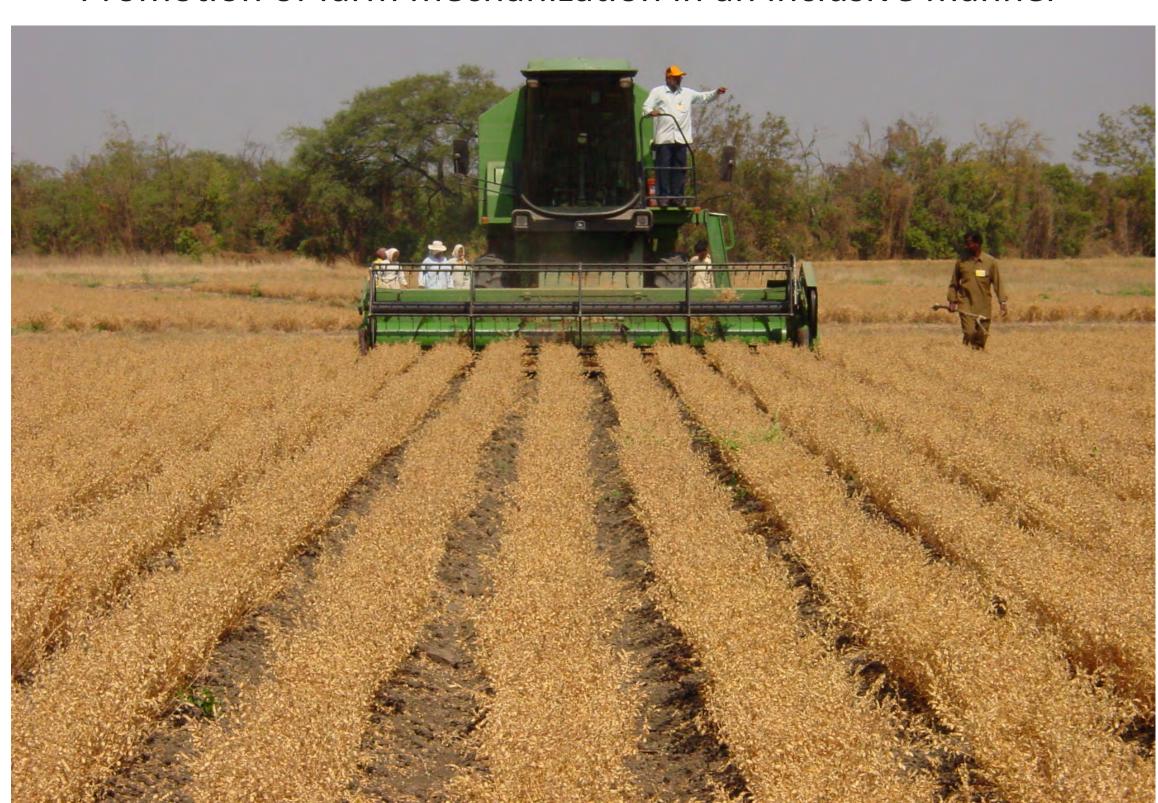
Major Challenges and Implications for Research and Development Strategy

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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