

Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission delivered Chief Guest Address in the Workshop on “Prospects for Agriculture in India’s Southern Region over the Medium Term: Setting an Agenda for Strategies to Meet Challenges”

MIDS organized a workshop to discuss the prospects for agriculture in India’s Southern Region over Medium term at Taj Connemara, Chennai on 21-22. January 2016. Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu delivered the chief guest address. Mr. S.Krishnan, Principal Secretary, Planning, Development And Spl.Initiatives Department, Government of Tamil Nadu gave the opening remarks for the workshop. Dr.K.L.Krishna, Chairperson, MIDS, Dr Holger Matthey, Economist, FAO, Rome and Dr Shishanga Bhide, Director, MIDS were in the dais.

Vice Chairman, SPC emphasized on the Regional prioritization and it should be the focus for the Southern Region. The GSDP contribution for agriculture is coming down especially in TN and in Kerala it was more prominent. Also, the data on land holding sizes were discussed. Other pertinent issues like Agricultural credit, Land-water-energy, Food security, Climate smart agriculture were discussed. Vice chairman mentioned about the potential for group farming, cluster farming, FPCs and technologies which are labour saving and mechanization especially in SF and MF friendly concept.



A mention about the innovations in agriculture done by the southern states was made and emphasized the need to compliment farm income with non farm income. In this context, the innovative role played by SPC’s State Balanced Growth Fund project which has supported more than 20 different non farm project activities in rural areas was highlighted.

An indication was made on the NITI Aayog – compendium on best practices all over the country and it was suggested that similar best practices for agriculture especially with reference to agriculture in southern states may be compiled and released. Moreover, a sharing mechanism for mutual exchange of ideas, innovations within the southern region may be established. Vice chairman suggested that farmers should be invited to take part in the deliberations and requested that a followup workshop inviting the farmers from all southern states may be organized to share the ideas and innovations mutually.



Mr. S. Krishnan, Principal Secretary, Planning, Development & Spl. Initiatives Department in his remarks emphasized the need for policy interventions that are required to make agriculture more profitable. He mentioned that policy responses to farm sector cover wide gamut of services and it ranges from seed and sowing to post harvest and value addition.
