

KISAN ANDOLAN: A SOCIO-POLITICAL STUDY OF FARMER MOVEMENTS IN INDEPENDENT INDIA

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Abstract: *The backbone of India's economy is agriculture and a large part of the population is associated with it. Among the roles Indian farmers play is a crucial one as they have always been faced with systemic issues such as lack of policy support, volatile market prices, mounting debt burden and land grabs. In this critical study we analyse the evolution, impact and socio-political dimensions of farmer movements in the India of the post-independence era. In order to analyze the role of agrarian movements, this research is based on a mixed methods approach connecting historical analysis, policy review and socio-political impact assessment; key agrarian movements like Telangana Peasant Revolt, Shetkari Sanghatana protests, Narmada Bachao Andolan, most recently the 2020- 2021 farmers' protests against agricultural reforms are analyzed. The work then isolates the main factors driving agrarian unrest, namely government policy, economic marginalization and changing political realities. In addition, it investigates how farmer unions, digital activism, and electoral politics have influenced the path of these movements. In addition, it is compared with the global agrarian protests and discusses policy frameworks that have tackled similar concerns in other countries in an effective manner. The findings emphasize the requirement to reform the comprehensive agricultural policies, improve the MSP mechanisms and the rest of the farmer centric economic policies. This study contributes to the discussion on agrarian rights and policymaking by bridging the historical context and contemporary socio-political developments. The research argues for inclusive governance frameworks that recognize farmer welfare as paramount and ensure the long-term agricultural sustainability. The recommendations of the study provide strategic insights to the policymakers, academicians and stakeholders for countering agrarian distress and promoting rural development in India.*

Keywords: *Farmer Movements, Agrarian Crisis, Agricultural Policies, Socio-Political Impact, Rural Economy, Policy Reform, India*

1. INTRODUCTION

India is among the agricultural giants in the world and has been the backbone of the country's economy, providing livelihood to nearly half of the population. Still, the Indian sector of agriculture has been plagued by problems of varying market prices, land acquisition, debt in the rural areas, lack of coordinated policies and also globalization. Constant issues have made farmers extremely discontent, for which they have held multiple protests and movements over the decades. Following a post-colonial agrarian struggle phase, and the phase of Green revolution, the emergence of farmer movements in independent India has occurred over the phases of the 1990s' liberalization induced distress and in recent large scale protests against farm laws in 2020 – 21. The Telangana Peasant Revolt (1946–51), Naxalbari Uprising (1967), Shetkari Sanghatana protests (1970s–80s) and Narmada Bachao Andolan (1985–2006) are landmark movements which display farmers'

collective opposition against the unjust and exploitative economic and political structures. The recent 2020-21 farmers' protest against the three contentious farm laws underlines once more the continued importance of agrarian resistance in the formation of India's socio-political discourse.



Figure 1: Kisan Andolan

Therefore, the Kisan Andolan are more than just economic struggles, they form part of the socio political fabric of India. They have influenced policy choices, electoral outcomes, governance frameworks and rural development strategies. Farmer movements are a critical area of study because of the intersection of the three mentioned above: economic justice, agrarian policies, and political mobilization.

Analyzing these movements within a socio-political context helps us understand:

- How agrarian distress influences policy-making and government interventions.
- The role of farmer unions, political organizations, and civil society in advocating agricultural reforms.
- The impact of media, digital activism, and globalization on modern agrarian protests.
- How electoral politics and governance respond to farmer protests.
- The comparative effectiveness of agrarian movements in India and global farmer struggles.
- By exploring these aspects, this research aims to contribute to the broader discourse on rural sustainability, economic justice, and agricultural policy reforms.

Research Objectives and Methodology

The primary objective of this study is to critically examine the historical evolution, causes, impact, and socio-political dimensions of farmer movements in independent India. This research seeks to answer the following key questions:

- What are the major agrarian movements in post-independence India, and what factors triggered them?
- How have government policies and political dynamics influenced farmer movements?
- What role do farmer unions, social movements, and media narratives play in shaping the outcomes of these protests?
- How do global farmer movements compare with Indian farmer struggles?

- What policy recommendations can be derived to ensure long-term agrarian sustainability and social justice?

This research provides a comprehensive socio-political analysis of farmer movements, bridging historical perspectives with contemporary developments. The study's findings will offer policy insights for agrarian reforms, contributing to an equitable and sustainable future for Indian farmers.

2. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF FARMER MOVEMENTS IN INDEPENDENT INDIA

A series of farmer's movement from the post-independence period of India are tied to socio-economic injustices, policy failures and market fluctuations. Such movements have had a major influence on the making of agricultural policies and the rural economy as a whole. Farmer protests can thus be divided into three main phases of their evolution: early agrarian struggles (1940s–1960s); Green Revolution and economic reforms (1970s–1990s); contemporary farmer movements (2000s–present). A phase is reflective of changing socio-political climate of India and perpetual struggle for agrarian rights.

2.1 Early Agrarian Protests (1940s–1960s)

In the early post-independence era land struggles, rights of tenants and assertions for fair land redistribution took place. There was a deeply feudal agrarian structure which had survived in Independent India in which landlords held vast estates and dominated the lives of the peasants in the form of exploitative tenancy arrangements. There were also farmer uprisings in this time period that initiated the movements of the future.

1. **Telangana Peasant Revolt (1946–1951):** Led by the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Telangana Peasant Revolt was one of the most important peasant uprisings in India which took place against feudal landlords in the princely state of Hyderabad. Farmers were in demand abolition of zamindari system, land redistribution and debt relief. However, the benefits of the land reforms were uneven and the revolt ultimately led to their implementation.
2. **Tebhaga Movement (1946–1947):** The Tebhaga Movement was a big struggle of sharecroppers against oppressive landlords which originated from Bengal. The second one was led by the Kisan Sabha and demanded that the tenant farmers should get two thirds (Tebhaga) of the produce instead of one half. At independence the movement lost momentum, but it was to influence land reform policies in West Bengal.
3. **Naxalbari Uprising (1967):** Despite not strictly being a farmer movement, the Naxalbari Uprising in West Bengal was a radical agrarian revolt started by the landless farmers and tribal communities. Revolutionary in Maoist ideology, it advocated a fight against landlord oppression with arms in hand. It later turned into a more general left-wing insurgency but demonstrated the massive agrarian crisis.

2.2 Green Revolution and Its Impact on Farmers (1970s–1990s)

In the early 1960s, the so-called Green Revolution saw introduction of high yield variety (HYV), chemical fertilizers and mechanized farming in Indian agriculture. Though it tremendously increased the food production and made India self-sufficient but it also caused massive socio-economic problems like income disparity, on the one hand the farmers were getting indebted more and more, and on the other hand it can lead to more environmental degradation.

1. **Farmers' Protests Against Unequal Benefits:** While small and marginal farmers were left behind, the Green Revolution benefited mainly wealthy landowners with access to irrigation and credit as raised input costs and debt burdens were not affordable. Protests ensued in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh for the demand of fair price, subsidies and share of modern agricultural means.
2. **The Shetkari Sanghatana Movement (1979–1980s):** Led by Sharad Joshi, the Shetkari Sanghatana Movement in Maharashtra emerged in response to the economic distress of small farmers, advocating for fair prices for agricultural produce and liberalized agricultural policies. Joshi promoted free-market solutions, arguing against excessive government intervention.
3. **Punjab Farmer Movements and the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) (1980s–1990s):** The BKU, founded in 1978, became one of India's most influential farmer organizations. Under the leadership of Mahendra Singh Tikait, it mobilized farmers in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, demanding higher Minimum Support Prices (MSP), cheaper electricity, and loan waivers. The BKU's non-violent agitation, including massive rallies and road blockades, forced the government to engage in policy negotiations.
4. **Farm Suicides and the Agrarian Crisis:** By the 1990s, economic liberalization and the removal of agricultural subsidies exacerbated rural distress. The high cost of hybrid seeds, rising debt burdens, and declining government support led to an alarming rise in farmer suicides, particularly in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. This period underscored the failures of the Green Revolution in ensuring long-term agrarian sustainability.

2.3 Role of Farmer Unions and Organizations in Agrarian Movements

Farmer unions and peasant organizations have played a crucial role in mobilizing rural communities, negotiating with policymakers, and ensuring that agrarian issues remain central to political discourse. Some of the most prominent farmer unions in India include:

1. **All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS):** Formed in 1936 as the peasant wing of the Communist Party, the AIKS has historically been involved in land rights struggles, tenant farmer rights, and anti-zamindari movements. Post-independence, it continued to champion the rights of small and marginal farmers, playing a key role in various land reform movements.
2. **Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU):** In the 1980s the BKU became a force to be reckoned with, in Punjab, Haryana and western Up. While the AIKS was linked to left ideology, the BKU opted for a non political stand and the discourse was based on economic issues including MSP increases, electricity subsidies and loan waivers. The strategy of mass mobilization and peaceful protests adopted by the BKU would come to influence future farmer agitations.
3. **Shetkari Sanghatana (Maharashtra):** The Shetkari Sanghatana, led by Sharad Joshi, advocated for market-driven agricultural policies, the right to export farm produce, and opposition to government price controls. It played a vital role in farmer cooperatives and pricing reforms.
4. **Kisan Ekta Morcha and Digital Activism:** The 2020-21 Farmers' Protest against the three farm laws saw the emergence of Kisan Ekta Morcha, an umbrella coalition of farmer unions. This movement leveraged social media and digital platforms to organize protests, counter government narratives, and garner global support.

3. MAJOR FARMER MOVEMENTS IN INDIA

The history of farmer movements in India had been a movement to economic policies, government interventions, agrarian distress. Earlier movements were for land rights, price support and loan waivers, while the new ones are against neoliberal economic reforms, corporate role, and land acquisition policy. This section looks at major farmer protests during two key time periods: the 1970s–1990s, focusing in particular on some high profile case studies of movements, and the 2000s–2020s.

3.1 Farmers' Protests for Price Support, Loan Waivers, and Land Rights (1970s–1990s)

During the 1970s to 1990s, India witnessed large-scale farmer protests demanding higher crop prices, fair land policies, and debt relief programs. These movements were primarily led by farmer unions and agrarian activists who pressured governments for economic justice.

Key Movements and Their Impact

(a) Shetkari Sanghatana Movement (1979–1980s)

- Region: Maharashtra
- Leader: Sharad Joshi
- Key Demands: Higher crop prices, liberalized agricultural policies, and market access
- Impact: Influenced price regulation policies and farmer cooperatives

Sharad Joshi emerged as the leader of the Shetkari Sanghatana (Farmers' Organization) in Maharashtra. Shetkari Sanghatana endorsed market driven reforms demanding procurement prices of the farm produce to be raised, and right to sell in global markets unlike leftist farmer movements trying to control prices and subsidies by force of government. Further, Joshi's movement was significant in making people aware of the farmers' rights as well as their economic independence.

3.2. Movements Against Neoliberal Policies, Land Acquisition, and New Farm Laws (2000s–2020s)

The economic liberalization of the 1990s, coupled with rapid urbanization and industrial expansion, led to increased land acquisitions, corporate-driven agriculture, and withdrawal of subsidies. This era saw farmer protests against land grabs, displacement, and unfavorable agricultural policies.

Key Movements and Their Impact

(b) Narmada Bachao Andolan (1985–2006)

- Regions: Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra
- Leaders: Medha Patkar, Baba Amte
- Key Issue: Land displacement due to the Sardar Sarovar Dam project
- Impact: Supreme Court interventions, resettlement policies

Large dams on the Narmada River were opposed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement) led by Medha Patkar, its construction displaced thousands of farmers and tribal communities. It called for fair compensation, rehabilitation and environmental conservation. In spite of the dam construction, the protest resulted in policy reforms regarding land acquisition and rehabilitation.

4. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

In India, the agrarian policies, agricultural elections and economic issues of the agricultural sector have been shaped by farmer movements. Belonging to this are these movements which have always arisen in response to economic strain, policy malpractices and social political marginalization and that still play vital role in making agrarian matters a preserve of governance. This section focuses on state and central governmental roles in agrarian policies, elections and the impact of farmers movements, the economic challenges of Indian farmers such as Minimum Support Price (MSP), subsidies and rural debt crisis.

Role of State and Central Governments in Agrarian Policies: Agriculture is a state subject under the Indian Constitution; however, the central government has a dominant say in agricultural policies, pricing mechanism and financial support. Land reforms, irrigation policies and regional agrarian initiatives are in the domain of state government whereas determining MSP, providing subsidies and formulating national level agricultural schemes lies with the central government. From the time of the farmer movements over the decades, these have been responded with land reforms (1950s), Green Revolution policies (1960s–1980s), loan waivers (2008, 2018) and in the recent cases the repealing of the controversial farm laws (2021) by the governments at both the levels. Yet, farmers have often been unhappy due to inconsistent implementation of policy, unequal treatment between regions, political considerations. Some, like Punjab and Tamil Nadu, have shown resolve towards providing financial support and irrigation to the farmers, while others have done little to help with rural distress. The conflict between government policies that encourage corporate participation and farmer interests in agriculture, contract farming and free play of markets has deepened further with wide spread agitations for a legally guaranteed MSP.

Electoral Impact of Farmer Movements: Many farmer movements have played a crucial role in Indian electoral politics, state and national. Political parties, which realize the relevance of rural vote bank, have frequently geared up their campaigns over the agricultural reforms, loan waivers and income support schemes. The Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) farmer protests in the 1980s, the Maharashtra farmers' agitations in the 1990s and the 2020–21 farmers' protests against farm laws arose to compel ruling governments to rethink policy decisions, or faced electoral consequences. In 2004, in the general elections, there was a transfer of power because of agrarian distress with a Congress led UPA government implementing a farm loan waiver of ₹70,000 crore (\$10 billion) in 2008. Also, the BJP government's repealing the 2020 farm laws was viewed as a response to the ensuing state elections in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Many political parties across the spectrum, from the Indian National Congress (INC), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), to regional parties have also started using grievances of the farmers for political mobilization. Nevertheless, farmers' continued vulnerability to false political promises depends on the lack of sustainable agrarian policies and long-term solutions to farmers' plight.

Economic Challenges Faced by Indian Farmers (MSP, Subsidies, Debt Crisis): Agrarian distress and farmer led protests continue to be impelled by the economic challenges of Indian farmers. Though intended to shield farmers from price volatility, Minimum Support Price (MSP) policies end up working in favour of only a small contingent of farmers because of inefficient procurement, unbalanced regional growth, and Govt reluctance to widen the MSP stock. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana, where government procurement is high, benefit from MSP while those in Bihar and Odisha earn less in market prices which are less than MSP.

Allocated subsidies on fertilizers, irrigation, and electricity were designed to mitigate the financial pressure, that with an exception of erratic withdrawal to erect a so called 'WTO model', led however to higher price of farming in general and for less structured (small) farmers in particular. The problem that deserves the most anguish is the growing rural debt crisis in which over 50% percent of farmers are in debt and cause farmer suicides numbering in thousands every year, the worst affected states are again Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. While loan waivers offer short term relief, they do not resolve the underlying issues behind rural indebtedness, for example, low productivity, ill financial literacy, and dependence on private moneylenders. However, the trend towards contracts and corporate farms has increased worries about exploitation of farmers, and the erosion of traditional systems of supporting agriculture.

5. SOCIETAL AND MEDIA INFLUENCE

Even in India, any movement by farmers has always been influenced by public view points and media coverage, which decides how these protests are perceived by the people at large. Farmer protests in the past have been reliant on grassroots mobilization and local community support; however, with the increase of mass media and the use of digital activism means that the scope and impact of these protests has completely changed. This is because the way these movements are portrayed in the media helps to form public opinion, government policies, and policy debates. On an equally parallel development, globalization and the social media have revolutionized organization, amplification and sustenance of protests creating visibility, coordination, political leverage.

Public Perception and Role of Media in Farmer Protests: Public perception towards farmer movements have changed throughout history and such changes are largely influenced by media, political discourses, and societal attitudes about agriculture. During the past decades, rural communities rallied behind farmer protests and broadly supported them as a rightful struggle for economic justice. In recent times, however, due to urbanization and industrialization, large populations of the urban have become remote from agrarian issues and thus react in a mixed manner towards farmer movements. Certain sections of society even sympathize with the plight of the farmers, and most of them opposing the farmers' right to protest, they perceive their protests as a hurdle to economic progress and as unwanted burdens to corporate interests and neoliberal policies. With the roles that media have played in shaping how the people understand and respond to these movements, media has been central. During the 1980s and 1990s, print and electronic media, in particular newspapers like The Hindu, The Indian Express and magazines like Economic and Political Weekly, have highlighted the agrarian distress, through highlighting farmer grievances and policy failures. The farmer protests, in contrast, stands to lose if the newscasters have a stake in corporate entities. Some media houses describing the farmer protest as 'anti' development or 'politically motivated' act on vested interests of politics and economy. For example, independent media outlets and international organisation gave more balanced coverage of the 2020–21 farm laws protest by farmers against these laws, while sections of mainstream media vilified the protestors and called them extremists. Alternative media platforms and independent journalism have been a formidable counterforce to mainstream narratives. On ground reporting by digital news portals, grassroots media collectives and fact checking websites helped countering misinformation and ensure that farmers voices were heard. The significance of diverse media representation of farmer movements lies in their role in shifting the legitimacy and success of the movement.

Impact of Globalization and Digital Activism on Movements: Agriculture has been profoundly changed, rural livelihoods impacted and farmer movements affected by globalization. Economic liberalisation and global trade policies that create export opportunities for agricultural products have also exposed Indian farmers to price volatility, corporate control, and the market driven agrarian distress. The reduction in agricultural subsidies, rising input costs and greater dependency on multinational agribusiness corporations is all part of efforts by institutions like WTO and IMF. When included, the impact of these factors were intensified farmer protests that were seen in the movements against genetically modified (GM) crops, contract farming and land acquisition to be used in industrial projects. Digital activism and social media mobilization has been one of the most transformative aspects of recent farmer movements. Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp have been used by farmers to organize protests, for disseminating real-time updates, refuting misinformation and bringing in international solidarity. In 2020–21, the word #FarmersProtest on Twitter became a worldwide discussion, with celebrities, activists and international organizations offering support. Farmers were able to use social media to bypass state controlled media narratives and get their voices heard across the world. Additionally, crowdfunding platforms have served as a financial backing for the protests, transmitted while livestreams and digital campaigns have made the protests transparent and more engaging. Farmer movements have become harder to suppress by strengthening the ability to mobilize quickly via digital channels. But it has also yielded government crackdown on digital dissent whereby internet shutdowns and social media limits have been utilized to stifle the diffusion of farmer narrative.

6. Comparative Analysis of Farmer Movements: Global Perspectives and Lessons for India

As a reaction to economic distress, unfair market policy and government intervention affecting farming communities, farmer movements in many parts of the world have surfaced. Protests against the MSP, land rights and corporate agriculture led by the Indian farmer movements while other countries in different economic and political conditions have also seen similar protests. Comparing the national movements of these agrarian communities (France's Yellow Vest protests and the American farm crisis), we can see some of the similarities and differences in how agrarian communities respond to financial hardship and the changes in policy. Observing that some agrarian reforms in the United States, the European Union and New Zealand, too, have travelled the same route offers valuable lessons that can be used to improve the functioning of India's policy.

6.1 Comparison with Global Farmer Movements

France's Yellow Vest Protests and Farmer Unrest: The root of the Yellow Vest protests (Gilets Jaunes) that also started in 2018, in France, was initially rising fuel prices as well as rising living costs. But the protests quickly grew beyond them, and numerous farmers hopped on the bandwagon because of discontent over high agricultural taxes, rising input costs and decreased subsidies. Backed by French farmers, they argued that the process of globalization and the policies of the European Union (EU) have done nothing but favour the big agribusiness companies at the expense of small farmers, thus rendering the latter's existence economically unsustainable. To ease the crisis, French government responded by increasing relief for fuel taxes for farmers and supporting rural economies. The French situation resembles the Indian farmer movements, where agricultural costs are mounting and there is disappointment with government's policies. For years now, Indian farmers have protested about rising prices of fuel fertilizers and electricity for which eat into their profits. But

when it comes to direct financial relief for struggling farmers, it is France, not India, that needs to do better. The French experience has taught us that targeted financial interventions targeted towards farmers are essential during economic crises.

The American Farm Crisis and Trade Wars: The most acute American agrarian distress ever, resulting from high levels of crop prices, levels of farm debt and government policy changes of the 1980s, by itself, constitutes one 'farmer's crisis.' The crisis resulted in widespread bankruptcies throughout rural America and made many small farmers lose their land. The demand for large crops such as soybeans and corn like many are grown in the United States more recently in 2019, trade wars with China created another agricultural crisis for the American agricultural sector. The U.S. government devised new financial aid packages, crop insurance programs, and subsidies to guarantee that farmers could withstand market fluctuations as well as that increasingly farmers protested against the decline in income and unfair trade policies. Especially in terms of market volatility and corporate involvement in agriculture, the struggle of Indian farmers and the American farm crisis has many similarities. But, unlike India, the U.S. government does offer extensive farm subsidies and crop insurance programs to minimize risks for farmers. That Indian farmers are still clamouring for legally guaranteed MSPs and better market protections to reduce the uncertainty suggests that the government could also help Indian farmers adopt (or expand) structured risk mitigation policies like those used in the U.S.

Lessons Learned from Successful Agrarian Reforms Worldwide: Countries in the European Union (EU) are among the most protective countries in the world when it comes to building and maintaining legal and policy protections for farmers. A key aspect of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is that crops are guaranteed minimum prices, farmers receive direct income support and there are incentives for sustainable farming. In turn, this method achieves financial stability and market security for European farmers, and helps to prevent drastic fluctuations of prices of unpredictable extreme, which can cause the agricultural crisis. The EU's model is exactly what India can learn from and India should introduce legally binding MSPs to safeguard fair prices for their produce without being subject to ad-hoc government inputs. The presence of a well-regulated price support such as that of the EU would go a long way in helping to protect Indian farmers against exploitation by the market and also provide them with long term economic security. Crop Insurance and Financial Security: (U.S. Farm Support Programs): Opposite to Indian agriculture, crop insurance programs in U.S. are comprehensive, government backed, and give compensation to farmers for losses due to droughts, floods and sudden price crash. And this helps the farmers stay economically stable, even in crisis because the federal farm bill also gives financial aid based on market conditions. Unlike Indian farmers who have very little crop insurance access, and their accessible crop insurance schemes being implemented poorly, and inaccessibly both to small scale farmers. Additional extension of crop insurance coverage and financial support programs would help Indian farmers become more resilient to climate change and price fluctuations and reduce debt.

Sustainable and Cooperative Farming Models (New Zealand and Denmark): Cooperative farming models performed by small farmers through pooling resources, utilizing common infrastructure, and marketing the crops jointly have been implemented in New Zealand and Denmark with success. This model lowers the costs of production, enhances bargaining power, and enables small farmers of the world they still have to compete in the global markets. For example, over 90% of the dairy farms in Denmark are dairy farms

cooperatives, which assures everything from fair pricing to sustainable growth. As few small and marginal Farmers still lack of market access and financial stability, India has also progressed ahead with the promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Cooperative Farming. Indian farmers would be empowered to get better prices and lesser dependence on middlemen through strengthening cooperative farming networks along with government assistance to collective bargaining and direct market access.

7. CONCLUSION

The analysis of Indian farmer movements, historically and contemporarily, shows the continued problems of India's agrarian sector such as price volatility, debt loads, corporate involvement and lack of policy support. In comparison to the global farmer movements, structured financial protections, legal price guarantees, crop insurance schemes and cooperative farming models succeeded in protecting farmers in United States, European Union, New Zealand, etc from agrarian distress. Thus, in order to deal with these challenges, India must incorporate legally binding MSP policies, enhance rural credit and crop insurance coverage, promote sustainable and cooperative farming approaches, and provide fair market access to small and marginal farmers. Moreover, agrarian grievances should be dealt with and farmers protests be avoided by having transparent policy dialogue between farmer unions, stakeholders, and the government. Further ahead, farmer movements in India are also going to change and may continue to proliferate as digital activism takes on a more important role, alongside global trade policy and climate change. Therefore, a robust postharvest system is the key to the future of Indian agriculture.

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