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Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Sustainable and equitable farming systems
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Mechanization
Keyword 2	: Livelihood and social equity
Keyword 3	: Advisory systems
Title of Entry	: Effect of Mechanization on the welfare of marginalized sections of the society
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	: This paper examines the degree of mechanization in farm operations using household level data from four Indian states. It further explores the differential returns to farming and assesses the direct and indirect welfare distributional outcomes produced by mechanization. The objective of the paper is to investigate how a technological change can generate major economic benefits but at the same time provoke adverse effects on the marginalized section of society. Findings suggest that the marginalized groups as defined in the study (those with limited factor endowments; those belonging to disadvantaged social groups and those who are

subsistence oriented) exhibit lower levels of agricultural mechanization and earn substantially lower farm and off-farm incomes compared to others. Treatment effects of mechanization showed negative impact on farm yield and incomes for these groups. Decomposition of displaced labor as a result of mechanization shows that the displaced hired labor mainly belongs to the most vulnerable groups of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) which form the bulk of the rural labor force. The results demand undertaking development approaches that have the potential of bridging the productivity gaps promoting inclusive growth in the agriculture sector and to formulate strategies that can overcome the constraints faced by the marginalized farmers, thereby making farming more resilient and equitable.

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