



International
Growth Centre



IGC India Central focuses on firm productivity growth, urbanisation, infrastructure, energy and state effectiveness (including macroeconomics, finance and human development).

In 2013–14, the programme funded 35 country projects pertaining to policy relevant issues in the priority areas.

Dr. Pronab Sen

Country Director, IGC India Central



Since 2010, the IGC India Central Country Programme has sought to influence policy, not just through direct involvement with government, but also by providing research support to a wider range of stakeholders in policy discourse. The programme seeks to influence policymaking by stimulating debate and discussions between the government and non-government agencies, such as researchers, civil society organisations and the media.

In particular, the India Central Programme maintains the Ideas for India platform which aims to stimulate debate on economic growth issues and disseminate these debates to specialists and non-specialists alike. The India Central programme continuously strives to be ever more inclusive in the range of stakeholders it addresses.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAMME

The IGC India Central Country Programme was launched in April 2010, following extensive consultations with Indian policymakers, academic experts, media and civil society representatives. The team is led by Dr. Pronab Sen (Country Director), Professor Dilip Mookherjee (Lead Academic) and Professor Eswar Prasad (Lead Academic) and is resident at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. During the year 2013–14, the programme furthered the progress made in terms of visibility, capacity-building, partnership, networking, engagement and interaction with various stakeholders.

The programme adopts a multi-pronged strategy to influence policy discourse in India, including engagement with the government, media and civil society. The strategy includes bilateral discussions with

policymakers and researchers along with conferences featuring interactions between them. Rapid responses on policy relevant issues and providing systematic evidence on key policy issues through 'Ideas for India' (www.ideasforindia.in), an economic and policy portal, are also part of the strategy.

Ideas for India was launched on 19 July 2012 as a common platform for systematically exchanging and disseminating ideas effectively and to promote the creation of more evidence-based policy. By serving as an ideologically neutral space for economists, other social scientists and practitioners, Ideas for India makes policy discussions more accessible to specialists and non-specialists interested in the issues of growth and development in India.



The IGC India Central programme maintains a blog: Ideas for India, available at www.ideasforindia.in. It was launched in 2012 to promote evidence-based policymaking and contains discussions and debates on economic growth and development in India.

IGC India Central is currently engaged in a number of projects with leading academics from around the world.



Third party auditing of environmental standards

Michael Greenstone (*University of Chicago*), Esther Duflo (*MIT*) and Rohini Pande (*Harvard*)

The study represents a multi-year collaboration between the researchers and the Gujarat State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB), the environmental regulator in Gujarat.

India Central had funded a midline survey to measure the accuracy of auditors under two incentive schemes; the original scheme, under which auditors are hired and paid for directly by the firm and can be fired at the end of one of the modified scheme (introduced by the project), auditors are paid using a central pool of funds, and the GSPCB which randomly assigns an auditor to the firm every year and back-checks on a random basis. The findings suggest that the latter scheme is more efficient. Hardik Shah (Member Secretary, GPSCB) confirmed that the findings are being incorporated in the policy framework for Gujarat.



Understanding India's agricultural marketing system

Devesh Kapur (*University of Pennsylvania*), Vivek Bhandari (Institute of Rural Management) Sanjoy Chakravorty (*Temple University*), Pankaj Chandra (*Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore*) and Mekhala Krishnamurthy (*University of Pennsylvania*)

This project seeks to contribute to the understanding of the diversity and complexity of India's agricultural marketing system, its rapidly changing markets and their relationships to larger economic forces transforming rural and urban India. The results have been shared with key policymakers, including the former Commissioner for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Madhya Pradesh and the former Minister for Rural Development. The researchers are also writing a chapter on the Political Economy of Agricultural Markets: Regional Variations in the India Rural Development Report (IRDR), expected to be published in September 2014.

IGC LOCATIONS

The IGC operates 15 programmes in 14 partner countries throughout Africa and South Asia. Country offices allow the IGC to be distinctive among international research initiatives in sustaining long-term policy engagement, and helping to ensure our work can be demand-led; they facilitate our work with partners, and deepen sensitivity to the political economy of policymaking.



01 Bangladesh, 02 Ethiopia, 03 Ghana, 04 India (Bihar), 05 India (Central), 06 Liberia, 07 Mozambique, 08 Myanmar, 09 Pakistan, 10 Rwanda, 11 Sierra Leone, 12 South Sudan, 13 Tanzania, 14 Uganda, 15 Zambia

CONTACT THE TEAM



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The International Growth Centre (IGC) aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. The IGC directs a global network of world-leading researchers and in-country teams in Africa and South Asia and works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges. Based at LSE and in partnership with the University of Oxford, the IGC is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).



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