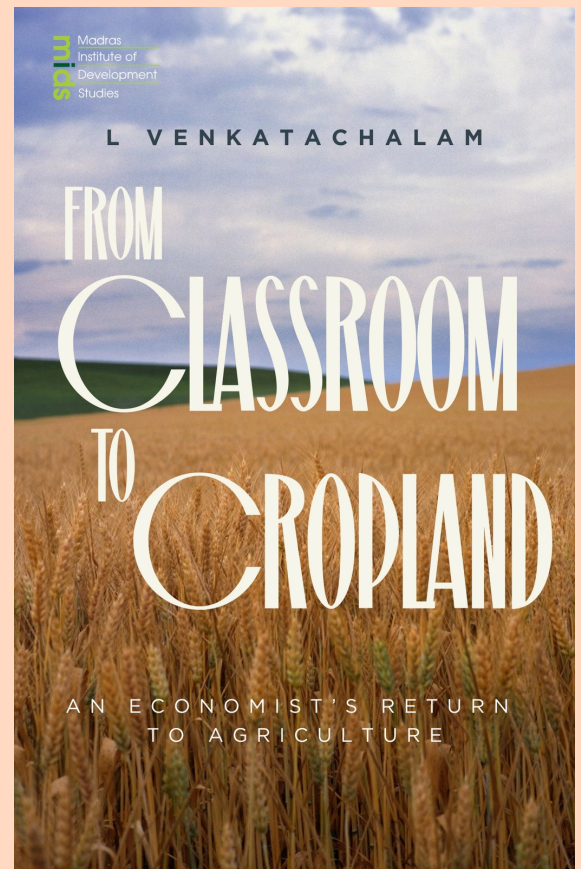


FROM CLASSROOM TO CROPLAND

From Classroom to Cropland tells an unusual story—that of a practising economist who returned to farming after retiring from academia where he spent three decades. But this wasn't simply a homecoming. The land he came back to cultivate lay in the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu, a world apart from where he had farmed before entering academia as a researcher and teacher thirty years earlier—different soil, different climate, different crops, different people, different era, and different farming practices. It was, in many respects, starting afresh. When you have spent decades teaching and doing research about markets, prices, and decision-making in the abstract—using theories and examples—actually making those decisions with real consequences becomes a humbling education. This new setting, a journey of relearning and rediscovery, presented a distinctly different socio-economic landscape, ecological conditions, climatic patterns, and cultural practices—generating numerous researchable questions to investigate within an economic framework.



L Venkatachalam, RBI Chair Professor, recently retired from MIDS. His areas of interest include environmental economics and behavioural economics. He was a recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Senior Researcher Award and visited the University of California for his post-doctoral work. Professor Venkatachalam has also been a visiting faculty at various universities in the Netherlands, Paris, Canada, the USA, and the UK.

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