

Agriculture Nutrition Linkages and Policies in India

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At the Outset Five Comments

1. Hunger, malnutrition, rotting of foodgrains are emerging as (political) hot button issues, Judiciary has turned activist and is commenting on lack of effective implementation of welfare schemes, Increased scrutiny in the media. Media and Judiciary are Catalysts for improving governance.
2. It is not about lack of initiatives (*ICDS, TPDS, NREGA, NRHM, JSY, SABLA, ASHA, NRLM, RKVY, NFSM, NHM ...*):- it is about implementation, delivery (*this is where media is playing an active role*)! (Supply Side vs Demand Side Issues*)

Target Group	SCHEMES	Expansion
Pregnant and Lactating Mothers	ICDS, RCH- II, NRHM, JSY, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) – The CMB Scheme	NRHM (2005-06) JSY (2006-07) ICDS (2008-09)
Children 0 – 3	ICDS, RCH- II, NRHM, ICPS, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme	RGNCs (2005-06) ICDS (2008-09)
Children 3 – 6	ICDS, RCH- II, NRHM, ICPS, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)	TSC (2008-09)
School going children 6 – 14	Mid Day Meals (MDM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), ICPS	SSA (2002/2005-06) MDM (2008-09)
Adolescent Girls 11 – 18	Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for the Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), Kishori Shakti Yojana, , Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), ICPS	NRDWP (2010) RGSEAG (2010-11)
Adults	MGNREGS, NRLM, Skill Development Mission, Women Welfare and Support, Programme, Adult Literacy Programme, TPDS, AAY, Old and Infirm Persons Annapurna, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Food Security Mission, Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Programmes, National Horticulture Mission, National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP), Nutrition Education and Extension, Bharat Nirman, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana	NHM (2005-06) MGNREGS (2005-06) NRLM(2010-11) NIDDCP (1992) RSBY (2007) Bharat Nirman (2005)



Source: Gol (2011) Presentation to Working Group on Nutrition, Presented by Dr. Shreerajan, Joint Secretary, Ministry Of Women & Child Development, Gol, 24 June, 2011. Available: <http://wcd.nic.in/11thfiveyrplan-files/nutppt.pdf#page=16&zoom=auto,72,37>

..... Five Comments

3. Large secondary data sets are neither useful for evaluation of programmes nor helpful in terms of tracking inputs, outputs and outcomes, or evaluating cost effectiveness or understanding optimal combination of programmes

Researcher: Know that there are things to know that you don't know

Policy Making: Due to compulsions (?) decided not to know about the things you decided not know about

What We Need: Collect not more data but better data

..... Five Comments

4. Quantify, Allocate, Identify: Is there a 1-1 relation: Poverty, Calories, Nutrition*, Allocation of Funds (fiscal pressures), Identification of Beneficiaries, Fixed number of below poverty line cards in districts
5. National Food Security Bill / Act – will it address hunger rather than tackle malnutrition (?) Debate over cost of programme, cash versus kind

Are the Governments getting Proactive ?

- **Progress**: Articulation of Convergence in the 11th five year plan. State Nutrition Council, State Nutrition Action Plan, Action Plan for High Burden Districts
- ***Maharashtra Nutrition Mission***
- **Other States**: Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnatka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- Tackling demand side issues important – why?

“Addressing the Dark Areas of Ignorance”

- “Misconceptions have a huge impact on pregnant women for there are many beliefs that deny her nutritious food”
- Cold Food Taboos: 20 items, Hot Food Taboos: 14 items, After Delivery: 5 items cannot be eaten.
- “These examples of forbidden food deny almost everything that is nutritious to women during pregnancy and after delivery”. (p. 244-246)
 - ***Putting Women First – Women and Health in a Rural Community: Rani Bhang et.al (2010)***

Rest of the Talk

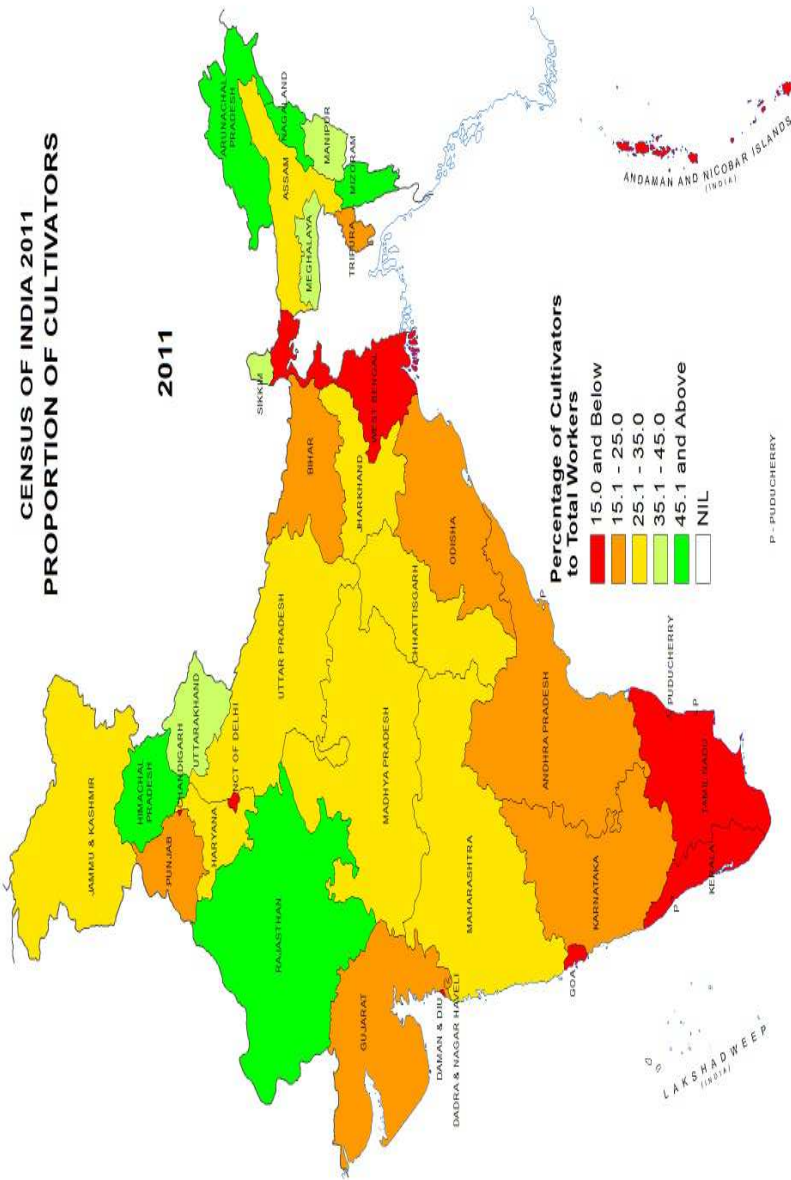
- Emerging patterns in rural labour markets, i.e. the *occupation structure*, has implications for the agriculture - income – nutrition link. Low elasticity of employment, over 50 percent of workforce still engaged in agriculture - unlike other countries at similar levels of GDP and stages of development (growth and reduction in malnutrition – macro vs micro). Are we very far from achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people? (Target 1.8 MDG)
- *Women in Agriculture* (Agents of Change)

Distribution of Workers (Rural + Urban)

	2001	2011	Change
Cultivators	31.7	24.6	- 7.1
Ag. Labourers	26.5	30.0	+3.5
HHI Workers	4.2	3.8	-0.4
Other Workers	37.6	41.6	+4.0
Total (%)	100	100	

CENSUS OF INDIA 2011
PROPORTION OF CULTIVATORS

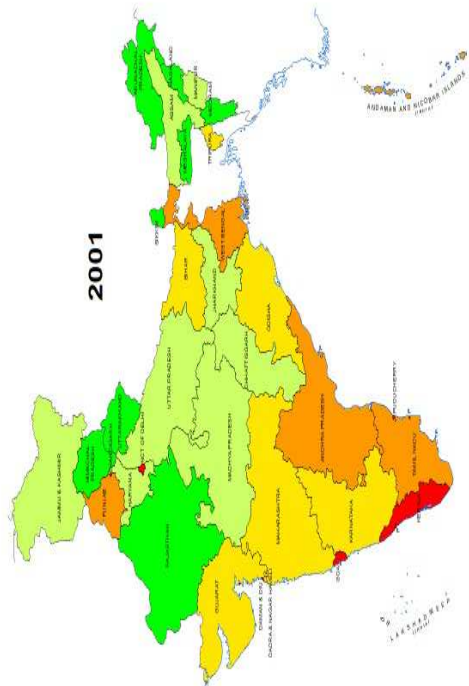
2011



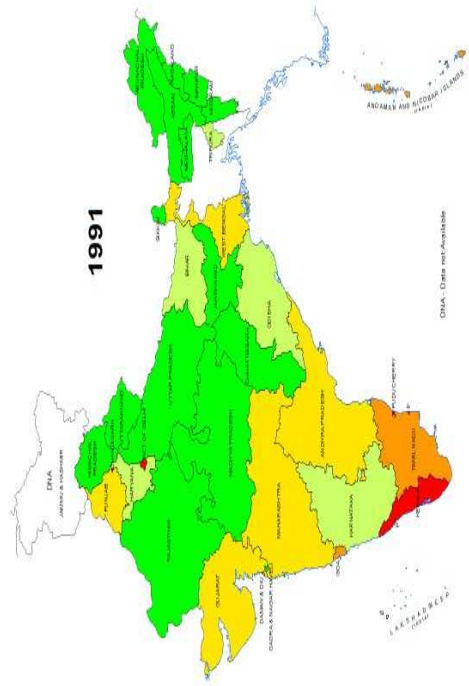
Percentage of Cultivators to Total Workers

- 15.0 and Below
- 15.1 - 25.0
- 25.1 - 35.0
- 35.1 - 45.0
- 45.1 and Above
- NIL

2001



1991

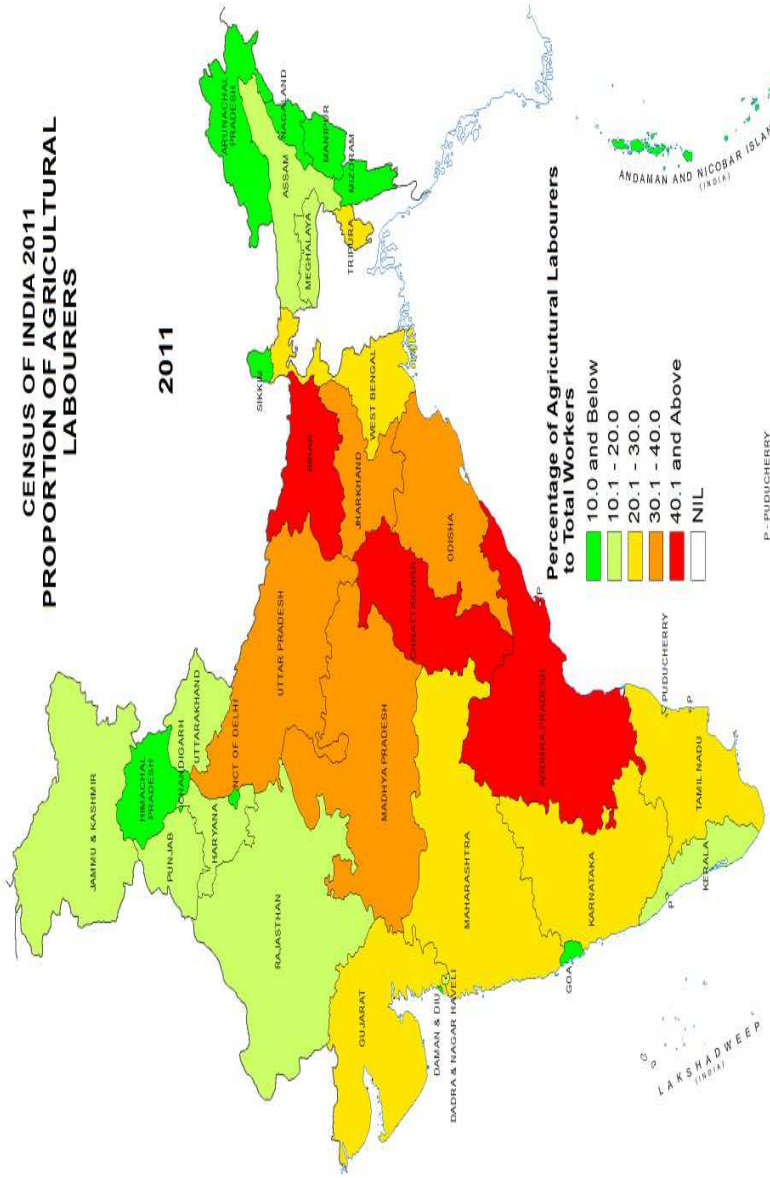


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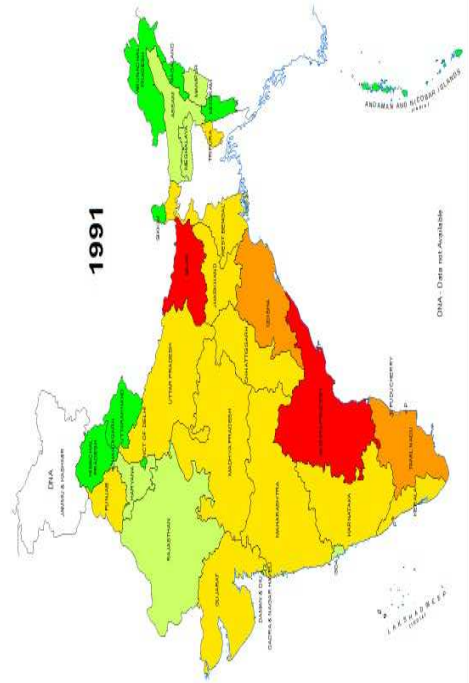
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**CENSUS OF INDIA 2011
PROPORTION OF AGRICULTURAL
LABOURERS**

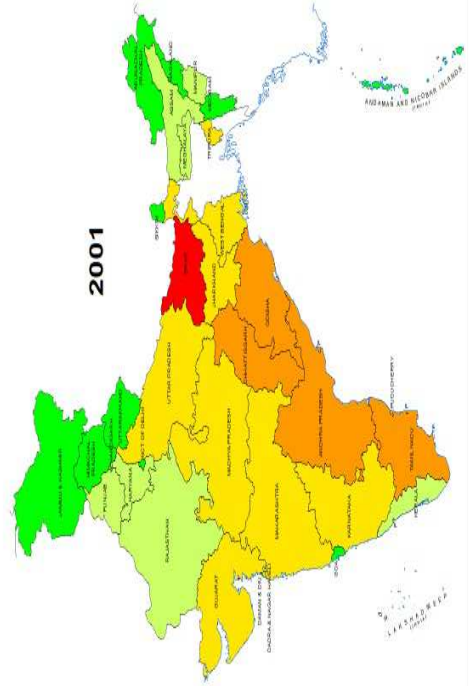
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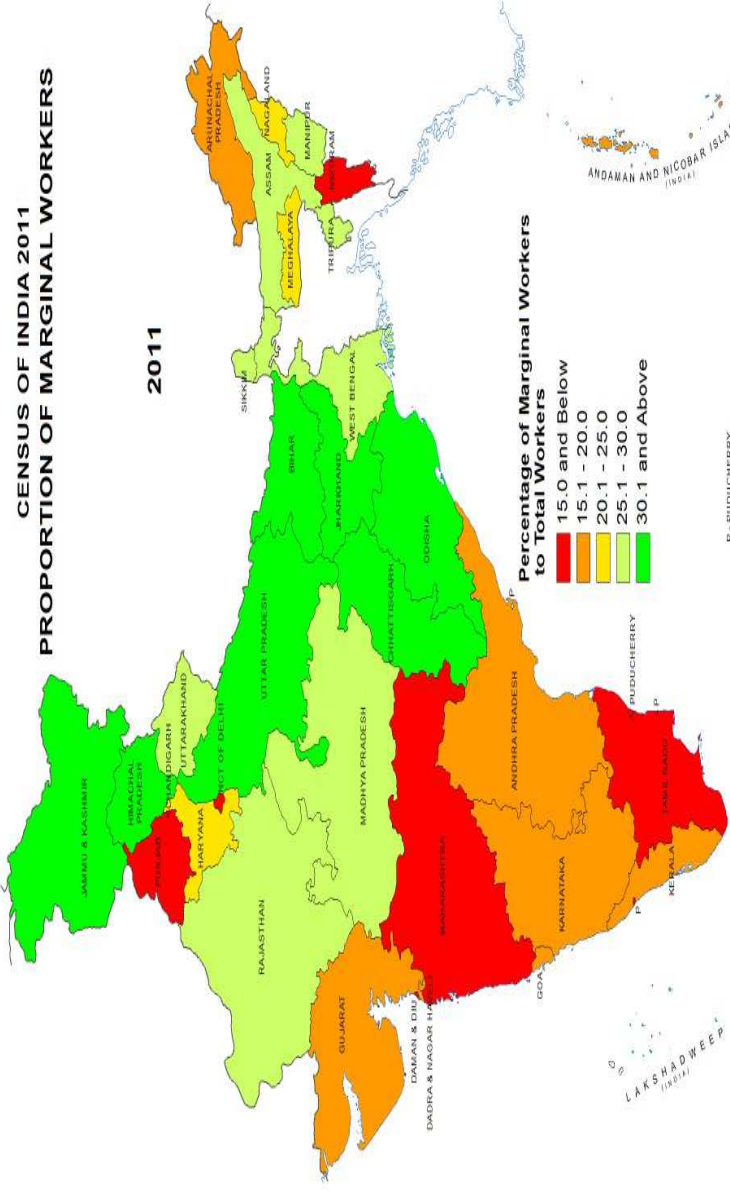
WPR / Gender	2001	2011	Change
Persons	39.1	39.8	+0.7
Males	51.7	53.3	+1.6
Females	25.6	25.5	-0.1

While WPR might have changed marginally, the story lies in the change in the share of main and marginal workers

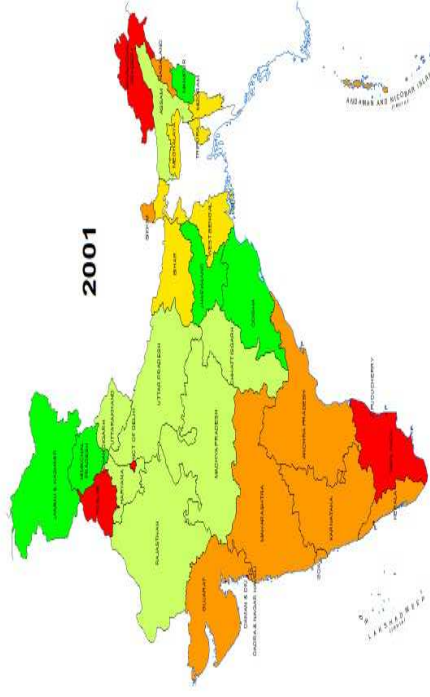
Residence	Sex	2001	2011	Change
Main Workers	Persons	77.8	75.2	-2.6
	Males	87.3	82.3	-5.0
	Females	57.3	59.6	2.3
Marginal Workers	Persons	22.2	24.8	2.6
	Males	12.7	17.7	5.0
	Females	42.7	40.4	-2.3

**CENSUS OF INDIA 2011
PROPORTION OF MARGINAL WORKERS**

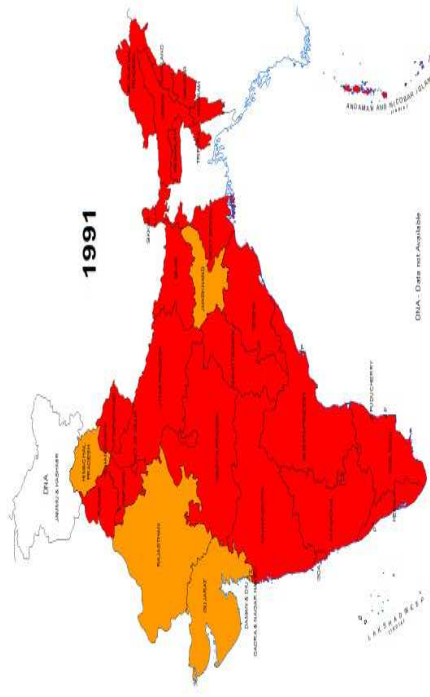
2011



2001



1991



Distribution of Marginal Workers (They account for 25% of workforce)

	Total Marginal Workers	Marginal Workers (3-6 months)	Marginal Workers (less than 3 months)
Persons	119.3 mn	97.1 (81.4 %)	22.2 (18.6 %)
Males	58.7 mn	48.6 (82.8 %)	10.1 (17.2 %)
Females	60.6 mn	48.5 (80 %)	12.1 (20 %)

What do the Emerging Patterns Imply?

- 27 percent of farmers did not find farming profitable, 40 percent would quit farming and pursue other opportunities (NSSO Survey in 2003)
- Intercensal Period 2001-11: Decrease in number of cultivators and increase in number of cultivators (poverty is concentrated among the agricultural laborers, financial inclusion is lower among agricultural laborers) – undermines the income pathway (?)
- Increase in the proportion of marginal workers – Implies (short term migration, what else?)
- *Moving onto to what women do, what women could do*

Along with domestic duties women

- *Maintain kitchen gardens, orchards* (24 percent)
- *Work in household poultry, dairy* (25 percent)
- Collect free fish, small game, wild fruits, vegetables
- Collect free firewood, cow-dung, cattle feed
- Spend time in : Husking of paddy , Grinding of food grains, Preparation of gur, Preservation of meat and fish , Bringing water from outside the household premises
 - NSSO Survey on Employment and Unemployment

Willingness to Accept Additional Work

- **Willing:** 33 percent of rural women engaged in domestic duties said they are willing to accept additional work
- **Nature of work acceptable:** Regular full time (23 percent), regular part-time (70 percent), occasional full time, occasional part-time
- **Type of work acceptable:** dairy (7), poultry (2.4), other animal husbandry (2.7), food processing (2.7), spinning and weaving (2.7), manufacturing wood and cane products (0.7), tailoring (9.7), leather goods manufacturing (0.2), others(5)

Willingness to Accept Additional Work

- **Assistance Needed:** No assistance (7.3), initial finance on easy terms(43.1), working finance facilities (14.4), easy availability of raw materials (3.5), assured market (5.6), training (16.5), accommodation (0.7), others (8.2)
- Gender Empowerment → Engaging women as agents of change – how we do we achieve this?

Takeaways

- There exists government programmes (over life cycle and across sectors). Working in mission mode. Understanding demand side is important. Need better data not more data.
- We need to understand the implications of the decrease in number of cultivators and increase in number of agricultural labourers. What about the marginal workers?
- Engaging women - Skilling for agriculture and non-farm activities

Thank you