



Emerging countries discuss rural transformations

Debates during international event suggest that food security policies could be further explored as an important field for South-South knowledge sharing

Brasília, 06 May 2010 - The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) participated in the **International Conference on Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies** from 14-16 April in New Delhi, India. Up to 300 participants with over 70% from emerging economy countries and 30% from other developing and OECD countries joined the discussions. Conference participants, as both presenters and attendees, comprised, inter alia, political figures from the large emerging economy countries of **Brazil, China, India and South Africa**; government representatives; associations of rural peoples and civil society organizations; natural resources managers; academics and policy think tanks; private sector; International Financial Institutions and other development agencies. For more information on the meeting: <http://www.ruraltransformation.in>

As a whole, the Conference offered a key opportunity for diverse stakeholders from the four countries and



Photo: Darana Souza/IPC-IG

other collaborators to discuss conceptions and policies concerning rural development and related areas. The discussions pointed to a number of broad common areas that shall be explored in additional dialogue. They include emerging issues such as **(a) the increase in urban-rural disparities, (b) the need to expand rural non-farm income-generation options, (c) migration, and (d) environmental concerns as well as persisting issues illustrated by food insecurity, land tenure and rural poverty.**

Based on research undertaken over the last six months, IPC-IG Researcher Ms. Darana Souza made a presentation entitled ["Can Food Security and Food Procurement Initiatives Facilitate Enhanced Production Capabilities and Market Access for Smallholder Farmers? Lessons from Brazil's Food Acquisition Programme \(PAA\)"](#). "It was a great opportunity to share the findings of the study with a diverse international audience, meet different professionals working with related issues and discuss common challenges and experiences with participating countries" reveals Ms. Souza. She also emphasizes that there is great potential for knowledge exchange between the participating countries concerning food security policies, exemplified by experiences of rights based approach to food access and of public procurement of agricultural products for food distribution.

In this context, IPC-IG is about to initiate a comparative study on food security policy frameworks of Brazil, India and South Africa. It will discuss key issues such as the progress in the institutionalization of legal and programming mechanisms that ensure the “right to food”, impact of existing agricultural support policies in achieving food security, contribution to food access of major programmes which provide entitlements (in cash and kind), and social accountability mechanisms. IPC also envisages carrying out a comparative study between the Brazilian Food Acquisition Programme (PAA) and the Indian Public Distribution System (PDS). The studies will bring important contributions to the policy knowledge sharing among these countries. The results will be published by IPC-IG in the second semester of 2010.

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About IPC-IG:

The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) is a partnership between the Poverty Practice of the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy and the Government of Brazil. Located in Brasilia, IPC-IG facilitates South-South learning with the aim of expanding developing countries’ knowledge and capacities to design, implement and evaluate effective policies towards the attainment of high inclusive growth. IPC-IG is a hub for South-South dialogue on applied research and training on development policy. <http://www.ipc-undp.org>