



Colloquium Series: Revival of the PDS, the National Food Security Bill and the Question of Cash Transfers

Speaker:

Reetika Khara, Assistant Professor of Economics, IIT, Delhi

Date / Time:

September 13, 2012 - 3:34pm - 5:30pm

Venue:

10th Floor, Auditorium, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

Between 2004-5 and 2009-10, significant changes can be observed in the functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS), a system of delivery of subsidized grain, across many states in the country. The talk will discuss these changes in the PDS using secondary and primary data. The need for understanding the PDS is heightened by the imminent renewal of the state's commitment to it with the passage of the National Food Security Act by the Indian parliament. In the light of the new role being envisioned for the PDS and of the provisions for cash payments in the Food Security Bill, the talk also discusses the arguments for and against cash based on an empirical study conducted in May-June 2011.

A Note on the Speaker:

Reetika Khara is Assistant Professor of Economics at IIT, New Delhi. She obtained her Phd in economics from the Delhi School of Economics. Since 2001, she has done extensive field research and published on areas related to education, nutrition, employment and food security. She was a post-doctoral Research Associate at Princeton University where she worked with Angus Deaton on child nutrition.

Before joining IIT-Delhi, she was involved in various field activities in India including surveys, social audits and "research for action" related to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

Another important part of her work has been to encourage and train university students to participate in these activities. More than 200 students from Delhi University and elsewhere have participated in surveys and other field activities under her guidance.