



VISVA-BHARATI

(Founded by Rabindranath Tagore)

A Central University and an Institution of National Importance

UGC-DRS-II sponsored Conference

On

“Issues of Economic Development with a special focus on Indian Agriculture”

**Department of Economics and Politics, Visva-Bharati
Santiniketan-731235, West Bengal**

11th and 12th March, 2016

Information for the Participants who wish to attend the Conference

Call for Papers

Papers (**within 8,000 words including graphs and charts**) from scholars of all branches of **Social Sciences** are invited for the above mentioned conference to be held at the Department of Economics and Politics, Visva-Bharati during 11-12 March, 2016.

Request for Abstracts

Abstracts of about 500 words are invited along with contact address, telephone/ mobile no., e-mail address and the institutional affiliation of the author(s) within 20th December, 2015 by electronic mail to: ybconference2016@gmail.com

Kindly note the following dates:

Last date of Abstract submission: - **20th December, 2015**

Communication about selected abstracts: - **5th January, 2016**

Last date of submission of full or final paper: - **20th February, 2016**

Accepted full papers by Electronic Version (Ms-Word format or pdf format within 8,000 words and an abstract of about 150 words) must reach by 20th February, 2016 at ybconference2016@gmail.com.

Details of Registration Fee, Travel and Local Hospitality:

- **There is no registration fee for the paper presenters.**
 - **Paper presenters will be awarded Certificate of Paper Presentation and participation.**
 - **Local hospitality will be arranged for the selected participants on request for the days of the conference only.**
 - **For selected outstation participants, 3-tier AC to and fro train fare by the shortest route will be reimbursed on submission of proper tickets.**
 - **For participants from abroad, only local 3-tier AC to and fro train fare by the shortest route within India will be reimbursed on submission of proper tickets.**
- _ Best papers of the conference will be selected for publication in a proposed edited volume with ISBN number.**

About Visva-Bharati

Founded by the first non-European Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Thakur (popularly known as Tagore) in 1921, Visva-Bharati was declared to be a central university and an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951. The President of India is the Paridarsaka (Visitor) of the University, the Governor of West Bengal is the Pradhana (Rector), and the Prime Minister of India acts as the Acharya (Chancellor). In May 1951, Visva-Bharati was declared to be a Central University and "An Institution of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament. It was granted the status of a unitary, teaching and residential university. The status and function of all the major institutions have been redefined in successive Amendments. The present Vice Chancellor of the University is Professor Sushanta Dattagupta.

Nearest Railway Station: Bolpur station (roughly 150 km from Howrah station and takes about 2 and half-hours)

Nearest airport: Kolkata airport (164 km and takes about three hours)

Conference Theme

“Issues of Economic Development with a special focus on Indian Agriculture”

Agriculture continues to remain a central issue in economic development because most of the people in the poor countries depend on this sector for their living. In India, the share of agriculture and allied sector in GDP is less than 15 per cent now but it still accounts for about 54.6 per cent of total employment (Census 2011). If policy makers are seriously concerned with the welfare of the people, the only ways they can improve the welfare for the majority is by helping to raise agricultural productivity and also by raising the prices they receive for their produce. Further countries must rely on their own agricultural sectors to produce the food consumed by their people. In India, there has been a decline in the absolute number of cultivators which is indicative of a shift from farm to non-farm employment, causing real farm wages to rise by over 7 per cent annually in recent years (Economic Survey, 2013-14).

Significant warming of temperatures, lower mean rainfalls and higher rainfall variability have been recorded by the Indian Meteorological Department over successive plan periods. Further, Indiscriminate use of NPK has led to imbalanced use of soil nutrients, especially in Haryana and Punjab, leading to deterioration in soil quality and declining growth in land productivity in these states. Overexploitation of water resources is leading to alarming reduction in the water table in the 'rice bowl of India'. Given these constraints and compulsions, linking the developing country agriculture with the global markets and accordingly, changing the cropping-pattern, technology, organization of production and distribution etc., have been proposed as new departures. These may have far reaching impacts on food-security, farmers' control and for agricultural and related non-agricultural employment.

Against this background, **Papers & articles are invited for the proposed conference in all areas related to the Conference Theme. Topics of interest include, but not limited to, the following:**

1. Food security
2. Modernization of Agriculture
3. International trade and agriculture
4. Agriculture-Industry interface
5. Changing Organization in Agriculture
6. Rural Employment
7. Development and Environment

For any additional information contact:-

1. **Priya Brata Dutta**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics & Politics, Visva Bharati, Mobile: 9830465178, E-mail: priyabratadutta@gmail.com

2. **Achiransu Acharyya**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics & Politics, Visva Bharati, Mobile: 9434247269, E-mail: achiransu@gmail.com

3. **Biswajit Halder**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics & Politics, Visva Bharati, Mobile: 8768553206, E-mail: hbishu@yahoo.com

Prof. Sudipta Bhattacharya
Head of the Department,
Dept. of Economics & Politics,
Visva Bharati

Prof. A K Cattopadhyay
Programme Coordinator, SAP-DRS-II
Dept. of Economics & Politics,
Visva Bharati