



INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES KOLKATA

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Webinar Notice

Farmers Bill: A Roadblock to an Inclusive and Sustainable Agri-food Value Chain

Speaker:

Dr. Rajib Sutradhar, Assistant Professor, Economics, Christ University

Date: 25 September 2020 (Friday)

Time: 5PM

Abstract:

Farmers Bill entailing three ordinances regulating marketing, storage and movement of farm produce have been passed on 20th September, bypassing the states, ostensibly to give farmers more freedom to sell their produce. Among the three ordinances, most controversial one is Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020. The ordinance has, however, failed to acknowledge the importance of APMC market in a competitive and inclusive agri-food market system. Our review of procurement practices followed by organized firms has underlined its exclusionary character, which has bypassed disadvantaged geography and resource poor farmers. Given public good character of marketing infrastructure, public fund and public institution have to play a stronger role in such cases. Further, price setting method adopted by organized supply chain underlies strong case for strengthening APMC markets even in better endowed areas to prevent the former become monopsony. However, with double tax regime for inside and outside APMC market, the proposed ordinance did exactly the opposite. Given that organized supply chain is associated with increased food miles, public market is also very important from environmental sustainability of food value chain. By overlooking all these aspects, the recent ordinances have taken a quantum jump towards wrong direction of what is required to build an inclusive and sustainable agri-food value chain, which is extremely important to avoid large scale distress migration from rural pockets as we have witnessed during Covid lockdown.

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**Sd/- Subhanil Chowdhury
Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK**