



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

The wheat market: distortions caused by government interventions

Adoption of the green revolution technology helped India accelerate the growth in wheat production, which in turn helped in reducing the heavy dependence on wheat imports to meet the domestic demand. However, the growth in production was never large enough to meet the domestic demand on a sustained basis. While most of the times the wheat production fell short of the demand, in some years the production exceeded the effective demand. Due of this, the imbalances in domestic demand and supply of wheat are a recurrent phenomenon. These demand and supply imbalances in the case of wheat have become more serious in the recent period, which is a cause for concern. After 1998, India was caught in a spiral of accumulation of large stock of wheat, followed by large exports and the subsequent depletion of stock followed by large imports. Wheat stocks are rising again, well beyond the minimum level required, and a large procurement is expected from 2009 to 2010 wheat marketing season that begins on 1 April. India appears set once again for yet another phase of rising stocks, mounting carrying costs and a crisis of plenty. The volatile cycles of rising and falling stocks appear to be the result of short-term policy interventions. There is a need for having a long-term policy for balancing supply and demand, and also maintain derived stocks.

Global economic crisis and Indian agriculture

Uncertainty would prevail on the impact of economic recession on Indian agriculture and the debate would continue. However, with the available data so far, it was found that agricultural exports, the easiest indicator to measure the impact of any slowdown, have been affected adversely. The major destinations of India's agricultural exports like USA, UK, Japan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and other European and Asian countries are under the wrap of recession, which has led to the slowdown in exports. The recent estimates and projections on agricultural GDP for the ongoing fiscal and the next fiscal year are inconclusive, though indicating slightly adverse scenario.

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The slowdown in FDI is clearly evident, although it may not have significant direct impact on agriculture as the share of FDI in investment in agriculture is negligible. The flow of institutional credit is also found to be more or less stable. Recession also appears to have no effect on the prices of primary articles, possibly due to government intervention in stabilizing them. However, the contraction of demand may lead to lower consumption of high-value agricultural commodities. Recession may also slow down both private and public investments, which in turn will take some years to show its impact on the performance of agriculture sector in India. Further, it depends a lot on the time horizon required for arresting the economic recession and bringing the economy again on a higher growth path. If the economy revives early, the impact of economic reforms would be tapered off and the opposite may happen if the recession persists for a longer period. As mentioned earlier, though India has been proactive in ameliorating the negative impacts of economic crisis, there is no room for complacency. The spill-over of negative impacts can be very large and the present scenario calls for a judicious decision for maintaining sustainable growth of agriculture sector in India. On the eve of India's plan to further open up its agricultural economy, it is perhaps advisable to build a long-term strategy to harness the opportunities in agricultural trade, which might have been created by the countries like USA facing severe recession.

Female participation rate in livestock production

State-wise female participation rate (FPR) in livestock sectors at three points of time (1983, 1993 and 2003) was computed from NSSO data. To examine the spatial and temporal variations in the participation of females in livestock activities, agro-eco zone-wise analysis was done over the period of 30 years. The results show that FPR is maximum in arid zone followed by irrigated, coastal, hill and mountain, and rainfed zones. It has further been observed that for arid, irrigated and hill and mountain zones the trend of FPR is increasing, while for coastal and rainfed zones it is declining (Figure 1). Therefore, while framing strategies for organizing capacity building programs and other technology development, location-specific gender dynamics should be taken into account.

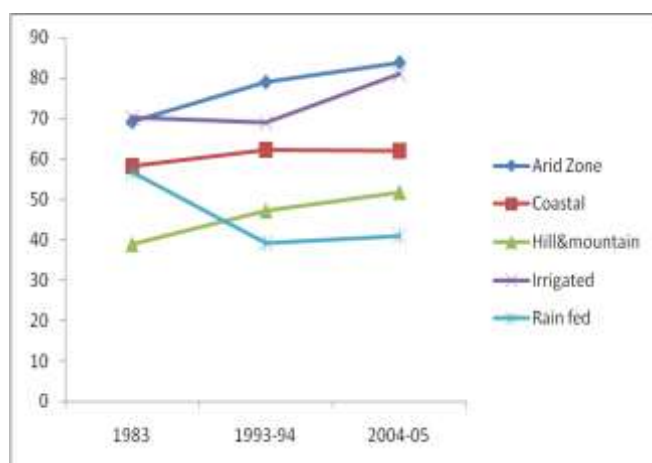


Figure 1: Female participation rate in livestock production

Efficiency of marketing the Indian major carps in India

The Indian major carps (IMCs), namely, *Catla catla*, *Labeo rohita* and *Cirrhinus mrigala* form the predominant group among carps cultured in the country. Compared to the achievements in production of IMC, the marketing system of IMC is very poor and highly inefficient in India. Kolleru lake area (KLA) in Andhra Pradesh is the predominant centre for carp culture in India and is also known as the 'Carp Pocket of India', mainly due to the highly efficient fish marketing system prevalent in the area. A study was conducted on the KLA fish marketing industry and the marketing of IMCs in the other major aquaculture states, such as West Bengal and Orissa, and marine states, such as Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, in terms of market structure, conduct and performance. This study found that the cost of production for catla and rohu were found to be Rs 34.32 and the farm

gate price received by farmers for IMC at Kolleru varied from Rs 40 to Rs 42 depending on the size of fish. Traders buy fish from farmers through the services of brokers and transport fish to distant markets. The marketing costs of traders to transport fish to Howrah, Bhubaneswar and Assam markets were 6, 10.99 and 13.91 Rs/kg, respectively. The comparison of market channels for several fish markets revealed that the price spread for IMC from Kolleru was highest for Maharashtra and lowest for Tamil Nadu. Consequently, fishermen's share in consumer's price was highest for Tamil Nadu at 61.54 per cent and lowest for Maharashtra at 47.06 per cent. Similarly, the marketing efficiency was highest for Tamil Nadu marketing channel at 2.60 and least for Maharashtra marketing channel at 1.89. The study also revealed that the retail price for KLA carps was lower than that for the locally cultured carps at various areas reflecting the efficiency of the marketing channel in providing cheap fish transported over large distances and through a large number of intermediaries. The study revealed that the marketing system of KLA carps is highly efficient in sharing the benefits to aqua farmers while providing quality fish to consumers at reasonable prices.

PUBLICATIONS

Research papers

Adhiguru, P, P S Birthal and B Ganesh Kumar. 2009. Strengthening pluralistic agricultural information delivery systems in India. *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, 22:1-79.

Chand, R and S S Raju. 2009. Instability in Indian agriculture during different phases of technology and policy. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 64(2):187-207.

Chand, R. 2009. Wheat market: the distortions caused by government intervention. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 44(12):41-46.

Chand, R. 2009. WTO Agricultural negotiations and regional cooperation. *Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization. Rural Review*, 36(1):5-28..

Kumar, A. 2009. Rural employment diversification in Eastern India: trends and determinants. *Agricultural Economics Research Review* 22(1):47-60.

Patel, A K, B K Mathur, R P Rohila, Usha Rani Ahuja and N V Patil. 2009. Comparative analysis of different management systems in arid goat breeds, *The Indian Journal of Animal Sciences*, 79(5):514-517.

Jain, R, A Arora and S S Raju. 2009. A novel adoption index of selected agricultural technologies: linkages with infrastructure and productivity. *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, 22(1):109–120.

Joshi, P K and Birthal, P S. 2009. Small-farm access for high-value commodities in India. (pp 51-60). *Food Policy in Developing Countries*, Vol. II, Cornell University Press, New York.

Ramaswamy, B, P S Birthal, and P K Joshi 2009. Grower heterogeneity and the gains from contract farming: the case of Indian poultry. *Indian Growth and Development Review* 2(1): . 56-74 (published by Emerald Group Publishing Ltd. London, UK)

Joshi, P.K and P S Birthal. 2009. Small-farm access for high-value agricultural commodities in India. In: *Case Studies I Food Policy for Developing Countries Vol. II* (Eds. Per Pinstrup-Anderson and Fuzhi Chang). New York: Cornell University Press. pp 51-60.

Book review

Raju, S S. 2009. Agricultural growth, rural poverty and environmental degradation by S S P Sharma. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 64(2):289–290.

Book chapters/Popular articles

Chand, Ramesh, S S Acharya, P G Chengappa and R S Deshpande. 2009. Policies and institutions. In: *State of Indian Agriculture*, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi. Chapter 5: pp. 175–202.

Joshi, P K, S S Acharya, R Chand and A Kumar. 2009. Agricultural sector: status and performance. In: *State of Indian Agriculture*, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi: pp. 1–34.

PAPERS PRESENTED IN CONFERENCES

County paper on 'Innovations in linking Research-Extension- Farmers-Markets'. Second inter-governmental core group meeting of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on agricultural research and extension linkages, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun, 7–8 May 2009 (P Adhiguru).

Food safety issues, costs of compliance and drivers for improved quality and safety of food products. Lead paper, In: 9th Agricultural Science Congress, organized by National Academy of Agricultural

Sciences and Shere-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Srinagar, 22–24 June 2009 (Anjani Kumar).

Innovations in the supply of agricultural inputs – the case of seed. In: 9th Agricultural Science Congress on Technological and Institutional Innovations for Enhancing Agricultural Income, organized by SKUAST-K, Srinagar, 22–24 June 2009 (Harbir Singh).

Indian agriculture: challenges and opportunities, Lead paper, in Brainstorming workshop on “Emerging Challenges before Indian agriculture the way forward: TAAS-IARI-IFPRI, New Delhi (P K Joshi).

Prices and market intervention in pulses. In: Brainstorming workshop on Issues and Strategies for Increasing Productivity and Production of Pulses in India, organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, 9-10 June 2009 (P K Joshi, Anjani Kumar and H Singh)

Relevance of village dynamics studies in humid tropics. In: Launch workshop on “Tracking Changes in Rural Poverty in Household and Village Economies in South Asia” organized by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid tropics, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh, 30 June 2009 (P K Joshi, and Anjani Kumar).

Diversification of Indian agriculture towards high-value crops: is there an opportunity for smallholder farmers? (Lead Paper). In: 9th Agricultural Science Congress on Technological and Institutional Innovations for Enhancing Agricultural Income, organized by SKUAST-K, Srinagar, 22–24 June 2009 (P S Birthal, P K Joshi, Devesh Roy and Amit Thorat).

PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

Participated in NCAP–NRAA seminar on 'Prioritization of interventions in rainfed areas for sustainable livelihoods' at NASC, Pusa, New Delhi, 23-24 April 2009 (Harbir Singh, P Adhiguru, Ramesh Chand, K K Data, Rajni Jain and S S Raju).

Participated in Round Table on 'Global economic slow down and Indian agriculture' organized by Agriculture Today, at IARI, New Delhi, 24 April 2009 (Ramesh Chand).

Brainstorming, sensitization and planning workshop: a multidisciplinary, mixed-method approach for examining poverty dynamics, NCAP, New Delhi, 25–26 April 2009 (Anjani Kumar, Harbir Singh, P Adhiguru, Rajni Jain, Sant Kumar and Usha Rani Ahuja).

Delivered a talk on 'State of agriculture and fishery sectors in India' organized by CIBA, Science Forum, Chennai, on 1 May 2009 (Ramesh Chand).

Attended brainstorming meet on Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Agriculture) at NAARM, Hyderabad, 25 May 2009 (P K Joshi and Ramesh Chand).

Meeting with Honourable Finance Minister on Pre-Budget consultation with different stakeholder groups in connection with the forthcoming Union Budget 2009–10, New Delhi, 1 June 2009 (P K Joshi and Ramesh Chand).

9th Agricultural Science Congress, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Shere-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Srinagar, 22–24 June 2009 (Anjani Kumar, Harbir Singh and P K Joshi).

Project launch workshop on tracking rural poverty in household and village economies in South Asia, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, 30 June–2 July 2009 (Anjani Kumar, P K Joshi and Usha Rani Ahuja).

LECTURES DELIVERED

Analysis of NCAP website usage: January–March 2009. In: Meeting of Institute Research Committee of NCAP, NCAP, New Delhi, 18 April 2009 (Rajni Jain)

Delivered the two lectures on 'Fertilizer growth, imbalances and subsidies' to the IES Probation Batch – XXX, undergoing training at Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, 21 April 2009 (Ramesh Chand).

Delivered the two lectures on 'Indian agriculture: issues, growth, market, trade and sustainability' to the IES Probation Batch – XXX, undergoing training at Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, 28 April 2009 (Ramesh Chand).

Forewarning crop diseases using data mining. In: Workshop on Expert Systems in Agriculture, IASRI, New Delhi, 12 June 2009 (Rajni Jain).

Analysis of NCAP website usage: March–May 2009. In: Meeting of Institute Research Committee of NCAP, NCAP, New Delhi, 20 June 2009. (Rajni Jain).

VISITS ABROAD

1st meeting of the International Steering Committee on 'CGIAR challenges program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS)' held at Paris from 27 April to 1 May 2009 (P K Joshi).

Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop on Pro-Poor Policies at FAO/RAP Bangkok Thailand. Participated as an International Consultant and Resource Person, 15–26 June 2009 (Ramesh Chand).

Visit to International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Aleppo Syria for getting acquainted with ICARDA Social, Economics and Policy Research (SEPR) Program and developing workplan for ICAR-ICARDA joint socio-economic research project 24-30 May 2009, (Harbir Singh and P A L Prasanna).

Consultation meeting on food security issues in South Asia under World Bank – Regional Food Security Initiative Study, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 10 June 2009 (P K Joshi).

NEW INITIATIVES

An orientation meeting of NAIP project on achieving improved livelihood approaches through conservation agriculture and diversified farming systems in Mewat District (Usha Rani Ahuja).

IFPRI-sponsored project on 'Implications of biofuels on food security, social welfare and environment in India (S S Raju, P Shinoj and P K Joshi).

PERSONNEL

Promotions/Transfers/New Joinings

Dr Suresh Pal, Principal Scientist was selected for the post of Head, Division of Agricultural Economics, IARI, New Delhi. He joined IARI w. e. f. 2 April 2009.

Dr K K Datta, Principal Scientist was selected for the post of Head, Division of Dairy Economics, NDRI, Karnal. He joined NDRI w.e.f. 3 June 2009.

Dr Smita Sirohi got a transfer to Division of Dairy Economics, NDRI, Karnal w.e.f 3 June 2009.

The staff organized a warm farewell function to congratulate and wish them success in their new assignments.

Mr. T A Viswanathan, AFAO, joined NCAP on 1 July 2009. NCAP welcomed him.

Awards/Recognitions

Dr P K Joshi is nominated as a member, Apex Committee on 'Technology Vision 2020: Mission Mode Programs in Agriculture and Fisheries'. Technology Innovation, Forecasting and Assessment

Council (TIFAC), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi.

Dr P K Joshi is included in the editorial board of International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability (a publication from United Kingdom).

POLICY ADVOCACY

NCAP–NRAA National Seminar on Interventions in Rainfed Areas

National Seminar on ‘Prioritization of Interventions in Rainfed Areas for Sustainable Livelihoods’ was organized by NCAP on behalf of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) at NASC Complex, New Delhi during 23–24 April 2009. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr S S Acharya, former Chairman, CACP, GOI and former Director, IDS, Jaipur. Dr J.S. Samra, Chief Executive presided the inaugural session. Dr P K Joshi, Director, NCAP welcomed the gathering and Dr A K Sikka, Technical Expert, NRAA gave the background of the seminar. Other dignitaries who attended were Dr B. Venkateswarlu of CRIDA, Dr K P R Vittal of CAZRI, Dr Bharat Sharma of IWMI, Dr Suresh Pande of ICRISAT, Dr N G Hegde of BAIF, Dr M C Nandeeshya of CARD, Dr D K Marothia of KIIT, Dr Anil Rai of IASRI among others. The objective of the seminar was to prioritize the investment interventions in the rainfed areas of the country for better targeting of the NRAA’s activities for higher and sustainable agricultural production and farmers’ income. During the two-day event, presentations were made and discussions were held on the technological and developmental interventions already undertaken by governmental institutions in watershed areas, farming systems, rice fallow systems, horticulture, livestock and aquaculture sectors, CPRs, fringe forest areas, etc. Apart from this, the institutional and policy options for improving livelihoods in the rainfed areas were also discussed. The concluding session was chaired by Dr S M Jharwal, the Principal Agricultural Advisor, GOI and panellists, viz. Prof. P G Chengappa, Prof. R Chand and Dr S Singh recommended the major interventions by NRAA. These included promotion of watershed development, livestock, aquaculture, agro-forestry, apiculture and farming system concept. Appropriate policies should be in place for protection of CPRs and fringe forest resources in the rainfed areas. The institutional aspects, such as capacity building of farmers and stakeholders involvement and participation of NGOs, corporates, SHGs and WUAs, etc. in the implementation of programmes by NRAA, need to be taken care, while prioritizing the interventions. Dr K K Datta, Principal Scientist, NCAP coordinated the seminar.



NCAP–ICRISAT collaborative workshop on tracking change in rural poverty

A joint NCAP–ICRISAT collaborative workshop was organized at NCAP on 25–26 April 2009. This workshop was organized under the aegis of the forthcoming project on ‘Tracking change in rural poverty in household and village economies in South Asia’. The main objective of the workshop was to deliberate on the issues of multi-disciplinary mixed method approach for examining poverty dynamics. About 40 participants attended the above workshop. The participants included representatives from various national and international institutions. The key experts attending the workshop were from: the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad; International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, Philippines; National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research Institute (NCAP), New Delhi; Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana; G B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar; ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna; Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi; Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur; Institute for Rural Research and Development, Gurgaon; Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka; and Socio Consult Ltd, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The group was able to develop the time-lines for undertaking the activities project. The poverty indicator matrix and survey instruments for the project were also developed in the above workshop.

Second meeting of the inter-Governmental core group on agricultural research and extension

The Second Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Core Group on Agricultural Research and Extension was convened at Central Soil & Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CS&WCRTI) in Dehradun, India, 7–8 May 2009. NCAP coordinated the meeting. The representative of the Secretary General of SAARC, Mr. Riaz Hamidullah, Director

(ARD) opened the Meeting. Participants from all the Member States, except Maldives and Pakistan, attended the meeting. Dr V N Sharda, Director, CS&WCRTI, welcomed the delegates. In accordance with the SAARC practice, the leader of the delegation of the host country, Dr A K Singh, Deputy Director General, ICAR, was elected the Chairperson of the Meeting by acclamation. The following decisions were made during the meeting: review of implementation follow-up of the outcome of the first meeting of the Inter-Governmental Core Group (IGCG) on agricultural research and extension *inter alia* on: (i) identification of focal points and coordinating institutions, and their role and interactions; (ii) success stories on agricultural practices in SAARC Member States; (iii) networking: trial and adoption of varieties/materials; and (iv) improvement of livestock breeding. The other important issues discussed were: (i) matters related to deepening collaboration on research–extension–farmer (R–E–F) linkages; (ii) discussion and finalization of the draft format for material transfer agreement; (iii) discussion and finalization of the draft SAARC food safety and quality standards for agriculture produce; and (iv) consideration of further areas/projects on sub-regional–regional basis.



NCAP ANNUAL DAY

The Centre celebrated its 18th Annual Day on 2 May 2009. On this occasion, 2nd Prof. Dayanatha Jha Memorial Lecture on 'Emerging Trends in Indian Agriculture' was delivered by Dr Ashok Gulati, Director in Asia, IFPRI, India. Dr Sukhdeo Thorat, Chairman, University Grants Commission spoke on 'Agricultural growth and equity'. Dr S S Johl, Former Member, Prime Minister's Advisory Council and Former Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, chaired the session. Mrs. Jayshree Jha, wife of Prof. Dayanatha Jha, and other dignitaries from ICAR headquarters and Delhi-based ICAR institutes graced the function and wished an overall development for the Centre. Towards the end, trees were planted by dignitaries in the NCAP campus.



TV TALKS

Panel discussion on 'Monsoon and Agriculture' live telecast in Commodity Prospects of ET-Now on 9 June 2009 (P K Joshi)

Panel discussion on 'Impact of delayed monsoon on agriculture' live telecast in Lok Sabha TV on 26 June 2009 (P K Joshi)

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Dr Bharat Sharma, IWMI, 16 April 2009.

Dr S Mohanty, IRRI. He delivered a guest lecture on rice modelling. 30 April 2009.

Dr Ashok Gulati, Director, IFPRI Asia Office, 2 May 2009

Dr Sukhdeo Throat, Chairman, University Grants Commission, 2 May 2009

Dr S S Johl, Former Chairman, CACP, 2 May 2009

Dr M M Pandey, DDG(Engineering), ICAR

Six-member delegation from National Agricultural Research Organization (NRAO), Uganda, 1–5 June 2009.

ARIS ACITIVITIES

LAN and related computational facilities at NCAP improved during the April–June 2009 quarter. Eight new LAN nodes were added at the Centre. Leased line router has been upgraded to 1800 series. Modern projecting system, including LCD screens, has been procured at the Centre. New computers, about 19 in number, have been purchased at the centre to fulfil the growing computational demands. To resolve the problem of power backups in meeting

rooms, new systems have been installed replacing inefficient and outdated UPS. Overall, each individual in the centre is provided with an opportunity to have access to the latest computational facilities for research purpose.

NCAP website

Weblog files of NCAP website were analyzed to study the penetration and access to it. There were nearly 10 520 visitors to NCAP website from 107 countries with 241 sessions and 2563 hits per day (Figure 2).

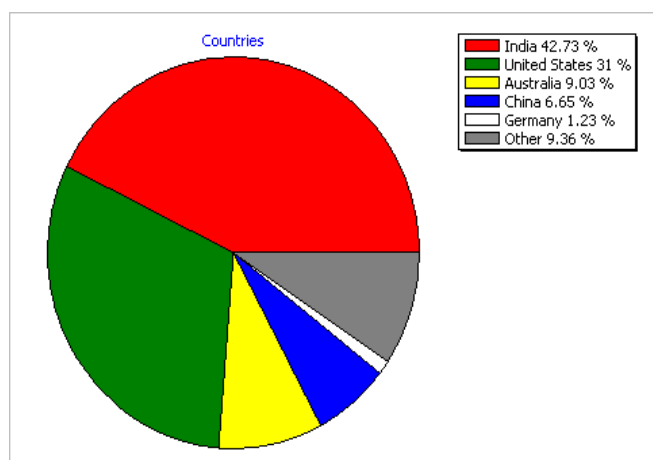


Figure 2: Access to NCAP website across the globe

NCAP publications like policy papers, policy briefs, PME notes, workshop proceedings and annual reports are very popular among the visitors (Figure 3). The website is ranked at number one by popular search engines, e.g. google.com, by using common keywords relating to agricultural policy research.

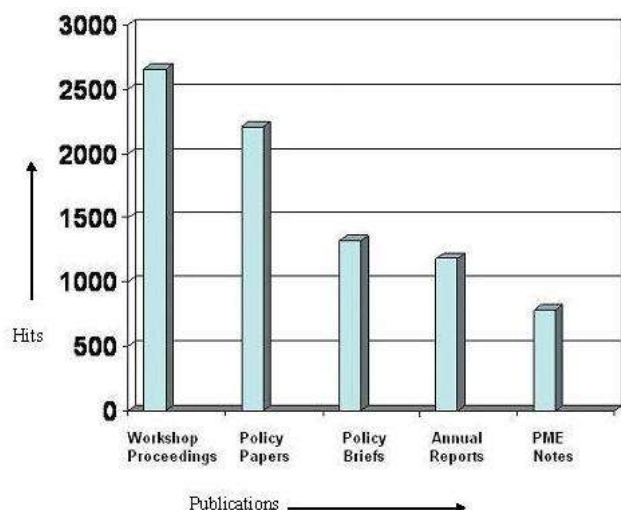


Figure 3: Access to NCAP publications through NCAP website

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Training Programme on 'Economic Models for Human Welfare Analysis : Applications to Crop-based Biofuels', 27–31 July 2009(Contact: Dr S S Raju and Dr P Shinoj)
- Training Workshop on 'Impact Assessment of Improved Technologies', 26–28 August 2009 (Contact: Dr P K Joshi, Dr Sant Kumar and Dr B Ganesh Kumar)
- Training Programme on 'Agricultural Risk Management and Extension' for Srilankan participants, 14–23 October 2009 (Contact: Dr B C Barah and Dr S S Raju)
- Winter School on 'Decision Making in Agriculture using Data Mining', 27 October–16 November 2009 (Contact: Dr Rajni Jain, Dr S S Raju and Dr P Adhiguru)