A large proportion of Indian population is still dependent on agriculture. Despite a significant reduction in the share of agriculture in the overall GDP, the sector has not been able to shift a large section of the workforce away from it and to other sectors of the economy. Such over dependence on agriculture as a major source of livelihood has resulted into relatively lower per capita income in agriculture and widespread distress. The advent of green revolution during late-1960s and early-1970s was spurred by the innovations in seeds, inputs, irrigation, technological diffusion and procurement. The successful innovations led to a significant increase in food production and productivity, which ultimately led to food security of the nation. It also boosted the farm incomes and led to a sharp decline in rural poverty. However, the benefits of such successful innovations remained confined only to a limited number of crops (such as paddy and wheat) and the regions endowed with assured irrigation.

In the last few decades, agriculture sector has once again started experiencing stagnation as costs of farming are raising fast and farm incomes and profitability are either stagnating or declining. Indian agriculture is afflicted with a large number of small holdings, poor adoption of modern seeds and inputs, no access to markets, relatively weak processing, etc. The inability of the industrial and tertiary sectors of the economy to absorb surplus workforce from the agriculture sector is accentuating the distress in the agrarian economy. Also, the faster economic growth in India points towards the need to produce more food, diversified production of better quality. Intensive agricultural practices in many regions have also led to the depletion of natural resources such as groundwater table, soil health and air quality. There have been many recent innovations in the agriculture sector, aiming at infusing faster growth, increase productivity, reduce risk in agriculture, enhance profitability and raise farmers’ income in India.

The innovations in agriculture may be broadly classified into four categories i.e.

1. **Technological innovations**: This may include the development of high-yielding seeds, genetically modified crops and biofortified foods, etc. The adoption of high yielding varieties not only led to the success of green revolution in selected regions of the country but also led to significant rise in crop yields of other regions in recent times. This is especially true for food crops as other Indian states have started contributing more towards the national food pool. The promotion of hybrid seeds has also contributed to climate resilience and agricultural growth. The best example of genetically modified crops is Bt-cotton. The area under cotton in India, which never exceeded 9 million ha till the introduction of Bt-cotton, has reached almost 14 million ha in recent times. Crop biofortification is a promising technology for tackling micronutrient deficiency. The first biofortified high-iron variety of Pearl millet, Dhanashakti was released in 2012. Other biofortified crops that are ready or in progress include Orange flesh sweet potato (β-carotene), Wheat (Fe & Zn), Lentil (Fe), Rice (Zn), Maize (β-carotene), and Cauliflower (β-carotene). The precision technologies have gathered a lot of traction in the recent times. The relevance of such precision technologies becomes apparent due to the challenges of climate change, natural resource sustainability, large range of decisions which need appropriate and timely dissemination of extension support, market choices, etc. The precision technologies may include drip and sprinkler irrigation, IoT based irrigation and other input use systems, use of drones in agriculture, the use of remote sensing, etc., in agricultural production and marketing. These newer technologies have huge potential to save resources at the farm level and through the agricultural value chains, increase quality and productivity, generate price incentives for the farmers. However, there are challenges related to scaling up of their adoption as these technologies may be more expensive, lack of farmers friendliness and may not fit in well with the endowments of marginal and small farmers, which form the majority of farmers in India.
2. **Institutional Innovations:** There have been many institutional innovations in Indian agriculture in recent times. The schemes like Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) have been aimed at improving the access of farmers to institutional finance and insurance. The PMFBY provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers. There have been innovations to improve farmers’ access to inputs and services such as My Agri Guru by Mahindra Agriculture Solutions and E-Choupal by ICICI. The provision of weather and other meteorological advisories by Skymet and Reuters Market Light is another example. In Punjab, the establishment of Agro Machinery Service Centres (AMSCs) and Custom Hiring Centers in Madhya Pradesh within the reach of led to an effective use of agro-machinery. The innovation facilitated the emergence of custom hiring centres in the private sector as well and also helped in reducing the fixed costs of the Indian farmer.

3. **Product Innovations:** The role of agri-infrastructure is crucial for development. For optimal utilization of the agri produce, increased marketed surplus needs to be utilized for value addition so that farmers can realise remunerative prices. Central and State Government facilitates food processing through various measures of infrastructure development, subsidized transportation and support for formalization of micro food enterprises. ₹ 1 lakh crore has been allocated for Financing Agricultural Infrastructure Projects at farm-gate and aggregation points through Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies, Farmers Producer Organizations, Agriculture entrepreneurs and Agri-start-ups. One District One Product (ODOP) approach also initiated to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, and bringing common services on one platform. The other innovations in product development may include use of solar energy in agriculture, innovations across the agricultural supply and value chains, and the use of ICT in agriculture, etc.

4. **Agricultural Marketing Innovations:** The launch of National Agricultural Market (NAM) with an aim to digitize market operations and payments is a leading example of innovations in markets. The aim of E-NAM is to eliminate intermediaries from the market and enhance the share of producer in consumer’s rupee. In addition, the private sector is also showing huge interest in entering the markets with an array of innovative marketing procedures. The state and union governments are also encouraging the establishment of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to ensure more benefits to the farmers through improved marketing and processing.

### Sessions
- **Invited lead lectures**
- **Panel discussion**
- **Poster presentations**

Invitation of Research Papers: This regional conference will cover the issue related to recent innovations in agricultural sector in five important states of the Central India i.e., Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh Odisha and Jharkhand. With the above background on recent innovations, the paper writers may examine the adoption and effectiveness of such innovations, factors influencing the adoption and their impact. The paper writers may also attempt to take stock of the challenges for large scale take-up of such innovations and necessary policy interventions for the success of such innovations. They may also explore the land-category and regional differences affecting the adoption and effectiveness of such innovations. The authors may also explore the other related aspects of recent innovations in agriculture and may also examine the role of ancillary government and private sector interventions (PM-KISAN, PKVY, etc.), which may directly or indirectly affect such innovations. The authors also requested to mention the thematic area (Technological Innovations/ Institutional Innovations/ Product Innovations/ Agricultural marketing Innovations) on top of the paper.

**Venue:** Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (JNKVV), Adhartal, Jabalpur-482004 (Madhya Pradesh)

**Registration fee (Rs.)**

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**Guidelines for submission of Research Papers**

Abstract must be limited to 500 words including the major points of the research paper on the identified themes. The length of the research paper should not exceed 10 pages, should be in MS Word file format having font style Times New Roman, Size 12, Spacing 1.5. Please include your complete details (i.e. Name, Designation, Organization, Address, Contact Number, and Email ID) while submitting the research papers. Submit the research papers on the following Email address: ageconregconf@jnkvv.org

Papers will be selected on the basis for final poster presentation during the event. Selected participants will be communicated accordingly.

**Last date for submission of Research Papers:** 29th April, 2023

**Guidelines for Poster Presentation**

**Size:** The standard poster size is 36 inches height and 30 inches width

**Set up:** Participants shall mount their own posters at the venue.

**Travel to JNKVV:** College of Agriculture, Adhartal, Jabalpur is about 8 km either from railway station or main bus stand. Auto-rikshaw, city metro buses or taxis are available to reach the university campus.

**Contact Details**

Dr. Sunil Bhaskar Rao Nahatkar, Organizing Secretary, Professor & Head, Department of Agricultural Economics & Farm Mgt Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh 482 004

Email : snahatkar@rediffmail.com, snnahatkar@jnkvv.org

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