

## **Transforming Punjab Economy through Rural and Agricultural Diversification**

Punjab holds a place of pride among Indian states for its outstanding achievements in the agricultural sector. Green Revolution in 1967-68 onwards, led to phenomenal growth in agricultural productivity and production, which brought prosperity in the Punjab economy and made Punjab the most affluent state of India. However, over the years, Punjab has slipped in terms of economic prosperity and now it stands at 15<sup>th</sup> place among states and UTs in terms of per capita income. This is because of the fact that gains from green revolution like fast growth and poverty reduction could not be sustained after eighties.

Nineties saw the era of liberalization but Punjab being an agrarian state could not benefit much and its growth started decelerating. Slowdown of Punjab economy was infact imminent in the absence of appropriate policies for transmitting growth from agriculture to non-agricultural sector. Development based on single sector could not be sustained and new Growth Centers must emerge for continuous growth. Rural diversification via development of allied agricultural sector, agro processing industries, other non-farm economic activities and the service sector is the key to further growth.

For agricultural diversification, Punjab needs to shift away from the current cropping pattern towards cash crops and the crops which are more suitable from the stand point of sustainable agricultural practices. IT empowered marketing institutions need to be developed for strengthening Punjab agriculture. Punjab also lags behind in agri-businesses and agro based industries and hence concerted policy efforts are needed in this direction. There is also a need for strengthening human capital formation by improving the quality of school education, higher education and health delivery system in Punjab.

Keeping in view the state of Punjab economy, the Punjab School of Economics proposes to organize a seminar on the theme 'Transforming Punjab Economy through Rural and Agricultural Diversification' on **March 1-2 2019**, so as to provide a forum to the academicians, researchers and policy makers to deliberate on the theme of utmost importance for Punjab economy and suggest appropriate policy solutions.

## **Sub-themes**

1. Agricultural Diversification of Punjab – problems and prospects
2. Rural Diversification/Development of Punjab-policies, problems and prospects.
3. Role of Human Capital in Rural Development.
4. Agrarian Crisis and Farmer Suicides.
5. Potential of Agro processing Industries.
6. Rural Non-farm/Informal Sector Employment.
7. Role of Information Technology in Agricultural/Rural Diversification.
8. Agricultural Marketing.
9. Environmental Change and Sustainable Agriculture
10. Agricultural Exports
11. Any other theme relating to the main theme.

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