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| Category                             | : International Rice Research Conference   |
| Select Theme                         | : Social inclusion and gender equality   |
| Endorsement email                    | :  |
| Keyword 1                            | : Farmers' perspectives  |
| Keyword 2                            | : Big data solutions to social equity  |
| Keyword 3                            | : Social innovation systems  |
| Title of Entry                       | : Direct Benefit Transfer of Agricultural Subsidy: Success Story from the State of Uttar Pradesh, India  |
| Presenting author                    | : Mr. Amit Mohan Prasad  |
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| Co author 1                          | :  |
| Co author 2                          | :  |
| Affiliation presenting author        | : Principal Secretary of Department of Uttar Pradesh, Government of Uttar Pradesh, India   |
| Affiliation 1                        | :  |
| Affiliation 2                        | :  |
| Select only one type of presentation | : 15 minute oral presentation  |
| Abstract                             | : Many countries give subsidies to smallholder farmers for various agricultural inputs that keep input industry going, besides helping poor farmers. The input subsidy is often subjected to 'elite capture.' The conventional method of subsidy distribution is to sell the inputs at the subsidized or reduced rate. In this system, large farmers in collusion with the government functionaries can corner majority of the benefits meant for the smallholders. Hence, there is a disconnect between policy intention and implementation. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the most populous province of India, in 2015 decided to switch over to the system of 'Direct Benefit Transfer' (DBT) of subsidy for agricultural inputs. Under DBT, the farmers are required to pay the full price of the agricultural input upfront at the time of buying, and the amount of subsidy is then transferred directly into their bank account after a few days. The entire operation runs on a robust IT backbone and a digital database of farmers and their landholdings. This resulted in the subsidy going mainly to the needy smallholders, thus bridging the gap between policy intent and delivery. Targeting of beneficiaries became more straightforward and accurate, and the new system helped in plugging the leakages in the system and in collecting valuable data for future planning. There was massive resistance to this systemic change as the vested interests of different actors, both state and non-state, were affected adversely. Determined efforts saw the successful implementation of the DBT system. The model presents a roadmap for other developing countries for subsidy distribution. |

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