**INTRODUCTION**

In the last two decades, the issue of agrarian distress (and other related socio-economic problems such as indebtedness, loss of agricultural income, etc.) have led to a significant increase in suicide rates among small-scale farmers, especially in developing countries such as India, Pakistan, etc. Around 300,000 Indian farmers have committed suicide since 1995. As of 2014, 60,000 farmers committed suicide in the Indian state of Maharashtra alone, with an average of 10 suicides every day (NCRB 2019). There are a myriad of factors that lead to farmer suicides, e.g., crop failures, low farm productivity, an inability to achieve profits, inefficient cold chain management resulting in wastage of agricultural produce, lack of irrigation facilities, and insurmountable debt. However, one key factor that contributes to farmer suicides is the uncertainty associated with agricultural prices and markets, i.e., variations in global market conditions can lead to abrupt fluctuations in prices of agricultural produce at a local level (Barik 2018). Due to this uncertainty over prices, indebted small-scale farmers who often lack advanced technological resources and knowledge about global market conditions are unable to make accurate decisions about when (and where) to sell their produce. As a result, they are unable to earn desired profits on their produce and repay their agricultural loans (see Figures 1a and 1b), which causes many of these farmers to commit suicide.