

About the Pre-Conference Symposiums organised by TEA

Till now TEA has organised Five Annual Conferences and Four Pre-Conference Symposiums. The first Pre-Conference Symposium was on the theme '**Education Development in Telangana State: Issues and Challenges**' held at Gajwel during December 2017. The Second was on '**Governance of Local Bodies in Telangana State**' held at Kothagudem during 2018. The third was on '**Textile Sector in Telangana State: Issues and Challenges**' held at Siddipet district during December 2019. The fourth was on '**Implementation of New National Education Policy 2020 in Telangana State: Issues and Challenges**' held at Kamareddy during November 2020.

About the TEA

Telangana Economic Association (TEA) was formed in September 2016, with the objectives of finding common forum for Students, Teachers, Researchers, Policy Makers and others interested in sharing the ideas and various measures on Economic Theory, Macro Economic Policies and Development dimensions of Telangana State. The other objective of the TEA is to conduct periodical seminars, workshops in related areas and to bring out publications independently or in collaboration with other institutions. The Association was formally inaugurated on 10th September 2016 at R.B.V.R.R. Women's College, Narayanguda, Hyderabad with the unveiling of the Logo of the Association by Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, an eminent economist.

About the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University (Dr.BRAOU), India's first Open University was established on 26th August 1982 through an Act of the Andhra Pradesh. The University offers many courses at UG, PG, M.Phil and Ph.D. level which are recognized by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi. The University has a wide network of 213 study centers spread across both Telangana & Andhra Pradesh States, including 23 regional co-ordination centers and exclusive study centers for women students, Army Jawans and Prisoners.

Looking back at the achievements, over the four decades, the University is striving its best to ensure social justice in higher education by providing access to large number of non-formal learners to the undergraduate programmes, designing courses innovatively under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), Application Oriented Courses, Producing quality materials for interactive learning in Telugu, English and Urdu, Setting up a wide network of support services, Widening access to research, postgraduate and professional programmes, giving hands on training for laboratory practice in Science and Technology Courses, Using multiple modes (Print and Electronic) for delivery of instruction. The efforts of the university are paying off as is evident from increasing enrolments. Its alumni are placed into respectable professions both locally and nationally. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the students of BRAOU have travelled overseas in search of green pastures and are successfully engaged in their careers.

The Department of Economics, one of the largest Departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences, was established in the year 1983. Economics is one of the most popular subjects of study opted by distance learners of the Open University. The Department is offering UG, PG and Research Programmes.

The Department has been adorned by eminent personalities who have contributed immensely for the growth of the discipline and the Department in different capacities. At present the Department has qualified and committed faculty with rich teaching, research and administrative experience. The Department imparts education through its quality Self-instructional material, Radio, Tele-Lessons and Tele-Conferences that are broadcast/telecast through AIR and Doordarshan respectively. These are developed in association with distinguished experts from highly reputed Universities. The Department of Economics has been making untiring efforts to further the cause of Economics as a discipline. It has been imbibing concepts of economics in young learners that help them attain a growth trajectory in their careers and propel them professionally.



**Department of Economics, Dr. BRAOU
&
Telangana Economic Association (TEA)**
One Day Pre-Conference Symposium
on
New Farm Laws 2020:
Impact on Farmers and Food Security
with Special Reference to Telangana State
1st December 2021
at
**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University,
Hyderabad**



Members of Executive Committee of TEA 2019-2021

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President: | Prof. N. Linga Murthy, KU |
| Vice President - I: | Prof. K. Muthyam Reddy, OU |
| Vice President - II: | Prof. E. Revathi, CESS |
| Secretary-cum-Treasurer: | Prof. B. Shiva Reddy, OU |
| Joint Secretary: | Prof. R.V. Ramana Murthy, UoH. |

Prof. B. Shiva Reddy
Secretary, TEA: (M) 98493 00699
E-mail ID: bs_reddy@rediffmail.com;
shiva.baddipadiga@gmail.com

Dr. K. Krishna Reddy
**Organising Secretary &
Head, Dept. of Economics, Dr. BRAOU:**
Phone: 040-23680610 (Off); 94408 90076
E-mail: krishnareddy@gmail.com

Theme of the Pre-Conference Symposium:

Government of India enacted three Farm Laws in September 2020. They are (1) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act; (2) The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act; and (3) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act. However, in response to the Farmers' agitation and representations from the Farmers' Organisations, the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of these laws.

The first Act allows inter-state and intra-state trade of farm produce in addition to the trade in physical premises of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets only. Any licenced trader can buy the produce from the farmers at mutually agreed prices anywhere, on which the trader need not pay the market fee. However, trading in the APMC premises attracts payment of stipulated market fee. The second Act creates a national wide uniform contract farming system framework enabling the farmer and buyer/miller/processor to transact the farm produce under mutually agreed agreement even before harvest. The third Act is an amendment to the existing Essential Commodities Act, which allows free movement and storage of farm produce except during certain specified conditions.

The three laws have implications for the development of agriculture, livelihoods of farming community and food security in India. Further, their impact varies from state to state depending on cropping pattern and State policy on agriculture. Obviously, impact of them in the Telangana State may not be the same compared to other states like Punjab, Haryana and other North Indian states due to recent developments in the agriculture sector.

In the last few years, the Telangana State has experienced an impressive growth in Agriculture Sector. Due to increase in the availability of irrigation, free and uninterrupted power supply and other factors agricultural produce has increased significantly. At present agricultural crops are produced in about 230 lakh acres when compared to about 130 in lakh acres in 2014 in both Kharif and Rabi put together. The major crops-both in volume and value-include Paddy, Maize, Pulses, Oil seeds, Cotton, chillies and spices (turmeric). The main problem related to marketing of agriculture produce is in connection with few food crops like Paddy, Maize and commercial crops like Cotton. There is some change in the cropping pattern in the last few years. The Telangana state is endowed with rich crop diversity and has been major exporter of paddy, cotton, maize, poultry, meat and meat products and seeds.

The production of paddy, the main food crop, increased in the last few years due to increase in cultivated area and also yield. As per the latest statistics paddy is cultivated in about 62 lakh acres which is likely to result in the 56 lakh metric tonnes in this Kharif season, harvesting of which is going on. The procurement of agricultural produce, particularly paddy, is marred with controversy by bringing in the Centre-State relations.

It is not clear as to how the Farm laws affect the farming community, particularly, those producing the above crops in the Telangana State. Therefore, there is an urgent need to sensitize farming community and various stakeholders in Telangana State objectively with evidence-based policy analysis discourse. The utter chaos and confusion among farmers and other stakeholders on farm laws is a result of long neglect of evidence-based public discourse. There is also a need to encourage wider participation of various concerned sections- academicians, farming community, NGOs and policy makers and implementing agencies to elicit their views. In this context, informed evidence-based policy debates among various stakeholders starting from farmers, elected representatives, agricultural department and marketing officials is essential. Subsequently it may be pointed out that when there is weak evidence, there is more scope for misconceptions and misinterpretation. Old laws enacted in pre-independent India continue to persist even now, although they outlived their utility with the changed times, particularly in the context of recent developments in the Telangana State.

The implementation of New Farm Laws-particularly the first one is likely to affect the agricultural development in the state. The Telangana government's vision of Bangaru Telangana cannot be achieved without understanding these farm laws more clearly so that the provisions of these laws can be gainfully harnessed. The confusion among various stakeholders- including economics fraternity- needs to be cleared, so that Telangana Government can take appropriate measures either to support or oppose or suggest modifications, according to the local needs as has been done by other state governments-particularly by Governments of Punjab and Rajasthan. Given that farmers are now exposed to free market environment, more evidence based public policy advocacy is needed to inform policy making related to agriculture and marketing in Telangana state at this critical juncture.

Given this background, Telangana Economic Association (TEA) is planning to organise a One-Day Pre-Conference Symposium on

New Farm Laws 2020: Impact on Farmers and Food Security with Special Reference to Telangana State in collaboration with Department of Economics, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, Telangana State.

The Pre-Conference Symposium would delve deeply in to various aspects of the new farm bills focussing, mainly on the following sub-themes related to Telangana State.

- Whether the implementation of the Farm laws undermine the federal spirit by undermining the powers of Government of Telangana.
- Whether the implementation of the Farm laws undermine the role of the Government-including Government of Telangana and increase the market role-including the role of Corporate Sector by undermining the powers of Governments at state and national level.
- How various elements of new farm laws impact the present marketing system and possible market distortions envisaged by them in Telangana State.
- Whether the implementation of the Farm laws are detrimental or beneficial to the interests of the Farming Community in Telangana State.
- Whether the implementation of the Farm laws lead to dismantling of the present price and marketing system in Telangana State.
- Within the farming community whether the Online Procurement and Management System (including the recently modified OPMS) benefit owner/tenant farmers in the Telangana State.
- Whether the implementation of the Farm laws- particularly the third Law - is detrimental or beneficial to the Food security system in Telangana State.
- How to align the provisions of the new Farm laws to agriculture and marketing in Telangana state so as to minimise the risks and maximise benefits, if any, to the Farming Community, Livelihood and Food security system in Telangana State.

To deliberate on the chosen sub-themes experts, activists and academicians would be invited to participate and forward a write-up on their choice themes. TEA will take care in ensuring necessary facilities to organise the Pre-Conference symposium.