

## **SESSION 6.2 (PLANTATION AGRICULTURE)**

### **The sustainable future for Indian coffee: Certified, Organic and Specialty coffee**

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**Abstract:** The paper examines the role of certification, as a measure to improve the sustainability for Indian coffee in view of emerging demand for certified and specialty coffees in the global market. The global imbalance of supply and demand have often eroded farm-gate prices to low levels. Indian coffee growers have to make a choice of either staying as low-cost producers of a bulk coffee or adopt innovative practices to differentiate their produce to access quality conscious consumers. This aspect is further analysed with a perceptions case study in India's largest coffee growing district - Kodagu by interviewing a sample of conventional and certified coffee growers. Our analysis indicated that adoption of certification programs in Kodagu is relatively limited with a few individual-level niches in the area of certified coffees. Therefore, we have argued that the potential for conservation-oriented certification for coffee in Kodagu offers greater promise keeping the uniqueness of the natural offerings from Kodagu as a hotspot of biodiversity.

### **Return to labour, innovation and inclusive growth in the context of Indian tea plantations: Recent happenings in Kerala and West Bengal**

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**Abstract:** Tea plantation sector is very important sector in India's inclusive growth strategy because of its significant contributions towards providing livelihood opportunities to millions of plantation workers, majority of which are women and tribal workers and marginal sections in medium and small plantations. However, since adoption of liberalized economic policies from early nineties which stresses on the export expansion, there is this stress on export competitiveness. Despite pitiable living and working conditions majority of tea workers are tied to the plantation work over generations. Even though women workers constitute more than half of the total labour force, their interests are consistently neglected and their representation at the union level is very minimal. Last year in Kerala women workers of the KHDP Ltd. did something new and induced innovation in mobilizing large number of women workers against anti-worker designs of the management and succeeded in getting their demand at the end. They did this without taking help from operating trade unions and without seeking any political patronage. This movement had a spread effect on the plantation workers across Kerala and as a result daily wages for tea plantation workers increased from Rs 231 to Rs 300 at a single go which is unprecedented in the past. This is the first

instance where indigenous leadership came in the forefront and secured their just demands. In this sense this is a path breaking effort even though on a small scale. But it has the potential to spread across plantation regions and ensure a degree of inclusive development.

## **Revealed comparative advantages and competitiveness of India's agricultural, food, tea and coffee products**

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**Abstract:** International competitiveness governs with the comparative advantage of a particular nation. Comparative Advantage proposes that even if a nation is less competent or has an absolute detriment with respect to another in the production of all commodities, there is still a basis for communally beneficial trade. Based on above an attempt has been made to investigate the revealed comparative advantages and competitiveness of India's agricultural, food, tea and coffee products for the periods of 1995-2014 for agricultural, food and tea products and 1996-2015 for coffee products measuring the comparative advantages and competitiveness of the these products. The different tools like RCA, TSC,RSCA,RC and NPC indices has been illustrated for which Sequence of data employed for the study and it has been obtained from World Trade Organisation (WTO), EXIM-Trade data, Federation of agriculture organisation (FAO), India brand equity foundation (IBEF), Tea board of India, RBI trade bulletin also from various journal publications. Findings of the study shows that although almost all of the above products are having comparative advantages and competitiveness even than due consideration need to take for maintaining the same.

## **Sustainability of NR Sector under Liberalised Trade Regime in India**

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**Abstract:** Natural Rubber (NR) has been subjected to continuous and unrelenting price fall for more than half a decade since 2011. The NR being a small holder's crop with an average size of holdings of 0.46 hectare, staying capacity of farmers have been shaken. Sustainability of NR production sector implies sustenance of marginal and small farmers constituting more than 98% of the total rubber holdings and 78% of area in under NR in India. Against the setting, the study explores factors influencing NR price in

India during the pre-reform and reform periods. Supply side variables viz., production, import and exports on the one side and demand side variables such as NR consumption, growth in agriculture, manufacturing, aggregate GDP are used. The influence of international market on NR is captured with world oil price, world GDP, world price of NR representing the aggregate impact of the supply and demand side variables in the international economy. The variables tested for unit root (to detect the stationary property) and cointegration (Engle-Granger test and Johansen test) for both domestic as well as world NR price along with demand and supply side variables used in the study. Having identified the co-movement of variables, causality test is applied to detect the cause and effect relationship of variables with NR price. The VAR Model was applied to find the short run causality between the variable as there was no long run co-movements between the domestic and world price of NR. The Impulse-Response function indicated that a impulse in world price creates a response in domestic market for almost a week in the daily price of NR. The study concluded that the NR sector in India was closely integrated with the world NR market after 1991. Sustainability of NR farmers calls for production of NR at a competitive price in the international market or opt to leave the NR production for the market. The NR sector in India may not be sustainable in the long run in the present situation as long as the domestic market is integrated with the world NR market. Government intervention in the domestic NR market is less likely to yield desired results as long as domestic market is connected to the world market.