

## Annual Report: 2021-2022

### **Patliputra School of Economics**

During 2021-2022, the Patliputra School of Economics (PSE) attained significant progress on several fronts such as development of worldclass infrastuctures, development of advanced and very up-to-date syllabi for M.A. (Economics) and Ph.D. (Economics) that are at par with the best institutions in India and abroad, organisaion of a National Seminar, and so on.

#### **Infrastructure Development**

On the infrastucture front, the PSE developed the following during 2021-2022:

1. Two smart classrooms fitted with latest available technologies.
2. One Econometrics Lab comprising 36 high-end desktop computers and some software packages to provide hands-on training to the students of both M.A. and Ph.D. towards application of econometric software packages for data analysis. This Lab would also be used by the faculties for their research works.
3. One dedicated cabin for the Ph.D. scholars.
4. One modern Seminar-cum-Meeting room.
5. 10 Cabins for the faculties. These Cabins have been furnished with necessary funnrnitures, computers and printers.
6. Furnishing of School Library and procurement of some data reports, books and journals.
7. Extending Wi-fi facility with high-speed internet facility to the entire floor of Patliputra School of Economics
8. Installation of CC TV & Camera for security of the entire floor of the School and its valuable equipments and Lab.



Smart Classroom (Seating Capacity: 40) at the Patliputra School of Economics



Seminar-cum-Meeting Room (Seating Capacity: 20) at Patliputra School of Economics



Inauguration of Econometrics Lab by Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhury,  
Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Bihar



Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhury, Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Bihar,  
inside the Econometrics Lab after inauguration

### **Finalisation of Syllabi for M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics**

The Director of PSE has put in considerable efforts to prepare up-to-date and advanced syllabi for these courses by consulting a large number of area-specific experts (both domestic and foreign) so that the syllabi become at par with the global standard as expected for a "Centre of Excellence" such as this. After preparing the draft syllabi, the AKU-constituted team of five external experts (Prof. Krishnendu Ghosh Dastidar, JNU; Prof. Romar Correa, Bombay School of Economics; Prof. Soumyen Sikdar, IIM Kolkata; Prof. Panchanan Das, University of Calcutta; and Prof. Somen Dutta, Burdwan University) deliberated on these after which the AKU issued notifications for their acceptance. Recently, the syllabi have been approved by the Academic Council of AKU as well.

### **Organisation of National Seminar**

The PSE organised a non-ritualistic on-campus National Seminar on "Raising Agricultural Productivity and Farmers' Incomes in Bihar" on 17-18 December 2021 that was sponsored by Department of Agriculture (Bihar Government), Indian Council of Social Science Research (Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata), Development & Planning Department (Government of Bihar), and Union Bank of India (Mithapur-Patna Branch).

This seminar was inaugurated by Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhury, Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Bihar. Dr. Ramesh Chand, Hon'ble Member, Niti Aayog, New Delhi, provided the keynote address. The inaugural session of the seminar was also graced by Shri Sanjay Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, Government of Bihar and Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar. Prof. S. K. Bhaumik, Director, PSE, welcomed the dignitaries.



Following the inaugural session, two parallel sessions were run for two full days in which as many as 40 research-based papers were presented. The paper-presenters were by and large the faculties from renowned institutions such as Delhi School of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Institute of Economic Growth (Delhi), South Asian University (New Delhi), International Food Policy Research Institute (New Delhi), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (New Delhi), NABARD (Patna), IIT Kanpur, IIT Patna, NIT Patna, Visva-Bharati University, Central University of South Bihar, Babasaheb Bhimroa Ambedkar University (Lucknow), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Hyderabad), Centre for Development Studies (Trivandrum), Humboldt University (Berlin), Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Samastipur (Bihar), Asian Development Research Institute (Patna), A N Sinha Institute (Patna), Chandragupta Institute of Management (Patna), and so on.

The valedictory address to the seminar was given by Shri Tripurari Sharan, Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar. Mr. Amir Subhani, Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Bihar, and Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar also spoke on the subject of the seminar in the valedictory session. Saad Asghar Moeeni, Coordinator, Centre for River Studies, AKU, provided the vote of thanks.



Felicitation of Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhury, Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Bihar, at the National Seminar on "Raising Agricultural Productivity and Farmers' Incomes in Bihar" held at Patliputra School of Economics on 17-18 December 2021.



Felicitation of Dr. Ramesh Chand, Hon'ble Member, Niti Aayog, at the National Seminar at Patliputra School of Economics on 17-18 December 2021.



Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhury, Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Bihar, addressing the National Seminar (17-18 December 2021) at Patliputra School of Economics.



Valedictory Session of the National Seminar (17-18 December 2021) that is addressed by Mr. Tripurari Sharan (Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar), Mr. Amir Subhani (Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Bihar), and Dr. N. Saravana Kumar (Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar)

## Post-Seminar Publication

The Director, PSE, has taken the initiative to publish a sub-set of seminar papers in the form of an edited book. The idea here is to acquaint the academicians and policy planners all over the world with the good work done on the agriculture front by the farmers in Bihar in the recent past, thanks to dedicated supports provided by the State Government, as also to highlight some of the challenges for further development of this sector that would require more research in future to reform/redesign developmental policies with changing time.

To make this book fully accessible to the global readers, an agreement has been signed with the Sage Publications, New Delhi, to publish the book both in 'Open Access' and 'Print' formats. This is facilitated by the publishing grants advanced by NABARD (Patna), ICSSR (Eastern Regional Centre) and Agriculture Department, Government of Bihar. It is expected that this book, titled as ***"Enhancing Agriculture Productivity and Farmer Incomes in Bihar"***, would be out by the end of October 2022.

## **Academic Activities of the Director, Patliputra School of Economics**

Besides completing development of infrastructures, drafting and finalisation of the M.A. and Ph.D. syllabi, and organising the National Seminar, the Director, PSE, was also involved in the following:

1. Preparation of Concept Note for the National Seminar on “Raising Agricultural Productivity and Farmers’ Incomes in Bihar”.
2. Organisation of the said National Seminar as Chair-cum-Convenor.
3. Presentation of a paper jointly with Sk. Abdul Rashid in the National Seminar that is titled as “Growth Performance of Agriculture in Bihar During 2000-2020”. This paper would appear as Chapter 3 in the forthcoming book.
4. Acted as a Discussant in the ICSSR-sponsored National Seminar on “COVID-19 in India & SDGs” organised by A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### **Plan for 2022-2023**

1. Organisation of a National Seminar on “Social Reforms and Economic Development in Bihar and India” by the end of 2022.
2. Organisation of two research methodology workshops for young faculties in colleges and universities and Ph.D. scholars that are tentatively titled as (i) “Applications of STATA and EViews for Analysis of Micro and Macro Data”, and (ii) “Data Analysis in Social Sciences Using SPSS”.
3. Initiation of MA and PhD programmes in Economics subject to availability of some full-time faculties.
4. Preparation of a paper titled “Changing Employment Scenarios for the Females in Bihar and India During 1999-2021” for the proposed seminar.