

# Major Challenges and Implications for Research and Development Strategy

## Major Challenges

- Tightening of agricultural labor supply
- Sustainable employment for rural labor force
- Increasing labor productivity
- Managing migration of rural labor force through rural-urban continuum
- Attracting and retention of talented youth in agriculture
- Managing challenges in rural non-farm sector

## Implications For Policy

- Technology driven options
  - Developing short duration – labor saving improved cultivars amenable to mechanization along with custom hiring facility for farm machineries
  - Encourage innovations in designing appropriate location specific machineries and tools which are female friendly
  - Promotion of farm mechanization in an inclusive manner



- Non-farm diversification –Need strong policy support towards infrastructure, transport, storage, credit and market.
- Employment creation in slack season
- Market driven and inclusive sustainable development
  - Creation of employment opportunities for first stage processing of agricultural products for the educated youth and women through skill enhancement
  - Integration of farm and non-farm activities in rural areas through facilitation of producer companies



- Focal points of the intervention
  - Skill development for both women and men
  - Improvement in infrastructure



- Enhance labor productivity through training on
  - Knowledge intensive technologies
  - Agricultural machineries
  - Seed production techniques
- ICT tools to help
  - technology promotion
  - facilitate seasonal migration
  - for the benefit of laborers and employers
- Modernize existing institutions to create “**knowledge centers**” which will upgrade the skills of labor class for their productive employment.

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