

Weekly Livelihoods Update

31 October 2018

- ✚ **'Operation Green pilot' signals in 8 states:** As a pilot, the government of India has chosen 17 clusters in 8 states for "Operation Green project". The main aim of the project is to contain the annual price distress of tomatoes, potatoes and onion in regions with high production. This initiative was announced by Union Finance Minister on 1 February 2018 to provide support to horticulture crop growers. As part of the pilot the vegetables are transported from a surplus region to deficit region of production also working upon infrastructures to increase storage processing capacity for improved shelf life. Creation of value chains & processing industries in selected surplus regions is also part of the agenda. The scheme would be incorporated with ongoing schemes to build infrastructure namely, Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities. (For Further reading <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/centre-approves-operation-green-pilot-in-8-states-61962>)
- ✚ **87% of MGNREGA's Annual Fund utilized:**More than a third of India is facing drought-like situation and a fund crunch in MGNREGA for the remaining financial year can perpetuate the ongoing rural crisis. Until 22nd October 2018, about Rs 39825 Crores has been spent whereas the total budget for the year is Rs 50,480 Crore. It is estimated that the demand for work will rise since a deficit monsoon negatively impacting Rabi cultivation. In this scenario, 87% utilization of funds by this juncture leaves a heavy sigh on the proceedings of work seekers & timely wage clearance.(For Further reading <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/centre-approves-operation-green-pilot-in-8-states-61962>)
- ✚ **Rupee Value drips & gushes:**The currency opens at Rs. 73.90 against dollar while the same hit 74 within half hour of trade which means a 0.44% drop in comparison to previous value of 73.67. The rupee has fallen by 13.62%, since the beginning of this year.In these times the indiscriminate lending to industrialists between 2008 & 2014 by banks and poor repayments is causing a pile up of NPA's burdening the industry & cycle of money. In this instance the pushing back of RBI against the government's stand to relax its powers is a move that needs more mooting&contemplation.(For Further reading <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/rupee-hits-74-level-to-the-dollar-as-rbi-govt-spat-worsens/story/287206.html>)

✚ **Delhi's air quality remained very poor:**The national capital continues to record severe pollution levels. The Central Pollution Control Board recorded the overall air quality index of Delhi at 341. According to the data by the state-run System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research, the overall air quality index of Delhi is expected to deteriorate further in a few days (Diwali & stubble burning by farmers), remaining just points below the severe category. The CPCB-led task force has recommended stringent measures from November 1 to 10, predicting further deterioration in the air quality ahead of Diwali. The move of Supreme Court orders to allow sounds within the decibel limits and emission norms on the green crackers from 8-10 pm on Diwali. Some of the other recommendations include shutting down of coal and biomass factories, intensification of inspection by the transport department to check polluting vehicles and controlling traffic congestion in Delhi-NCR between November 1-10.(For Further reading <https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2018/10/27/air-quality-delhi-remains-very-poor-situation-worsen-next-week.html>)

✚ **Recognising the Empty Bowls:**Unlike the last decade, the positive trend of reduction in the global hunger, the last three consecutive year it has increased by 11%. This is a major fall back with the political commitment behind the Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger by 2030. Though the cereal production is increase but distribution has still remained a challenge. There are surely geographical problems, but also there are social problems like internal conflicts and internal governance problems. Most of the efforts are made to address the emergency aids but prevention have remained unaddressed. These issues have multi dimensions with political and economic powers benefiting from the current food chain and making it hard to trickle down to the needed beneficiaries.(For further reading <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/43/editorials/recognising-empty-bowls.html>)