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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