

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) amid COVID-19: Assessment of Loss, Relief and Recovery Policies, Coping Strategies, and the Way Forward

In collaboration with the IDRC

This session is being organised to discuss key questions which are part of a joint International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-Sustainable Development Policy Institute research study on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under which an assessment of their loss, relief and recovery policies, and coping strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic, are being examined. The session will share findings from this study and aim to answer the following questions:

- What has been the impact of COVID-19, particularly lockdowns, on economic activities and vulnerabilities of MSMEs, with primary focus on supply chain disruptions, variation in cashflows, production, and employment (layoffs) and post-lockdown cost of production in the form of following SOPs?
- How does the impact and channels of transmission vary given different characteristics of MSMEs?
- How effective were the government support measures?
- How did the support measures influence the behaviour of different MSMEs (size and sector) towards layoffs and how are their rehiring decisions likely to be affected by different support measures?
- What are the major structural barriers that limited the effectiveness of the stimulus packages?
- How can the government alter its packages (taxation; tariffs and lending) to meet needs of informal MSMEs and ensure recovery of the sector in the medium- to long-term?
- What lessons can be learned from global experiences to support informal MSMEs and employment?
- How should the MSME policy incorporate changes in policy design by factoring in crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic?

Panel Organisers

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