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Assessing the Impact of Agriculture Market Digitization on Farmers' Price Realization:
The Case of Indian eNAM

Reddy Sai Shiva Jayanth¹ Sthanu R Nair² Thasni Thajudeen³

¹Doctoral Scholar, Economics, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, IIMK Campus PO, Kunnamangalam, Kozhikode, Kerala 673 570, India; Email - reddys10fpm@iimk.ac.in

²Professor, Economics, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, IIMK Campus PO, Kunnamangalam, Kozhikode, Kerala 673 570, India; Email - srn@iimk.ac.in, Phone Number - 0495-2809124

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Abstract

Indian farmers have repeatedly faced poor market access and a lack of remunerative prices. To address these issues, the government of India introduced a key reform viz. the electronic National Agriculture Markets (eNAM) in 2016. This reform envisages digitization of agriculture market platforms, closed auction systems and assaying facilities among other features. In this backdrop, this paper uses Gioia framework-based qualitative analysis and qualitative analysis to understand the evolution of market reforms in India, the perception of farmers towards market digitalization, and evaluate its impact on farmers' price realization. Results from the qualitative analysis confirmed by the quantitative analysis suggest that the market digitalization has created several troubles for the farmers and has failed in providing remunerative prices. This paper provides policy insights on the upcoming market digitization and expansion of the direct sale system.

Research Office

Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode

IIMK Campus P. O.,

Kozhikode, Kerala, India,

PIN - 673 570

Phone: +91-495-2809237/ 238

Email: research@iimk.ac.in

Web: https://iimk.ac.in/faculty/publicationmenu.php

