



## Goa University

### Discipline of Economics, Goa Business School

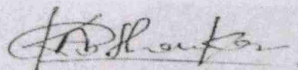
#### Report on “Black Cat in the Darkroom: Agrarian Distress and Policy”

1. Title of the Event/Activity/program	“Black Cat in the Darkroom: Agrarian Distress and Policy”
2. Date and Time	28th March 2024 10.30 Onwards
3. Mode of conduct	Physical
4. School	Lecture hall GF-II, Goa Business School
5. Collaborating Agency/School/Directorate	-
6. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	Prof R. S. Deshpande, Former Director and Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore
7. Number of Faculty participated	6
8. Number of Students attended	100
9. No. of external students/faculty/other participants	2
10. The objectives of the Program/activity/event	to create awareness about the persistent challenges facing the agrarian sector in India and to advocate for comprehensive policy interventions that address agrarian distress, focusing on empowering farmers through better pricing, market infrastructure, and support systems.
11. Description of the Program	Prof. Deshpande began the session by addressing the critical issues facing farmers, which he referred to as the 'black cat.'



	<p>He identified seven main problems in the agrarian sector: food shortage, administrative challenges, food productivity, technology, weather, outdated farming practices, and poor storage facilities. He emphasized the importance of agriculture for national growth, stating, "everything can wait but agriculture." In conclusion, he recommended ensuring remunerative prices, developing market infrastructure, providing crop insurance and safety nets, improving irrigation, and offering timely, harassment-free credit. He criticized the ineffective Vidarbha package aimed at alleviating the agrarian crisis and suggested measures such as loan waivers and promoting subsidiary occupations. He advocated for initiatives like the Technology Mission on Organic Farming and the Vidarbha Watershed Mission to promote sustainability and effective resource management. Lastly, he proposed establishing a helpline at the collectors' office to support farmers with agricultural and administrative issues, urging the government to consider social support and production strategies to alleviate farmer distress and strengthen the agricultural sector.</p>
<b>12. Benefit/Key outcomes of the Program/activity/event</b>	<p>Students gained a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges faced by the agrarian sector in India and the historical context of these issues. The lecture equipped them with insights into the importance of policy interventions and support systems for farmers.</p>
<b>13. Enclosures with report</b>	<p>Brochure, geo tagged photos</p>

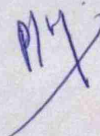
Signature:



Name of coordinator: Avina Kavthankar

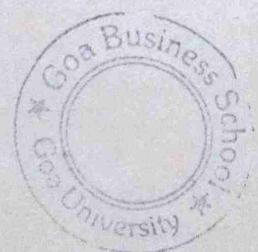
Designation: Assistant Professor

Signature



Dean

Seal of the School





LATE DR. G.V. KAMAT HELEKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

## BLACK CAT IN THE DARKROOM: AGRARIAN DISTRESS AND POLICY

RESOURCE PERSON

**Prof R S Deshpande**

Former Director & Professor,  
Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore



28/03/2024

Registration link

<https://forms.gle/UXiRwMUWGnYWtRNXA>



10.30 AM Onwards



GF-2 classroom, GBS

Geo-Tagged photos

