



FACULTY: ONGOING PROJECTS AND STUDIES

✎ BINA AGARWAL

'Gender and Group Farming in Kerala: The Kudumbashree Experience', funded by Kudumbashree, Government of Kerala, initiated on January, 2016, likely date of completion July, 2017.

Group Farming and Collective Action in France: Does the French model hold lessons for Indian and French farming futures?', funded by IFCPAR and CEPIPRA, initiated on October, 2015, likely date of completion March 2018.

✎ AMITA BAVISKAR

'Demolishing Delhi: Landscapes and Livelihoods in Liberalizing India', self-initiated, April 2006.

This study focuses on changing landscapes and livelihoods in Delhi at the intersection of three sets of inter-related processes: (i) economic liberalization, (ii) the growth of the middle classes, and (iii) the rise of an activist judiciary. It analyzes these changes in the city's economic, social and political life as a context for the phenomenon of 'bourgeois environmentalism', a cultural sensibility that drives collective action in pursuit of urban order, safety and health. It examines how 'bourgeois environmentalism' narrows the discourse of 'public interest' and citizenship in Delhi, and how excluded social groups strive to escape its constraining effects.

Food Practices in Western India: Environment, Production and Consumption', self-initiated, September 2008.

The multiple routes of Indian modernity can be traced through shifts in the modes of producing and consuming food. This study attempts to analyse some of these shifts through a selective discussion of changing food practices in post-Independence India. It locates these changes in the context of the political economy of agriculture since the Green Revolution which brought about a profound re-articulation between food producers and consumers. It delineates the widening circuits of food as a commodity form within the home and outside, spanned by the growth of processed foods and the practice of 'eating out'. The study juxtaposes changes in affluent and middle-class consumption with the persistence of hunger and malnutrition among the poor.

(with C.S.C. Sekhar and Purnamita Dasgupta) 'Risks, Returns and Resilience: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Climate Change and Agriculture', Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), initiated on March 2017, likely date of completion February, 2019.

Dryland agriculture in India has been marked by a severe crisis of reproduction during the last two decades. In an already precarious scenario, climate change adds another dimension of uncertainty, which farmers, as well as policymakers, are struggling to factor into their strategies for future well-being. What are the mechanisms available to the farmer for coping with this uncertainty? What are the resources that s/he can command – natural, financial, political and social? Are the pathways of coping different in different regions? How varied are risks and returns in different states? This study attempts to address these questions through a multi-disciplinary approach to understand this complex issue.



☞ MOHAN KUMAR BERA, JR. SRT FELLOW

On-going Project

'Collective Efforts of People to Reduce Natural Disasters in Sundarban Islands'.

People from chronic flood affected areas in Sundarban Islands do not immediately leave the place because they have seen the difficulties of their neighbours, friends and relatives those who have become the environmental refugee. Therefore, they take efforts to avoid the impact of floods. They understand that individual efforts are not sufficient to avoid the impacts. The perception of disaster risk influences the affected villagers to involve in collective activities to reduce the impacts of floods. The collective activities also help them to negotiate with the government to meet their demand in reducing the impacts.

☞ T.A. BHAVANI

'Review of Indian Manufacturing Sector Performance and Constraints'.

Despite inheriting reasonable industrial base at the time of independence and adopting industry-based development strategy, India failed to have successful industrialization and to have adequate diversification of its production structure away from agriculture towards industry. Rather, it showed premature and rapid diversification to services. Why Indian industry especially manufacturing remained under-sized and under-performed? I propose to do a critical review of the existing literature on important aspects of manufacturing such as size structure, composition, employment, and informal sector in an attempt to look for answers for the failure of Indian industry specifically manufacturing sector.

☞ SANGEETA CHAKRAVARTY

'Trends Analysis of Tourism in India', self-initiated, May 2017, likely date of completion, December 2017.

'Tourism and Economic Growth in India: An Econometric Approach', self-initiated, May 2017, likely date of completion May 2017.

☞ SAMIK CHOWDHURY

'Fiscal Restructuring and its Implications on Health Sector: An Analysis of State Budgets', funded by Bill & Milinda Gates Foundation, USA, initiated on October 2015, likely date of completion September, 2018.

'Comparative Assessment of Central Government Health Financing Schemes and their Impact', funded by World Health Organization (WHO), initiated on July 2016, likely date of completion June 2017.

☞ SAUDAMINI DAS

'Development-Environment Trade off: Assessing the impact of upstream mining and industrial activities on Mangrove and Ecological Diversity of Bhitarkanika National Park', funded by IUCN-MFF SGF, initiated on July, 2016, likely date of completion July, 2017.



(with Arup Mitra, Amarnath Tripathi, T. Sarangi and T. Ranganathan) 'Climate Change, Livelihood Diversification and Welfare Change', funded by ICSSR, initiated on March 2016, likely date of completion February 2018.

☞ PURNAMITA DASGUPTA

(with Smita Sirohi, NDRI) 'Risk and Vulnerability Analysis of Rural Farm Households in Drought Prone and Coastal Areas of India', funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), initiated in May 2016, likely date of completion May 2018.

(with Amita Baviskar and C.S.C. Sekhar), 'Risks, Returns and Resilience: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Climate Change and Agriculture', funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), initiated in March 2017, likely date of completion 28 February 2019.

(with Vikram Dayal and Katharina Michaelowa) 'Public Acceptance and Environmental Impacts of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform', funded by ICSSR, initiated in March 2017, likely date of completion August 2017.

(with Manoj Panda) 'Developing Future Socio-Economic Scenarios for India in the Context of Climate Change', funded by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, initiated in February 2017, likely date of completion December 2017.

'Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities', IPCC special Report on 1.5 deg C Global Warming, funded by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Trust Fund, initiated on March 2017, likely date of completion March 2018.

☞ NILABJAGHOSH

(with Anita Kumari, M. Rajeshwor) 'Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based Observation (FASAL)', funded by Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, initiated on April 2006, likely date of completion 2018.

The FASAL project provides early forecasts of crop output using econometric modeling to the Ministry of Agriculture every year for finalizing official advance and final estimates published by Government of India. Four forecasts are provided, two (F0 and F1) each for Kharif and Rabi for major crops at the state level and projected at the all India level.

'Emerging Technologies for Rice Cultivation including SRI', self-initiated (likely to be sponsored), 2015- 2017.

The paper is a review of rice farming practices, sustainable techniques and their suitability in Indian conditions especially eastern India. It is an invited paper planned to be a chapter in a book "System of Rice Intensification for Increased Productivity and Ecological Security" by G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, University of Allahabad, Book (eds.) K. N. Bhatt and P. Bhargava with Keynote paper by Norman T. Uphoff Professor Emeritus of Government and International Agriculture, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA). The paper draws and extends on the work done for ICIMOD. Special focus of the proposal is on SRI in Bihar.

'Land Use Changes from Agriculture to Urban Landscape, 2016-17', FASAL team (in process, self-initiated).

This short study examines the land use and cropping pattern changes taking place in national capital region which is becoming urbanised overtime. Both secondary data and satellite maps created under FASAL are used.



'Extent of Food Processing in India, 2017'.

This is an extension of the earlier work that is still discussed with Ministry (MoFPI). This is a study of methods.

'Understanding the Dynamics in the Pulses Sector in India' (FASAL team).

This is a statewise study of production dynamics and sources of growth in contemporary times when there is official promotion of these crops. We also analyse the behavior of prices at wholesale and retail market levels to mark sharp departures. This is an outcome of extended work done at the behest of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare and Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

✎ INDRANI GUPTA

'Comparative assessment of central health financing schemes and their impact', funded by World Health Organization (WHO), initiated on July 2016, likely date of completion June 2017.

This study aims to understand *three important schemes for health coverage in India - the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), the Employees State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) and the Indian Railway Medical Services*. The aim was to understand the coverage, financing and administrative set up of the schemes to explore the possibility of bringing these under a common umbrella as a step forward towards Universal Health Coverage.

✎ BRAJESH JHA

'Litchi Production Marketing and Processing in Bihar and India', funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, initiated on 2014, likely date of completion June 2017.

The growth in litchi production passes through three distinct phases after 1991-92, increasing from 1991-92 to 1997-98, subsequently decreasing till 2004-05. And after 2004-5 area under litchi has increased though productivity declined during the period. On the basis of trend in area and productivity, the litchi producing states in India can be presented in different kind of situation. Exports of litchi have also declined during the recent period. Litchi is a climate sensitive crop and a significant proportion of litchi (30 per cent) in orchard is perished due to biotic and abiotic stresses. The perishability of litchi thereafter depends on the kind of market channels and infrastructure related to crop. In the most widely used channel for marketing the share of producers in final price of litchi was around 25 per cent. Though producers share was high in litchi exported and processed, but only small proportion of litchi are exported and miniscule proportion (less than 3 per cent) of these are processed in the country.

✎ WILLIAM JOE

'National Food Security Act among Rural Households in Karnataka', funded by ICSSR, initiated on June 2017, likely date of completion May 2019.

'Cost of Inaction in Family Planning in India', funded by Population Foundation of India, initiated on June 2017, likely date of completion November 2017.

Longitudinal Aging Study in India Survey'.



☞ SABYASACHI KAR

(with Kunal Sen and Amrita Roy) 'Low Income Traps and Institutions', self-initiated, April 2015, likely date of completion March 2018.

In this research, we show that rather than absolute convergence, income and institutional measures exhibit club-convergence, indicating the existence of low level traps in income and institutions. Next, we show that low level institutional traps are important determinants of income traps.

(with Kunal Sen, Saon Ray and Ajit Mishra) 'Determinants of Stalled Investment Projects in India: Economics or Politics?', self-initiated, April 2016, likely date of completion March 2018.

In the proposed study, we will examine the causes of stalling in projects in India, and disentangle governance related causes from market conditions. We will use a rich data-base of individual stalled and non-stalled projects (CapEx and Prowess data, from CMIE), and assess whether the determinants of firm-initiated stalling are different from politician-initiated stalling. We will ask to what extent the stalling of projects in India can be explained by strategic considerations as opposed to unforeseen contingencies, and whether political factors are more important than economic factors in explaining stalling.

(with Chandan Mohanty) 'Night Lights and Indian Growth Rates', self-initiated, April 2016, likely date of completion March 2018.

Night lights are increasingly being used as an important proxy for economic activities. We propose to study the usefulness of nightlights for Indian Growth analysis.

☞ ANITA KUMARI

(with Nilabja Ghosh, Amarnath Tripathi and M. Rajeshwor) 'Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based Observations (FASAL)', funded by Ministry of Agriculture, date of initiation April 2006, likely date of completion March 2018.

The FASAL project provides econometric forecasts to the Ministry of Agriculture every year. These forecasts help the government to make estimates early in the season when information is scanty and for validating the Ministry's departmental field level estimates in order to strengthen the country's statistical system. Four forecasts, two (F0 and F1) each for Kharif and Rabi for major crops at the state level and projected at the all India level are provided. Database is being updated regularly and specification revised based on the suitability and diagnostics. Forecasts for 2016-17 submitted and for 2017-18 is in the process.

'Annual Productivity Index in Manufacturing Sector across Industries and States', funded by DIPP (Ministry of Commerce and Industry [Advisor Prof. B.N. Goldar]. Date of initiation July 2015, likely date of completion March, 2016.

The objective of the project has been: (1) to create Annual Total Factor Productivity Index for all industries at 2-digit of NIC, in manufacturing sector across major States and for all India, (2). Finding significant factors determining TFP across the industries for various states (3) Suggesting policy and other recommendations for improvement of TFP. Two training programmes were conducted. Two Interim Reports and a Final Report have been submitted. Various meetings and discussions w.r.t. to updating of data and methodology were held during the year.

☞ VEENA NAREGAL

'Framing Inter-regional Comparison: Historical Demarcation and Developmental Transition in South Asia 1905–1960', funded by ICSSR, date of initiation July 2017, likely date of completion January 2019.



'Translating Political Economy and History of Development Thought in India'.

(with Arup Mitra), 'Institutional Frameworks and Social Policy Paradigms: Higher Education, Environment and Labour 1950-1990'.

'Language, Development, Marginalisation: Methodological Perspectives on the "Tribal Question"'.

☞ BASANTA K. PRADHAN

'Perspective Plan for Odisha', funded by Government of Odisha, date of initiation May 2015, likely date of completion October 2017.

This study aims to prepare a perspective plan for Odisha for years 2030 and beyond. The objectives of the plan would be projecting growth and income for 2036 keeping in view the current income and poverty alleviation scenario. The plan involves ascertaining the requirement of investments for realizing the future targets for growth and income and investments and budgetary allocations for specific sectors like health, education, infrastructure etc. Here we are trying to estimate a series for total (both public and Private) capital formation.

'Fiscal Scenario in Punjab', funded by NITI Aayog, date of initiation October 2016 likely date of Completion August 2017.

The proposed study intends to identify different deficit indicators for the state. The study attempts to examine the debt position and discuss the alternative approaches to debt-sustainability perspective of the state. Beyond the aggregate analysis, this study attempts to carry a disaggregate analysis of different components of the State's committed expenditure vis-à-vis the targets and its comparison with those achieved by other major states in India. The study also aims to estimate the tax capacity and tax effort of the state using relevant econometric methods and to suggest policies to cope up with the challenges of fiscal consolidation in Punjab.

☞ PRAVAKAR SAHOO

'One Belt One Road: Economic and Strategic Implications'.

'China and India's Services Exports'.

'Basel-III and Indian Banking Sector'.

'Capital Flows: Expansionary or Contractionary', funded by ICSSR, date of initiation 1 August 2016, likely date of completion 31 January 2018.

'FDI and Domestic Investment'

☞ C.S.C. SEKHAR

(with Yogesh Bhatt) 'Food Inflation at National and State Level – Trends and Determinants', funded by Ministry of Agriculture, GoI, date of initiation January 2016, likely date of completion September 2017.

(with Amarnath Tripathi) 'Concurrent Evaluation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)', funded by Ministry of Agriculture, GoI, date of initiation November 2016, likely date of completion September 2017.

(with Amita Baviskar and Purnamita Dasgupta) 'Risks, Returns and Resilience: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Climate Change and Agriculture', funded by ICSSR, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion March 2018.



☞ RUBY ALAMBUSHA SINGH

'Prevalence of Early Marriage, Domestic Violence and its Impact on Women's Health in India', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion December 2018.

☞ SURESH SHARMA

(with PRC Staff) 'NHM Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh States Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs): 2016-17 Monitoring and Evaluation for 24 Districts', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion March 2018.

PRC Delhi will visit quality monitoring of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh States NHM PIPs for the monthly report. In this context, the PRC Delhi team s will be visiting *North East Delhi and North West districts of Delhi*, Bhiwani, Jhajjar, Mahendragarh, *Mewat, Palwal, Panipat of Haryana*, Bikaner, *Bundi*, Churu, *Dhaulpur*, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, *Jalor*, Jhunjhunun, Nagaur, and Sikar districts of Rajasthan, Bagpat, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghazipur, Hapur, Muzaffarnagar, and Shahjahanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh States for review and analysis of suitable quality parameters. The study uses structured interview schedule to study the progress on the basis of key conditionality's and incentive and roadmap for priority action as suggested in the RoPs.

(with PRC Staff) 'Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI)', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion March 2018.

Longitudinal Ageing study in India (LASI) has been introduced in lieu of the fact that population ageing is taking place in nearly all the countries of the world. LASI is a nationally representative survey of 60,250 older adults in age 45+ in India in all the states and union territories. LASI will be conducted every 2 years for the next 25 years. The main objective of LASI is to provide a comprehensive evidence base on health and wellbeing of elderly population in India. LASI will focus on demographics, household economic status, health and biomarkers, health insurance and health care utilization, family and social network, work and employment, and retirement. LASI will provide comprehensive evidence base for national and state level policy and programmes like Comprehensive National and state reports, summarizing the descriptive findings, Health: Disease Prevention and Control, Disability Control social Security and Ageing Policy framework, Policies for economic Challenges posed by ageing, internationally comparable scientific multidisciplinary data.

(with Manisha Bothra) 'Socio-Economic Differentials in Ageing and Dementia: A Reflection on the Challenges Ahead for India', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion December 2017.

India being the second most populous countries in the globe is expected to surpass China by 2022 (United Nations Report). The demographic structure of India is changing at a rapid pace with an increase the proportion of old age population (Subaiya, 2011). The elders are socially deprived and have little or no access to Social support, security and insurance. The present study aims to assess the changing demographic trends and analyze the constraints pertaining to the delivery of health care services in India. This study further reflects upon the importance of insurance and pension markets in ensuring economic independency to the elderly. This study would also highlight the importance of research and data on dementia, which is often ignored to be a serious ailment. The data sources include NSSO 71st Round, Census 2011, SRS etc. The study will be beneficial for the policymakers to identify the challenges that need to be addressed in the near future for delivering key health services.

'Reproductive Health Behavior of Tribes in Himachal Pradesh: Retrospects and Prospects', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation June 2017, likely date of completion November 2017.



India is a country with diversity of cultures, traditions and ethnicity and tribal population are indispensable part of its long heritage. With modernization in health markets, there are some section of the society which is untouched by these developments. The prime objectives of this study include assessing the broad social status of women, identifying their sexual behaviour and family planning practices apart from studying their attitude toward their reproductive health and hygiene. The sampling design adopted for the present study is purposive stratified random sample. The study will be conducted in four tribal blocks of Himachal districts (Chamba, Lahaul,) with their identity as GADDI tribes and LAHAUL tribes and respondents would be chosen randomly. The study will be relevant and productive for the policymakers since it would highlight the health related anomalies in the tribal areas specifically in hilly terrain areas separated and lacking effective means of commutation and communication.

(with Niharika Tripathi) 'Gender Differentials in Economic Security and Function Health: Status among Elderly in India', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion February 2018.

India is rapidly experiencing ageing of population owing to improving life expectancy and dwindling fertility rates. Such remarkable demographic changes are accompanied by process of rapid urbanisation and changing living arrangements wherein institution of joint families are weathering away. The present study proposes to investigate the extent and pattern of economic security across selected demographic and socioeconomic characteristics stratified by gender dimensions in India. In addition, efforts shall be made to understand the association between economic security and functional health status among elderly. The proposed study shall exploit data on older adults (60 years and above) from the second round of Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS 2011–12). The proposed study using a gender lens intends to provide sound evidence base on the association between economic security and functional health status among older adult population in India. These findings shall be crucial to shed light upon strengthening the cause of economic and social security among the rising older population in India.

(with Niharika Tripathi) 'Prevalence and Risk Factors of Pregnancy Wastage among Women in India', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion March 2018.

Despite global commitments to improve maternal and child survival, there exists paucity of regular scientific estimates related to pregnancy wastage, particularly in the developing countries. The present study proposes to examine the prevalence of pregnancy wastage (accounting for both miscarriage and spontaneous abortion rates) across selected demographic, socioeconomic and contextual factors among married women in India. In addition, theoretically pertinent risk factors associated with pregnancy wastage among married women in India shall also be investigated. The proposed study shall use the data on pregnancy wastage among women (15–49 years) from the second round of Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS 2011–12). The proposed study intends to provide scientific estimates, at both national and sub-national level, on the extent of pregnancy wastage among women in India. Such information shall be crucial for designing context-specific programmes and policies to address the issues of protecting vulnerable pregnant women from spontaneous abortions and miscarriages.

(with Niranjan Raut) 'Choice of Contraceptive Methods with a Special Focus on Non-Acceptance of Vasectomy', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion August 2017.

Female sterilisation is one of the most preferred methods of family planning in India while male sterilisation is the least accepted method. Over the years, a reduction in the prevalence of Vasectomy has been noticed. The prevalence of vasectomy reduced to 1.0 per cent in NFHS-3 from 3.5 in NFHS-1, which may be due to low acceptance or negative perception. Against this backdrop, the present study aims to examine the changing pattern of contraceptive practices in India. Apart from this, the study also intends to find out the knowledge and attitude towards various contraceptive practices especially



Vasectomy. The data sources for the present study will be the different rounds of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) as well as other available secondary sources. Apart from analysis from secondary sources, a primary study using interview schedules will be followed to identify the attitudes and the reasons of not accepting vasectomy. The study proposes to cover 250 respondents keeping in mind the time and resource constraints. Suitable statistical methods would be adopted for analytical purposes.

(with Anupama George) 'Role of ASHAs in Providing Newborn and Child Health Care Facilities: A Case Study of Uttarakhand, funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, date of initiation April 2017, likely date of completion August 2017.

Community Health workers, commonly called ASHAs in India, have played an instrumental role in providing primary health care to the community and especially in ameliorating the status of maternal health in the country. This is quite evident from the increasing rates of institutional deliveries that have been possible due to the major role played by the ASHAs. However, when it comes to newborn health, India is lagging far behind; rather it is the highest contributor of neonatal deaths. In light of this, it is very important to understand the role of ASHAs as a link worker, bridging the gap between vulnerable newborns and health service centres. This study attempts to evaluate the knowledge of ASHAs with respect to Newborn Health according to ASHA Training module 6 and 7 and to check the effectiveness of Module 6 and 7 training in reducing neonatal morbidity and death. It will also attempt to understand the difficulties faced by the ASHA workers in providing health services to the newborns. Primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires and focused group discussions. The sample will include ASHAs, post-partum mothers and ANMs.

☞ SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

'Mobile Labour, Fixed Capacities; Skills Development and New Labour', self-initiated, date of initiation March 2015.

'Citizens, States and the Making of Urban Spaces', self-initiated, date of initiation December 2017.

☞ AMARNATH TRIPATHI

(with C.S.C. Sekhar) 'Concurrent Evaluation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana for 2016-17', funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, date of initiation November 2016, likely date of completion June 2017.

(with Arup Mitra, Saudamini Das, Tapas Sarangi and Thiagu Ranganathan) 'Climate Change, Livelihood Diversification, and Well-being in Rural Odisha', funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), date of initiation March 2016, likely date of completion February 2018.

New Research Initiatives/Projects

'Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022: Exploration of Opportunities and Constraints in Uttar Pradesh'.

(with William Joe) 'Cost of inaction in family planning', funded by Population Foundation of India, date of initiation June 2016, likely date of completion December 2019.



☞ JAYAN T., *POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW*

'Performance of National Food Security Act among Rural Households in the Backward Districts of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh'.

Although the food grain production and procurement for PDS are sufficient for eliminating hunger from the country, Indian PDS has to undergo vast overhaul for ensuring food security among the poor and poorest of the poor living in the rural areas of the backward districts. National Food Security Act was notified on 10 September 2013. The Act provides for the coverage of up to 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population for distributing subsidised food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System. The eligible persons will be entitled to receive 5 kg of food grains per person per month at subsidized prices of 3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains. The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, will continue to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per household per month. The Central Government is thus providing highly subsidised food grains to about 80 crore beneficiaries in the country. The proposed study enquires the performance of National Food Security Act among the rural households in the backward districts of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh States. Backward districts were identified by the Task Force of the Planning Commission in 2003 based on three parameters of agricultural wages, output per agricultural worker and the SC/ST population in the district. The study has been proposed to be conducted based on primary survey among the rural households in the States. Three backward districts from Madhya Pradesh and two districts from Andhra Pradesh have been selected for the survey. The selected districts are Satna (416), Dhar (409) and Seoni (294) in Madhya Pradesh. Chittoor (535) and Vizianagaram (380) are the districts for survey in Andhra Pradesh. The number of sample households in each district has been given in the respective parentheses. The sample size is determined based on the number of BPL households in each districts identified based on Socio Economic Caste Census survey. Thus, the study covers 2034 rural households and 60 fair price shops.