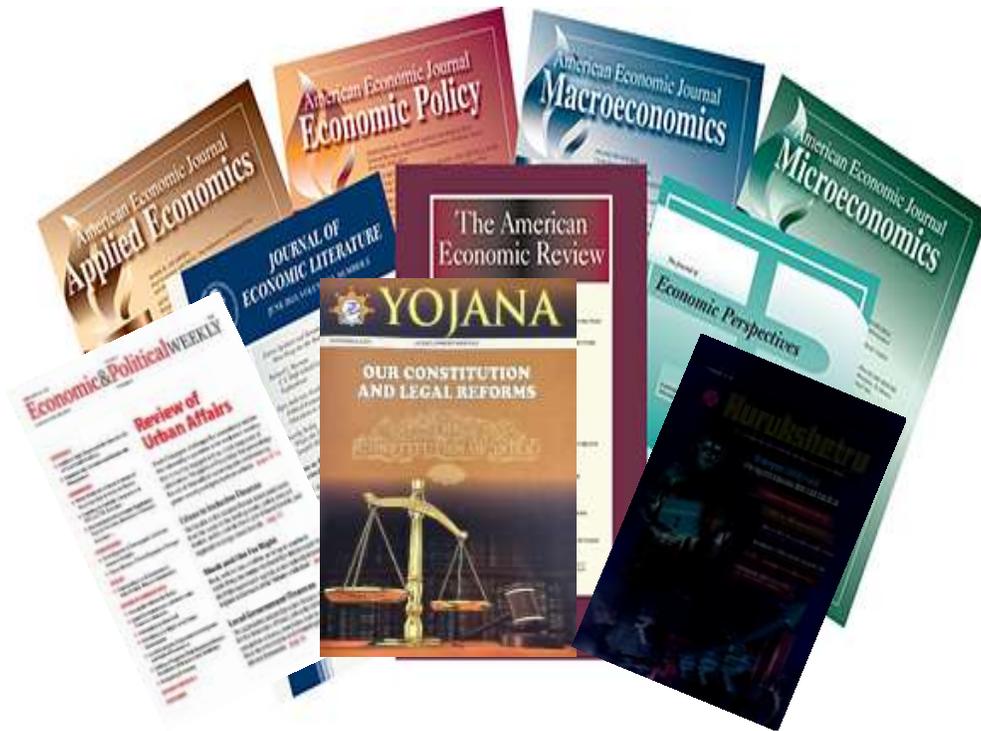




नीति आयोग
NITI AAYOG



DOCPLAN- FEBRUARY2025

Compiled By:

Mr. Kumar Sanjay, Director (Library)

Smt. Indira Rani, ALIO

Mr. Raj Kumar, LIA

NITI AAYOG

LIBRARY

CONTENTS

Sl.No.	Titles	Page No.
1.	AGRICULTURE	3-4
2.	ECONOMICS	4-5
3.	EDUCATION	5-6
4.	ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY	6-7
5.	FINANCE/BANKING	7-9
6.	HEALTH	10
7.	LAW AND SOCIETY	10-11
8.	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	11
9.	RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	11-13

AGRICULTURE

01. Adeeth A G Cariappa

[Towards a Robust Voluntary Carbon Market for Agriculture in India](#)

[EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 7, 15 Feb, 2025](#)

The Indian voluntary carbon market in agriculture must address the challenges faced by existing carbon-farming projects. Learnings from these can prevent low-quality credits, enhance credibility, and benefit farmers. This article offers insights and recommendations based on some of the published works at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center.

02. Payal Seth, Bharath Chandran, Bhaskar Mittra and Prabhu Pingali

[Understanding the Determinants of Farmers' Adoption of Artificial Insemination in Livestock](#)

[EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 7, 15 Feb, 2025](#)

The adoption of artificial insemination in livestock is a crucial factor in enhancing breeding efficiency, livestock productivity, and income opportunities for farmers. However, the adoption of AI among farmers can vary significantly, influenced by a multitude of factors. This systematic review is one of the first to synthesise and analyse existing research to identify the key determinants influencing livestock AI adoption. The review identifies and categorises determinants into distinct themes, including socio-demographic factors, livestock and farm-related attributes, AI-related factors, institutional support, and psychological drivers. The findings suggest that targeted interventions, such as educational programmes and awareness campaigns, should be tailored to address the specific needs of different farmer groups. Reducing the distance to AI centres and ensuring reliable AI services can mitigate the risk of missed heat cycles. Implementing subsidies or cost-sharing mechanisms can enhance affordability, particularly for financially constrained farmers.

03. Aldrin Sony and Davis Augustine

[Need for Innovation in India's Pepper Cultivation](#)

[EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 8, 22 Feb, 2025](#)

Pepper production in Kerala has encountered significant challenges and is exhibiting a declining trend. Farmers are increasingly losing confidence in pepper cultivation, primarily due to its non-remunerative nature and various supply-side shocks, including climate change, pest infestations, and fungal attacks. According to the Kerala Agricultural Statistics Report (2021–22), the area under pepper cultivation in Kerala has declined by approximately 64% since

2001–02. Additionally, production has decreased by 44%, indicating a growing reluctance among farmers to continue pepper cultivation.

ECONOMICS

04. Ajay K Gautam

[Political Economy of Urban Land-grabbing in India](#)

[EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 8, 22 Feb, 2025](#)

The incidence of land-grabbing by local developers, that leads to illegal colonies and unauthorized housing in the informal land markets of the National Capital Region, particularly in Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad, is examined. The fieldwork reveals how developers exploit regulatory loopholes, collude with state actors, and leverage caste networks to gain control over land. This process fuels illegal colonies, marginalizes lower-caste groups, and reshapes urban peripheries. The findings highlight the urgent need for governance reforms to curb speculative land dispossession and ensure equitable urban development in rapidly expanding Indian cities.

05. Sharat Ganapati

[The Modern Wholesaler: Global Sourcing, Domestic Distribution, and Scale Economies](#)

[American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025](#)

Half of all transactions in the \$6 trillion market for manufactured goods in the United States were intermediated by wholesalers in 2012, up from 32 percent in 1992. Seventy percent of this increase is due to the growth of "superstar" firms—the largest 1 percent. Estimates based on detailed administrative data show that the rise of the largest firms was driven by an intuitive linkage between their sourcing of goods from abroad and an expansion of their domestic distribution network to reach more buyers. Both elements require scale economies and lead to increased wholesaler market shares and markups.

06. Jakub Muck, Lukasz Postek

[Supply shortages and inflation in Europe](#)

[Economica, 21 February 2025](#)

This paper contributes to the literature by quantifying the effects of supply shortages on inflation in 19 European economies. In contrast to many other papers, it focuses on factual country-specific shortages in materials and equipment reported by enterprises in the business surveys conducted by the European Commission rather than supply chain tensions that are

measured only globally or for some major economies. We apply the local projections method in a panel framework, and estimate the responses of nine measures of consumer and producer inflation to supply shortages. We find that supply shortages are inflationary for all considered measures of inflation, and a larger effect can be observed for the inflation of prices of goods rather than services. The peak of impulse responses can be observed 4–6 quarters after a shock, while the effect usually dies out after 8–12 quarters. After a year, a one-standard-deviation shock in supply shortages is followed by annual inflation being higher by 0.7–3.4 percentage points, depending on the inflation measure. Interestingly, the inflationary effects of supply shortages seem to be related mainly to periods of intense global supply tensions.

EDUCATION

07. Abhiroop Chowdhury

[UGC Should Care](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 7, 15 Feb, 2025

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has announced the discontinuation of its journal list recommendations, popularly known as the “UGC-Care List.” This news was followed by mixed feelings and reactions among academicians. Though imperfect, this list has been a ready reference for faculty and students across India’s higher academia since its genesis in November 2018. Critics were vocal about enlisted predatory journals in the list, but the UGC continuously updated the list following recommendations from Indian universities. Research is no longer a choice but is necessary for faculties and doctoral candidates worldwide. It is a major eligibility criterion for employment in higher academic institutions and a necessary skill for career progress. The two most easy-to-measure research outputs are patents and peer-reviewed research articles. This situation is not confined to our nation but is a worldwide practice. Universities in the global North also use peer-reviewed publications and citation matrices to screen candidates for academic professions and renew their tenures.

08. Saqib Salim

[AMU and the Idea of Secularism](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 7, 15 Feb, 2025

This letter is in response to the article, “On the Supreme Court Judgment on the Status of AMU” (EPW, 4 January 2025) by Salman Khurshid. The article discusses the legality of the minority status of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), which has remained a point of contention between a large section of the Indian Muslim intelligentsia and the Indian state for

over five decades. The author represented AMU at the Supreme Court as counsel when the Chief Justice of India-led bench overruled—on 8 November 2024—an earlier judgment of the Supreme Court made by a five-judge bench in 1968, which “held it [AMU] to not be a protected minority educational institution under Article 30(1), as it had been established by legislation.”

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

09. Dwarkeshwar Dutt

[Politics of Environmental Governance](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 5, 01 Feb, 2025

Air pollution is a serious environmental issue in cities like Beijing (China) and Delhi (India) and the governments in both countries have taken several measures to address it. While the air quality in Beijing has improved to some extent over the years, Delhi has seen no comparable improvement. This study employs historical institutionalism to explain China’s relative success. It conceptualizes three modes of institutionalizing the air pollution issue—top-down, bottom-up, and lateral—and finds that the issue was institutionalized by a combination of top-down and bottom-up modes in Beijing in a complementary manner. This created positive governance and political feedback. In Delhi, in contrast, it was institutionalized through lateral mode which created governance friction and prevented demand aggregation.

10. Indra Munshi

[Patrick Geddes: Sociologist, Environmentalist and Town Planner](#)

EPW: Vol 35, No 6 FEBRUARY 5, 2000

Patrick Geddes’ first contact with the University of Bombay was in 1914-15 when he was invited to deliver a series of four public lectures on the study of Bombay which are said to have been a great success. In the summer of 1919 Sir Chamanlal Setalvad, the then vice-chancellor, offered Geddes the post of professor of sociology in the University of Bombay. Geddes, then 65, accepted the offer, adding the title civics to the designation of his chair and set about organising the department of civics and sociology in the university.

11. Lutz Sager and Gregor Singer

[Clean Identification? The Effects of the Clean Air Act on Air Pollution, Exposure Disparities, and House Prices](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025

We assess the US Clean Air Act standards for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Using high-resolution data, we find that the 2005 regulation reduced PM_{2.5} levels by 0.4 μg/ m³ over five years, with larger effects in more polluted areas. Standard difference-in-differences overstates these effects by a factor of three because time trends differ by baseline pollution, a bias we overcome with three alternative approaches. We show that the regulation contributed to narrowing Urban-Rural and Black-White PM_{2.5} exposure disparities, but less than difference-in-differences suggest. Pollution damages capitalized into house prices, however, appear larger than previously thought when leveraging regulatory variation.

12. Jamie Hansen-Lewis, Michelle Marcus

[Uncharted Waters: Effects of Maritime Emission Regulation](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025

Maritime shipping emits as much fine particulate matter as half of global road traffic. We are the first to measure the consequences of US maritime emissions standards on air quality, human health, racial exposure disparities, and behavior. The introduction of US maritime emissions control areas significantly decreased fine particulate matter, low birth weight, and infant mortality. Yet, only about half of the forecasted fine particulate matter abatement was achieved by the policy. We show evidence consistent with behavioral responses among ship operators, other polluters, and individuals that muted

FINANCE/BANKING

13. Michèle Belot, Philipp Kircher and Paul Muller

[Eliciting Time Preferences When Income and Consumption Vary: Theory, Validation, and Application to Job Search](#)

American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025

We propose a simple method for eliciting individual time preferences without estimating utility functions even in settings where background consumption changes over time. It relies on eliciting preferences for receiving high stakes lottery tickets at different points in time. In a standard intertemporal choice model high rewards decouple lottery choices from variation in

background consumption. We investigate robustness to other assumptions theoretically, and validate our elicitation method experimentally. We illustrate an application of our method with unemployed job seekers, which naturally have income/consumption variation.

14. Brad Nathan, Ricardo Perez-Truglia and Alejandro Zentner

[My Taxes Are Too Darn High: Why Do Households Protest Their Taxes?](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025

In the United States and globally, taxpayers can file a protest to legally reduce their property taxes. While tax protests can provide a unique opportunity to study the (un)willingness to pay taxes, they have received little attention from researchers. Using a field experiment and a quasi-experiment, we study what motivates households to protest their property taxes. We find that both expected savings and filing frictions play significant roles. We estimate the magnitude of filing frictions using a money metric. We also discuss how low-cost interventions targeted at disadvantaged groups can mitigate existing disparities in the system of tax appeals.

15. Andreas Lichter, Max Löffler, Ingo E. Isphording, Thu-Van Nguyen, Felix Poege and Sebastian Siegloch

[Profit Taxation, R&D Spending, and Innovation](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025

We study how profit taxes affect establishments' R&D activities. Relying on detailed panel data of R&D-active firms in Germany over two decades, we exploit identifying variation induced by more than 10,000 municipal changes in the local business tax rate and federal tax reforms with locally varying effects. Using event-study techniques, we find a sizable, negative effect of profit taxes on establishments' total R&D spending and patents filed. Zooming into the innovation production process, we uncover substantial heterogeneity in the impact of profit taxation for various R&D input factors, among firm characteristics, and for different types of research projects.

16. Avdhesh Kumar Shukla, Snigdha K, Shubham Mehta and Vijay Singh Shekhawat

[Governance Challenges in the Use of Advanced Technology in Financial Intermediation](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 7, 15 Feb, 2025

The growth of the finance sector is marked by the proliferative adoption of advanced technology, including cloud computing, robotic process automation, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. However, with new trends come new threats. The burgeoning use of technology poses a host of governance and policy challenges in terms of regulatory

compliance, risk mitigation, and systemic stability. This paper explores the governance challenges faced by financial entities, examining regulatory frameworks, ethical considerations, and practical implications for stakeholders in financial intermediation.

17. Cem Oyvvat, T Sabri Öncü and Joel Rabinovich

[Argentina's Economic Shock Therapy](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 7, 15 Feb, 2025

Argentina's political and economic landscape has oscillated between neo-liberalism and neo-developmentalism over the past two decades, each model failing to deliver sustained prosperity (Öncü 2024). After the 2001 economic crisis under neo-liberal policies, the country shifted to neo-developmentalism under Néstor and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. This approach emphasised state intervention, social inclusion, and capital controls, aiming to foster economic growth and reduce inequality. Argentina experienced significant economic growth during the earlier years of the Kirchner governments, achieving average annual growth rates of 8.8% between 2002 and 2007 and 6.3% between 2002 and 2011, driven by neo-developmental policies. However, the model's inability to address structural challenges, coupled with external shocks, led to its eventual decline.

HEALTH

18. Marika Cabral, Colleen Carey and Sarah Miller

[The Impact of Provider Payments on Health Care Utilization of Low-Income Individuals: Evidence from Medicare and Medicaid](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025

Provider payments are the key determinant of insurance generosity within many health insurance programs covering low-income populations. This paper analyzes a large, federally mandated provider payment increase for primary care services provided to low-income elderly and disabled individuals. Using comprehensive administrative data, we leverage variation across beneficiaries and providers in the policy-induced payment increase in difference-in-differences and triple differences research designs. We find the payment increase led to a 6 percent increase in the targeted services for eligible beneficiaries, implying a payment elasticity of 1.2, and decreased the fraction of low-income beneficiaries with no primary care visit in a year by 9 percent.

19. Gauri Kartini Shastry and Daniel L. Tortorice

[Effective Health Aid: Evidence from Gavi's Vaccine Program](#)

[American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025](#)

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has provided over US\$16 billion in funding for vaccination in low- and middle-income countries since 1999. We exploit differential timing across countries and vaccines to estimate the effects of this public health initiative. We find that Gavi's support for a vaccine increased coverage rates by 2–5 percentage points across all vaccines and by 10–20 percentage points for newer vaccines. We also find that Gavi's support reduced child mortality from related causes by 1 child per 1,000 live births. We estimate these improvements saved around 1.5 million lives at a cost of about US\$9,000 per life saved.

20. Katrine V. Løken, Laura Khoury and Katrine V. Løken

[Mental Health Consequences of Correctional Sentencing](#)

[American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025](#)

Understanding whether and in what situations correctional sentencing improves or exacerbates defendants' mental health conditions is important for the design of criminal justice policies. We combine detailed Norwegian data on visits to health care professionals with quasi-experimental designs to measure the impacts of correctional sentences on mental health-related visits. Our causal evidence shows that rehabilitation-oriented sentencing can improve defendants' mental health conditions. We find that these effects are persistent and unlikely driven by shifts in health care demand. We interpret these findings in light of the rehabilitative focus of the Norwegian correctional system.

LAW AND SOCIETY

21. Divya Pradeep

[The Gender and Social Equity Question in Low Carbon Transitions](#)

[EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 6, 08 Feb, 2025](#)

Clean energy transitions in India have come at the cost of increasing the vulnerabilities of already marginalized populations and reproducing the existing gender, class, and caste inequalities. The article argues that for a just energy transition, it is important to ask who benefits from such transitions and how, taking into account the social positioning and power dynamics between various social actors.

22. Alok Prasanna Kumar

[An Assault on Privacy and Dignity](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 6, 08 Feb, 2025

The recently notified Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code and the rules made to implement it are yet another unwarranted attack on the dignity and privacy of individuals. The Uttarakhand UCC seems less about ensuring uniformity and more about controlling the choices and bodies of young people. This is a clear violation of the constitutional guarantees of privacy and dignity of the individual.

23. Gianmarco León-Ciliotta, Dijana Zejcirovic and Fernando Fernandez

[Policymaking, Trust, and the Demand for Public Services: Evidence from a Mass Sterilization Campaign](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025

We study a large-scale family planning intervention in which more than 260,000 Peruvian women were sterilized. Many of these medical procedures are alleged to have been performed without patient consent. The subsequent disclosure of alleged illegal sterilizations caused reductions in the usage of contraceptive methods and prenatal and birth delivery services and, more generally, the demand for medical services in affected areas. As a result, child health worsened. The results persist for at least 17 years after the information disclosure and are driven by disappointed supporters of the implementing government. Learning about the government's malpractices undermined trust in institutions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

24. Anne Brockmeyer and Magaly Sáenz Somarriba

[Electronic Payment Technology and Tax Compliance: Evidence from Uruguay's Financial Inclusion Reform](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, no. 1, February 2025

Does the digitization of transactions in an economy increase tax compliance? We study the effect of financial incentives on the adoption of electronic payment technology and on tax compliance by firms. Exploiting administrative data and policy variation from Uruguay, we show that (i) consumer VAT rebates for credit and debit transactions trigger an immediate 50 percent increase in the number of card transactions, (ii) firms' use of card machines increase only on the intensive margin, and (iii) tax compliance is unaffected. Endogenous card machine adoption and a low share of card sales in total reported sales can rationalize the findings.

25. Kanthi Swaroop

[Reframing the Sanitation Crisis as an Urban Crisis](#)

EPW: Vol. 60, Issue No. 5, 01 Feb, 2025

In recent decades, no other expression than “sanitation for all” has captured considerable attention among global urban policy and development discourses. Indeed, at the end of 2015, numerous pundits observed that the recognition of sanitation as a distinct human right by the United Nations (UN) and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by countries the world over would provide conceptual clarity for translating the byword of sanitation governance, “sanitation for all,” into tangible policy outcome. At the end of 2020, the COVID-19 catastrophe, along with growing concerns over climate and urban crises, not only threw open the profound inequalities in accessing sanitation but also highlighted the critical role of sanitation in ensuring public health and sustainable development, rendering it a more urgent topic than ever.

26. Dr. Chetna Singh and Prof. Virendra Kumar Paul

[Sustaining Rural Livelihoods Through Horticulture](#)

Kurukshetra February, 2025

Horticulture has emerged as a critical component of rural economies, contributing not only to nutrition and food security but also to the economic sustainability of rural areas.

By diversifying agricultural practices towards horticulture, rural livelihoods can be enhanced, thereby mitigating the challenges of economic deprivation and out-migration.

- **Economic Importance:** Horticulture offers diversification from traditional agriculture, enhancing rural incomes, especially for small and marginal farmers.
- **Poverty Reduction:** Provides income stability and risk management by reducing dependence on unpredictable weather.
- **Growth of Sector:** Since the 1991 reforms, India’s horticulture sector has expanded, making it the secondlargest global producer of fruits and vegetables.
- **Export Potential:** Horticulture exports surpassed Rs. 4 lakh crores in 2023, boosting India’s presence in global trade.
- **Rural Livelihoods:** Linked to rural tourism, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas like the Himalayas, creating sustainable economic opportunities.

- Mitigating Urban Migration: Horticulture offers economic opportunities in rural areas, reducing pressures of rural-to-urban migration.

Challenges in the Horticulture Sector

Despite its potential, the horticulture sector in India faces several challenges:

- Insufficient Post-Harvest Infrastructure: Cold storage and warehousing infrastructure are inadequate, leading to high post-harvest losses.
- Limited Access to Quality Seeds and Irrigation: Small-scale farmers struggle with access to high-quality seeds and reliable irrigation systems.
- Low Mechanization: Lack of farm mechanization limits productivity and efficiency.
- Climate Change: Extreme weather events and changing climatic conditions require adaptive measures to protect horticulture crops.
- Market and Supply Chain Issues: There is a lack of robust market information, effective supply chain management, and price stability, which affects farmers' ability to maximize profits.

These challenges necessitate targeted interventions, especially in improving infrastructure, ensuring quality standards, and enhancing market linkages.

Government Support for Horticulture

- Government Initiatives: The government supports horticulture through programs like Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), and National Horticulture Board (NHB), providing financial and technical assistance.
- Focus Areas: These initiatives aim to promote commercial horticulture, improve post-harvest infrastructure, and enhance market access.
- Warehouse Infrastructure Fund: Created under NABARD, it facilitates the development of cold storage and warehousing to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Research and Development: Centers of Excellence for fruits and vegetables have been established to promote horticulture R&D.
- Way Forward: Enhancing Rural Livelihoods

While the government has made strides in promoting horticulture, more needs to be done to realize the full potential of the sector. A comprehensive national horticulture policy is essential to streamline efforts across states, considering the regional variations in climate, soil, and infrastructure. A bottom-up approach is crucial for tailoring strategies to local needs, thereby optimizing resource use and enhancing productivity.

The private sector must also play a pivotal role in enhancing the horticulture sector's growth. Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and industry support can help in creating more integrated supply chains, leading to improved market access, value addition, and export potential.

Additionally, quality control measures, capacity building for farmers, and better extension services are essential to ensure the sector's sustainability. Investment in research and innovation in horticulture can further contribute to improving productivity and income generation.

Conclusion

Horticulture has the potential to significantly improve rural livelihoods, enhance food security, and contribute to the overall economic development of rural India. By addressing the challenges related to infrastructure, access to resources, and market linkages, the sector can be a powerful tool for sustainable rural development. With continued government support and private sector involvement, horticulture can become a key driver of rural economic prosperity, preventing out-migration and fostering inclusive growth.