, significant demand and supply gap, Post harvest infrastructure development, cross border barriers among the states, problem on transportation facilities, need for organizing the retail sector to improve their value addition.
- He pointed out that basically, the farmers and consumers are operating at lower equilibrium level.
- **Dr. Ashok Gulati**, IFPRI in his presentation discussed about the issues on Price and trade policies in Indian agriculture emphasized on What is the prime function of price and trade policies? The nature of domestic agricultural price and procurement policy and its consequences, Trade policy reforms and how have they affected farmers' incentives and Dovetailing domestic price policy with trade policy
- As a way forward he suggested the use of income policy to achieve Equity objectives, and Price and Trade policies to achieve efficiency objectives, De-link Support price from Procurement price, Introduce warehousing receipt system; Private sector stocking to be encouraged, Strengthen Futures trading, Keep exports and Imports free.
- **Dr. S.S Johl**, Punjab Planning Board said that four major concerns in agriculture are 1. food security problem on a sustainable basis, availability and nutritional aspects. 2. Resources depletion and de-gradation particularly water, air pollution and soil. 3. Technology fatigue, resource efficiency and TFP are declining, 4. Water pricing and power pricing problem. Cost effectiveness and market competitiveness, diversification and demand driven production.
- He emphasized moving away from ponded water type of rice cultivation to aerobic organic farming which is environment friendly.
- **Dr. Tushaar Shah** from International Water management Institute, highlighted that Since 1975, Indian agriculture has emerged as the world's largest user of groundwater

and that the groundwater boom is fired by population pressure on land and demands of intensive diversification of farming. India's irrigation challenge is one of managing its sub-continental aquifer systems, a vast reservoir we have left unmanaged.

- He suggested the need to evolve a practicle implementable tool-kit for ground water management.