

C.S.C. SEKHAR

Professor and Head, Agricultural Economics Research Unit (AERU), Institute of Economic Growth
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Nationality: Indian
Date of Birth: 13 December 1965
Gender: Male
Marital Status: Married with two daughters

Research and Teaching Interests

My research and teaching interests encompass applied econometrics, econometric modeling, agricultural trade, development economics and institutions. I am presently engaged in research on agricultural markets (market structure, price formation, trade), food security, agricultural growth, rural development, political economy of development and governance.

Education

- **Ph.D (Economics)**, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Title of the Ph.D Thesis – *Determinants of Prices of Selected Agricultural Commodities in World Market: An Empirical Analysis*

Thesis Advisor: Professor Pami Dua

- **M. Phil (Economics)**, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Title of the M.Phil Thesis – *Agricultural Trade Liberalization and its Impact on Indian Agriculture*

Thesis Advisors: Professors V. Pandit and Suresh Tendulkar

- **L.LB (Bachelor of Laws)**, Law Centre I, University of Delhi, Delhi, India
- **M.Sc (Master of Science in Applied Statistics)**, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India

Positions held (36 years)

- Professor, **Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University**, December 2016 to present
- Honorary Director, Agricultural Economic Research Centre, University of Delhi
- Associate Professor, **Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University**

- Assistant Professor, **Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University**
- Fellow, **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)**, New Delhi
- Associate Fellow, **Agricultural Economics Research Centre (AERC)**, Delhi School of Economics Campus, Delhi University

Awards / Honours

- **R.S. Deshpande Award** for the best Research Paper in Agricultural Economics for 2025-26 for the Research paper entitled “Edible oil sector in India: Price support and trade policy for self-sufficiency” (with Girish Jha), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol LX, No 19, 10 May 2025
- **Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship** for 2012-2013. As part of the Grant, worked on developing a global rice market model at the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), Iowa State University.
- **EXIM Bank International Economic Development Research Award (IEDRA)** Jury commendation for excellent research work in 2009
- **Medal Finalist for outstanding research on development**, Ninth Global Development Network (GDN) Conference 2008, Brisbane
- **Medal Finalist for outstanding research on development**, Fifth Global Development Network (GDN) Conference 2004, New Delhi.
- **D.K Desai Award** for the best research paper published in the *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics* in the year 2003

Membership of Committees

- 1) Member, Sub-Group (Agriculture), Working Group for Revision of WPI, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 2025
- 2) Chairman, *High Level Technical Committee on Edible oils*, Niti Ayog, GoI, 2023
- 3) Member, *Working Group on Crop Husbandry, agricultural inputs, Demand and Supply*, Niti Aayog, GoI, 2023
- 4) Member, *MSP Committee*, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2022.
- 5) Member, *Advisory Group on Agricultural Statistics*, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI, 2023.
- 6) Member, *Expert Committee to formulate a States Performance Index*, Data Management & Analysis, Niti Ayog, Government of India, 2022

- 7) Member, *Sub-Group of Agricultural Commodities for Revision of Wholesale Price Index (WPI)*, Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 2019
- 8) Member, *Working Group for Minimum Support Prices (MSP) fixation of small millets crops*, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, 2019
- 9) Member, *Study Group to prepare Long-term Sustainable Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands*, Planning Department, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, 2015
- 10) Member, *Committee to Evaluate the Impact of State Level Public Distribution System (PDS) Schemes*, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, 2008

Details of Research Work

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Future of Indian Agriculture: Technology and Institutions (eds) Nilabja Ghosh and C.S.C.Sekhar, *Academic Foundation*, New Delhi, January 2013, ISBN: 9788171889761, 817188976X

Papers published in Refereed Journals / Edited Volumes / Reports

1. ‘Food Subsidy in India: Who gets how much’ (with Mulla Areef), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol LX, No 46, 15 November 2025, pp. 33-38
<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/46/insight/food-subsidy-india.html>
2. ‘Productivity in the Shadows: Unpaid Female Family Labour in Agriculture’ (with Mulla Areef), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol LX, No 40, 4 October 2025, pp. 37-47
<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/40/special-articles/productivity-shadows.html>
3. ‘Rural Market Imperfections and Land Productivity in India’ (with Namrata Thapa), in Dibyendu Maiti · Bishwanath Goldar · K. L. Krishna (eds) **75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes, and Impacts**. Springer, Singapore, July 2025.
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-97-8054-9_8
4. ‘Edible oil sector in India: Price support and trade policy for self-sufficiency’ (with Girish Jha), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol LX, No 19, 10 May 2025, pp. 45-52,
<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/19/special-articles/edible-oil-sector-india.html>
5. “Reorienting Price Policy for Food Security, Economic Viability and Environmental Sustainability in India” in Pathak, H., Lakra, W.S., Gopalakrishnan, A., Bansal, K.C. (eds) **Advances in Agri-Food Systems**. Springer, Singapore, 25 February 2025.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-0763-1_8

6. “Experimental approach to development economics: a review of issues and options” (with Namrata Thapa), *Journal of Economic Methodology*, Volume 31- Issue 2, 2024, pp. 63-77, DOI: [10.1080/1350178X.2024.2341292](https://doi.org/10.1080/1350178X.2024.2341292)
7. “Food price dynamics during the pandemic” (with Namrata Thapa), *The Indian Economic Journal*, Vol.72(1), 2024, pp. 105–124, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00194662231187955>
8. “Rural market imperfections in India: Revisiting old debates with new evidence” (with Namrata Thapa), *Development Policy Review*, Vol 41, Issue 5, September 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12708>
9. “Identification of Nodal Agricultural Markets for Price Monitoring (Co-author), *Agricultural Situation in India*, October 2022, PP. 33-46
10. ‘Farm laws: The way ahead’, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol LVII, No 33, 13 August 2022, pp. 12-17 https://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2022_57/33/CM_LVII_33_130822_CSC_Sekhar.pdf
11. ‘Price or income support to farmers: Policy options and implications’, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol LVII, No 12, 19 March 2022, pp. 37-44 https://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2022_57/12/SA_LVII_12_190322_C%20S%20C%20Sekhar.pdf
12. ‘Agriculture during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Problems and Prospects’, *Agricultural Situation in India*, VOL. LXXVII April, 2020, No. 1, pp. 22-28
13. ‘Ensuring MSP to Farmers Are Deficiency Payment an Option?’ (with Amarnath Tripathi and Yogesh Bhatt), *Economic and political weekly*, LIII(51), pp.50-57, December 2018, <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/51/review-rural-affairs/ensuring-msp-farmers.html>
14. Sekhar, C.S.C, “Climate change and rice economy in Asia: Implications for trade policy”, Background paper for *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) 2018*, Rome, UN FAO, November 2018
15. ‘Food Inflation and Food Price Volatility in India – Trends and Determinants’ (with Devesh Roy and Yogesh Bhatt), *Indian Economic Review*, Springer Publishers, Vol 53, Numbers 1-2, December 2018, pp.65-91 <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41775-018-0017-z>
16. “Pulses Production in India: An Empirical Analysis” (with Yogesh Bhatt) in Sangeeta Verma and P.C.Bodh (Ed.), *Glimpses of Indian Agriculture* (pp. 34-44). New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018, ISBN No: 9780199488834
17. “Farm Mechanization in India with special focus on Eastern Region” (with Yogesh Bhatt) in Sangeeta Verma and P.C.Bodh (Ed.), *Glimpses of Indian Agriculture* (pp. 274-286). New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018, ISBN No: 9780199488834
18. ‘Demonetization and Indian Agriculture’ in *Demonetisation: The Economists Speak* (ed) Uma Kapila, Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2017

19. 'India's Agricultural Exports: Prospects and Constraints' (with Yogesh Bhatt) in *International Trade and Industrial Development in India: Emerging Trends, Patterns and Issues* (eds) R. Nagaraj and C. Veeramani, Orient Blackswan Publishing co, June 2016
20. 'Whither Food Policy and Institutions in India?', *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, Vol. 28 (No.1), January-June 2015, pp. 157-161 DOI: <https://10.5958/0974-0279.2015.00013.0>
21. 'Agricultural Market Integration – A Review of Theory and Empirics with Special Focus on India' in *The Future of Indian Agriculture: Technology and Institutions* (eds) Nilabja Ghosh and C.S.C.Sekhar, *Academic Foundation*, New Delhi, 2013, ISBN: 9788171889761, 817188976X
22. 'Price Discovery in Indian Commodity Futures Markets– An Empirical Analysis of Select Agricultural Commodities' (with Danish A Hashim) in *The Future of Indian Agriculture: Technology and Institutions* (eds) Nilabja Ghosh and C.S.C.Sekhar, *Academic Foundation*, New Delhi, 2013, ISBN: 9788171889761, 817188976X
23. 'Agricultural Market Integration in India: An Analysis of Select Commodities', *Food Policy* (Elsevier), Volume 37, Issue 3, June 2012, pp. 309-322
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2012.03.002>
24. 'Food Security in South Asia: Prospects for Regional Integration' (with Yogesh Bhatt), *Background Paper No RVC 6 for Regional Value Chains*, UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), November 2012
https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecidc2013misc1_bp6.pdf
25. 'Market Power and World Price: The Role of Asian Rice Exporters' *Journal of International Food and Agribusiness Marketing*, Routledge (Taylor & Francis Publishers), Vol 24, No 3, June 2012, pp. 250-272. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08974438.2012.691818>
26. 'How Market-oriented is the United States' Farm Policy?' (with Yogesh Bhatt)), *Economic and Political Weekly* (Special Article), XLVII, No 7, February 18, 2012, pp 63-72
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/41419798>
27. 'World Foodgrain Prices: The Effect of Exporting Countries' Policies', *Indian Economic Review*, Vol 46, Issue 2, July-December, 2011, pp. 217-242
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/23266430>
28. 'Fragile States – The Role of Social, Political and Economic Factors', *Journal of Developing Societies*, Sage Publications, Vol. 26, Issue No 3, Jul-Sep 2010, pp. 263-293
29. 'Structure of the World Wheat Market: Some Implications for Strategic Trade Policy?', *Journal of Quantitative Economics*, Volume 8, No 2 (New Series), July 2010, pp. 142-158
30. 'Agricultural Growth and Rural Employment – Some Lessons from China?', *China Report*, Sage Publications, Vol. 46, No 1, Jan-Mar 2010, pp. 29-36
31. 'Agricultural Market Integration in India – An Analysis of Select Commodities', Chapter 7 in *How Are Poor Affected by International Trade in India: An Empirical Approach*, Draft Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 2009

32. 'Price Formation in World Soybean Oil Market – An Econometric Analysis', *Indian Economic Review*, Vol. XXXXIII, Number 2, July-December 2008, pp. 183-204.
33. 'World Rice Crisis – Issues and Options', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 43 (26/27). June 28, 2008, pp. 13-17 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40278898>
34. 'Surge in World Wheat Prices - Learning from the Past', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 43(20), May 17, 2008, pp. 12-14 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40277680>
35. 'Agricultural Trade Liberalization, Poverty and Food Security – The Indian Experience' (with Anwarul Hoda) in *The Dragon & Elephant : Agriculture and Rural Reforms in China and India*, (Eds) Ashok Gulati and Sheneggen Fan, IFPRI & Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, December 2007 and Oxford University Press, Feb 2008
36. 'Economic Growth, Social Development and Interest Groups', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 40, No 50. Dec 10-16. 2005, pp. 5338-5346 reprinted in Pulapre Balakrishnan (ed), **Economic Reforms and Growth in India: Essays from Economic and Political Weekly**, Orient Blackswan, June 2011 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4417527>
37. 'Agricultural Price Volatility in International and Indian Markets', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XXXIX, No 43, Oct 23-29, 2004, pp 4729-4736 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4415712>
38. 'Determinants of Price in World Wheat Markets – Hidden Lessons for Indian Policy Makers', *Indian Economic Review*, Vol. XXXVIII, No.2, July-Dec 2003, pp 167-187 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/29793789>
39. 'Price Formation in World Wheat Markets – Implications for Policy', *Journal of Policy Modeling*, Elsevier (North-Holland), Vol 25, Issue 1, January 2003, pp 85-106, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0161-8938\(02\)00198-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0161-8938(02)00198-9)
40. 'Agricultural Trade Liberalisation – Likely Implications for Rice Sector in India', *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol 58, No 1, Jan-Mar, 2003, pp. 42-63 <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/297930/files/ijae-561.pdf>

This paper received the **D.K Desai Award** for the best research paper for the year 2003

41. 'Agriculture and Rural Development – Need for Reforms', *Artha Vijnana* , Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Vol. XLIV, No. 1, March 2002, pp 47-61 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309873499_Agriculture_and_Rural_Development_Need_for_Reforms

Working Papers

1. Sekhar, C.S.C and Namrata Thapa (2021), "Agricultural market imperfections and farm profitability in India", *Working Paper No. 440*, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi <http://iegindia.org/facultypublications/All>

2. Sekhar, C.S.C (2021), “Recent Farm Laws in India: rationale, implications and way forward”, *Working Paper No. 428*, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi <http://iegindia.org/facultypublications/All>
3. Sekhar, C.S.C (2021), “Price or income support to farmers: Policy options and implications”, *Working Paper No. 420*, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi <http://iegindia.org/facultypublications/All>
4. ‘Food Inflation and Food Price Volatility in India – Trends and Determinants’ (with Devesh Roy and Yogesh Bhatt), *IFPRI Discussion Paper 01640*, Markets, Trade and Institutions Division, International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2017

<https://www.ifpri.org/publication/food-inflation-and-food-price-volatility-india-trends-and-determinants>
5. *Identification of Principal Markets for Rice, Wheat, Maize and Soybeans in India* under the Project **Strengthening Agriculture Market Information System in India using Innovative Methods and Digital Technology**, FAO India and Government of India, October 2017
6. “Public stockholding of food in India: Can it distort international trade?” (with Rashmi Banga), Working Paper No CWS/WP/200/ 23, Centre for WTO Studies (CWS), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, October 2015 <https://wtocentre.iift.ac.in/workingpaper/Public%20Stockholding.pdf>
7. Effect of Exporting Countries' Stocks and Trade Policies on World Price - An Analysis of Cereal Markets, *Discussion Paper No.131/2009*, March 2009, Institute of Economic Growth, www.iegindia.org
8. Volatility of Agricultural Prices – An Analysis of Major International and Domestic Markets, *Working Paper 103*, ICRIER, June 2003, www.icrier.org

Articles in media

1. “Agriculture in Union Budget: Continuity with change”, *Business Standard*, 12 February, 2025
2. “MSP: need for improved methodology and institutional reforms”, *Business Standard*, 16 October, 2024
3. “Is legalizing MSP workable”, *Business Standard* (Debate), 28 February, 2024
4. “Agri Capex, a black box”, *Business Line*, 21 December, 2023
5. “The Budget spells green shoots for agri sub-sectors”, *The Hindu*, 21 February 2022
6. “The way forward on MSP”, *Financial Express*, 1 March 2021
7. “In farmers’ protests, the core is procurement”, *The Hindu*, 4 December 2020
8. “Making agricultural market reforms successful”, *The Hindu*, 27 August 2020
9. “Ensuring food security during the pandemic?”, *Economic Times*, 24 July, 2020
10. “Agricultural policy in the shadow of pandemic: Whence and whither?”, *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) blog*, 22 June 2020
11. “Fertile ground for more reforms”, *Financial Express*, 9 June 2020
12. “Covid-19 crisis: Farming needs urgent action”, *Financial Express*, 20 April, 2020
13. “Union Budget: Farmers have little to cheer”, *Telegraph*, 6 July 2019
14. “PM-KISAN: Too little, too late?”, *Financial Express*, 20 February, 2019
15. “Whither agricultural price and procurement policy?”, *Financial Express*, 10 July, 2018

16. "Pulses sector heading for a crisis", *Business Standard*, 2 January, 2017
17. "Demonetization to hit farmers badly", *Financial Express*, 29 December, 2016
18. "Note ban dents farm sector, but slightly", *Deccan Herald*, 23 November, 2016
19. "Agri tenancy needs immediate reforms", *Deccan Herald*, March 24, 2016
20. "Budget positive for agriculture", *Business Standard*, March 12, 2016
21. "Persistent food inflation worrying", *Deccan Herald*, December 2, 2015
22. "Pulses prices: Fall in production, structural factors responsible", *Deccan Herald*, Oct 21, 2015
23. "Revamping foodgrain policy", *Economic Times*, Dec 18, 2010
24. "How serious is rainfall deficiency for kharif?", *Economic Times*, Dec 18, 2010
25. "Is food crisis in India imminent?", *Economic Times*, 22 Apr, 2008

Invited articles (Non-Refereed)

1. Facilitating the Minimum Support Price for Farmers, *Geography and You*, December 1 – 15, 2018, pp. 40-47 <https://www.geographyandyou.com/economy>
2. 'Union Budget 2016-17: A Shot in the Arm for Agriculture', *Yojana*, March 2016, pp 7-9
3. 'Political Economy of Public Distribution System in India', *Yojana*, August 2015, pp 54-58
4. 'Indian Agriculture – A Review of Policy and Performance', *Yojana*, June 2014, pp 32-36
5. 'High MSPs Driving Inflation in Cereals', *Economy Matters*, CII, Sep-Oct 2013
6. 'Cereals Sector In India: Recent Trends and Projections', **Special Report**, *Commodity Vision*, Vol 2, Issue 2, Oct-Dec 2008, pp. 60-67

Research Reports (submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI)

1. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN): Performance, problems and prospects (2025)
2. Identification of Nodal Markets for Price Monitoring (2022)
3. Agricultural Market Imperfections and Farm Profitability (2021)
4. Concurrent Evaluation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (2019)
5. Price Deficiency Payments Scheme in Madhya Pradesh: Problems and Prospects (2019)
6. Food Inflation at National and State Level –Trends and Determinants (2018)
7. Relationship between Wholesale Prices, Retail Prices, Export Prices and prices Realized by Farmers (2017)
8. Effect of farm mechanization on agricultural growth and comparative economics of labour and machinery in India (2014)
9. Possibilities and constraints in pulses production in India and impact of National Food Security Mission (2012)
10. Comprehensive District Agricultural Plans – A review (2009)
11. Viable Entrepreneurial Trade for Women in Agriculture in Uttaranchal (2009)
12. Factors Affecting Fertilizer Consumption in Haryana (with R.P.S. Malik) (2008)
13. Assessing the Existing Training and Testing Facilities for Farm Machinery in Haryana (2001)
14. Sources of Agricultural Growth in Semi-Arid Regions: A Case Study of Haryana (1998)
15. Bovine and dairy development in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (1995)
16. Infrastructure Enumeration for Decentralized Planning (1992)
17. Agricultural Database for North-West India (with Surajit Deb) (1990)
18. Growth and Variability in Agriculture of Punjab and Haryana - A Districtwise Analysis (1989)