Neo-liberalism, Weaking State and Peasant Differentiation in Indian Agriculture

Survey Findings from Panel Data in West Bengal 1993-94, 2004-05

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Based on primary field surveys in two periods on same set of households, Professor Bhattacharya analyses the changing structure of investment and production over a period of neo-liberal policy regime in India that the Left Front govt. in West Bengal had to accept as a constitutional compulsion. The interventionist legacy of empowerment of rural poor through land reform and rural transformation through decentralized participatory governance in the state had been disturbed since 1991 when the Indian government adopted neo-liberal policies of cutting fertilizer, food and credit subsidies in agriculture, conversion of 8 millions hectares of land from food to export oriented crops, making PDS and nationalized/co-operative banks less effective for the poor.

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