



Indian Agriculture: Structure, Markets, and Policy

Course and Instructor Information

Instructor: Tirtha Chatterjee

Email: tirtha.chatterjee@jgu.edu.in

Office Hours: To be decided

Course Duration: 15 weeks

Prerequisites: Basic understanding of economics and econometrics recommended

1. Course Description

The course will cover key debates on issues related to Indian agriculture. It will integrate economic theory with empirical evidence to provide a comprehensive understanding of the agrarian economy. It will cover themes such as land (tenancy, farm size and productivity), labour (rural labour markets, wage contracts, feminization of labour). It will also examine agricultural markets and pricing policies, including marketing institutions and state interventions. If time permits, we will further address production, market, and climate risks, and analyses the role of agricultural credit, financial inclusion, and policy measures such as farm loan waivers.

2. Course Intended Learning Objectives

Course Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessments/ Activities
Understand the structure and significance of Indian agriculture and its linkages with rural development, labour markets, land relations, and agricultural markets.	Lectures and in class student led discussions	In class tests, term paper, class participation and end semester examination
Analyze key agricultural policies and contemporary challenges related to land reforms, market integration, agricultural credit, risk, and rural institutions using economic reasoning.		
Develop critical research skills by evaluating debates in agricultural economics and conducting independent analysis on agrarian issues.		

3. Scheme of Evaluation and Grading

The assessment structure will comprise of the following components-

- 70 marks for internal evaluation- The internal component will include a closed-book class test (20 marks), a term paper on an agrarian research topic (40 marks), and attendance and class participation (10 marks)
- 30 marks for an in-class end-semester examination (closed book).

4. Course Material

Main Reference: Lecture Notes

Main textbook:

Ray, D. (1998). *Development economics*. Princeton University Press. **(DR)**

5. Reading list (Tentative)

Introduction

- Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households, National Statistical Office (NSO), 77th round, 2019
- Agarwal, B., & Agrawal, A. (2017). Do farmers really like farming? Indian farmers in transition. *Oxford Development Studies*, 45(4), 460-478.
- Chatterjee, S., & Kapur, D. (2017, August). Six puzzles in Indian agriculture. In *India Policy Forum 2016* (Vol. 17, p. 13).

Significance of agriculture in Indian Economy

- Fan, S., Hazell, P., & Thorat, S. (2000). Government spending, growth and poverty in rural India. *American journal of agricultural economics*, 82(4), 1038-1051.
- Datt, G., Ravallion, M., & Murgai, R. (2019). Poverty and growth in India over six decades. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, aaz043.
- Kadiyala, S., Harris, J., Headey, D., Yosef, S., & Gillespie, S. (2014). Agriculture and nutrition in India: mapping evidence to pathways. *Ann NY Acad Sci*, 1331(1), 43-56.
- Gillespie, S., Poole, N., van den Bold, M., Bhavani, R. V., Dangour, A. D., & Shetty, P. (2019). Leveraging agriculture for nutrition in South Asia: What do we know, and what have we learned? *Food Policy*, 82, 3-12.

Structural Transformation and roads and agriculture

- Binswanger-Mkhize, H. P. (2013). The stunted structural transformation of the Indian economy: Agriculture, manufacturing and the rural non-farm sector. *Economic and Political weekly*, 5-13.
- Michler, J. D. (2020). Agriculture in the process of development: A micro-perspective. *World Development*, 129, 104888
- Shamdasani, Yogita (2021). "Rural road infrastructure & agricultural production: Evidence from India." *Journal of Development Economics* 152: 102686.
- Donaldson, Dave (2018). "Railroads of the Raj: Estimating the impact of transportation infrastructure." *American Economic Review* 108 (4-5): 899-934

Land

- Shaban, R. A. (1987). Testing between competing models of sharecropping. *Journal of Political Economy*, 95(5), 893-920.
- Banerjee, A. V., Gertler, P. J., & Ghatak, M. (2002). Empowerment and efficiency: Tenancy reform in West Bengal. *Journal of political economy*, 110(2), 239-280.

- Gaurav, S., & Mishra, S. (2015). Farm size and returns to cultivation in India: Revisiting an old debate. *Oxford Development Studies*, 43(2), 165-193.
- Deininger, K., Jin, S., & Nagarajan, H. K. (2009). Land reforms, poverty reduction, and economic growth: Evidence from India. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 45(4), 496-521.
- Bardhan, P., & Mookherjee, D. (2010). Determinants of redistributive politics: An empirical analysis of land reforms in West Bengal, India. *American Economic Review*, 100(4), 1572-1600.

Labour

- Dreze, J. P., & Mukherjee, A. (1989). Labour contracts in rural India: Theories and evidence. In *The balance between industry and agriculture in economic development* (pp. 233-265). Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- Pal, S. (1996). Casual and regular contracts: Workers' self-selection in the rural labour markets in India. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 33(1), 99-116.
- Afridi, F., Bishnu, M., & Mahajan, K. (2020). Gendering technological change: Evidence from agricultural mechanization.

Markets

- Chand, R. (2012). Development policies and agricultural markets. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 53-63.
- Misra, K., & Basu, D. (2024). To reform and to procure: An analysis of the role of the state and the market in Indian agriculture. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 60(5), 724-744.
- Chatterjee, S. (2023). Market power and spatial competition in rural India. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(3), 1649-1711.
- Narayanan, Abhinav and Shekhar Tomar (2023). "Farm support and market distortion: Evidence from India." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 105 (3): 966–993
- Mitra, Sandip, Dilip Mookherjee, Maximo Torero, and Sujata Visaria (2018). "Asymmetric information and middleman margins: An experiment with Indian potato farmers." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 100 (1): 1–13.
- Meenakshi, JV and A Banerji (2005). "The unsupportable support price: an analysis of collusion and government intervention in paddy auction markets in North India." *Journal of Development Economics* 76 (2): 377–403

6. Session Plan (Tentative)

Session (with Date)	General Topic	Readings
Week 1	Introduction- present status of Indian agriculture- some unanswered questions on Indian agriculture	References above
Week 2	Significance of agriculture in Indian Economy	References above
Week 3&4	Structural transformation and agriculture, roads and agriculture	References above
Week 5, 6 & 7	Agricultural land, types of tenancy, land size and productivity debate. Land reforms	DR- chapter 12 and references above
Week 8, 9&10	Agriculture labour- some common features of rural labour market, different wage contracts, feminization of agriculture	DR- chapter 13 and references above
Week 11, 12 & 13	Agricultural markets- laws, reforms, market integration	References above
Week 14 & 15	Term paper presentations & revision	