

# India 2039 – Transforming Agriculture\*

## Productivity, Markets, Institutions

**This report presents a vision of Indian agriculture in 2039: The sector is much more efficient than today, and supplies the changed food needs of an affluent, highly urban country. 27 years from now, India remains a top agricultural producer, and has increased some of its exports.**

This is, however, only possible with major institutional, policy, and program changes. These aim to generate **four essential transformations, from:**

- Traditional grains to high-value crops and animal products
- Production based on cheap labor to efficiency and productivity-driven growth
- Wasteful to efficient water use
- Public support and protection to greater private involvement in the value chain

To enable these shifts, the report recommends the following **additional changes:**

- Make public programs much more focused and effective
- Give top priority to significantly improving the efficiency of water use
- Promote new high-yield seeds and related technologies, including mechanization
- Improve the effectiveness of agricultural research and extension
- Further improve the farm-to-market value chain, and reduce food losses
- Improve markets and incentives by reforming prices, trade and subsidies

The study stresses emphatically that Indian agriculture must undergo a fundamental transformation - on both the demand and supply sides. Driving this transformation will be broader trends in the wider Indian and global economies (e.g. shifts in food choices, increasing energy costs, much higher rural wages, rising international prices, climate change, etc.).

**“The only way to meet India’s food needs will be through dramatically increasing productivity and the efficiency of water use”, the report concludes.**

*Project findings first presented publicly in Delhi, January 2012*

\*Summary of a project led by Hans P. Binswanger-Mkhize and Kirit Parikh. The **Syngenta Foundation** proposed the study, contributed background papers and provided financial support. The Centennial Group, Washington, D.C., managed the study.