

Weekly Livelihoods Update

08 September 2018

✚ **FPO- Assessment Criterion**- Farmer Producer organizations are recognized as the fourth category of the corporate entity in 2002, in India. This form is playing an important role in enhancing the accessibility of services to many small-scale farmers, standing as a symbol of collective action and Cooperation. The shifting focus necessitates charting out of steady determinants of performance and viability. This would enhance the prospects of our primary sector and its contribution to broader economy. Several studies at micro and macro levels also emphasize the role of partner organizations, private agencies in their success and sustainability. In this regards, life cycle and stake holder potential for cooperation frameworks and its relevance needs to be understood. [For further reading <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/35/special-articles/farmer-producer-companies-india.html>]

✚ **Kerala After Flood**: Kerala faced the worst flood in close to a century which killed over 400 and displaced over 700,000. The agony is not over yet and the reconstruction is a long way ahead. There has been severe loss of livelihood-farmers losing their agricultural land and livestock, shopkeepers their shops along with supplies, small-scale factory owners their goods. In several places, schools, hospitals and primary healthcare centres need major repairs. The tourism sector contributing to 12% state income has faced a major setback with more than 80% cancelled bookings in the festive season of Onam.

The state is fighting back strongly, with the support of various government organisations, institutions, local community volunteers, NGOs, who are going out of their way to help in cleaning up as well as in reviving normal life. The state has received Rs.714 crores in CM distress relief funds and people have donated online across the nation. Providing clean drinking water and controlling epidemics are still a serious concern for the state. Meanwhile, the state has offered Rs 10,000 to each family affected by the flood. Small-scale businesses which were destroyed will be given interest free loans of Rs 10 lakh each, and a moratorium of one to one-and-a-half years to repay their debt. Also, to be extended are loans for rebuilding and repairs of homes, with no margin for amounts up to Rs 5 lakh, as well as for farming.

[For further reading <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/nation/story/20180910-picking-up-the-pieces-kerala-rebuilds-itself-after-devastating-floods-1327240-2018-09-01>]

✚ **Aye Sayers to work- Mothers of newborn-** Lack of alternatives is pushing several mothers of newborns engaged in informal sector to opt for work than breastfeed. The findings of a survey on 120 working mothers across domestic workers, street vendors and home-based workers showed that 47% returned to work within three months of delivery. This leaves the infants be fed with supplements, wherein issues of hygiene and diet plan is leading to undernourishment and digestive problems. In a scenario where, women are unable to cope with triple burden, the reality of poverty weighs heavier. Lack of suffice social security and support system, pushes them nowhere but to work [for further reading <http://www.indiaspend.com/cover-story/to-work-or-breastfeed-tough-choice-sets-back-women-in-indias-informal-economy-25276>]

✚ **DE 'stressed' ties- RBI Vs GOI-** The strained relationship between the regulator of banks and the finance ministry seems evident with repeated contra opinions on demonetization, interest rates, classification of defaulters, NPA recognition and resolution. In the wake of growing inflation, depreciating rupee value, hiking fuel prices this is uncalled for. Clear call on Insolvency and Bankruptcy code, Prompt Corrective Action Framework, Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill stands at the cross roads. [for further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/the-big-story/story/20180910-rbi-vs-government-1327242-2018-08-31>]

✚ **Persisting Vacancies in Public Sector-** With the issue of increasing informalization in organized sector creating ripples, a trailing vacancy of 0.24 million in the government's own is reality. "Choice" was optimized to be the reason in developed countries while the interests vary in a developing country where Education and Skills Vs Opportunities still needs a tally. A study on Indian Youth revealed that permanency was prioritized over earnings. Wherein, the preference for government jobs was shared by three-fifths. Misallocation of funds, hikes of pay commissions leaves resources limited for job creations. As a resort casual and contractual recruitments gain momentum [for further reading <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/35/editorials/deconstructing-indias-employmentd%C3%A9marche.html>]